

FAQs Ewen Maddock Dam upgrade

Dams supply our drinking water and play a very important role in the SEQ Water Grid – making sure everyone in South East Queensland has water to live, work and play. Like all major infrastructure, dams are regularly assessed and upgraded to comply with improving engineering standards and guidelines.

1. What is the Ewen Maddock Dam Upgrade?

Ewen Maddock is one of a number of dams across South East Queensland scheduled for an upgrade as part of Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program. The upgrade is needed to ensure Ewen Maddock Dam meets the latest national guidelines into the future. The upgrade will be delivered in two stages. The first stage, referred to as Stage 2A will include lake lowering and embankment work. This phase of work will involve raising and strengthening the existing embankment walls with significant improvements to the recreation area. This stage began in March 2020 and is expected to take 18 months to complete, subject to weather and unexpected site conditions.

The next stage, Stage 2B will involve strengthening work on the spillway structure. This stage will be pending Seqwater internal approval upon completion of the Stage 2A project works.

2. Why does the lake have to be lowered and why now?

Lowering of lakes is an industry accepted practice during all dam safety upgrade works and is necessary to ensure construction work can be completed safely. Seqwater have developed a Dam Safety Management Plan specific for works which stipulates the necessary controls, such as lowering of the lake requirements, allowable extent of embankment wall to be worked on at any one specific time, additional monitoring and surveillance and the availability of stockpile materials and plant should it be required.

The lake is being lowered throughout June and July to maximise the dry season for the embankment works, so they can be completed safely with a lower chance of expected rainfall.

3. When the lake has been lowered will it smell bad?

We expect there may be some odour generated in the lake lowering process, as sediments and aquatic plants are exposed to the direct sunlight and begin to break down. We will be monitoring this through the lake lowering process.

4. What will happen to aquatic life in the lake when it's lowered?

Lake levels rise and fall naturally already due to rainfall in the area. The lake recently reached around 70% capacity in January 2020 and did not experience any negative aquatic impacts.

Seqwater have undertaken survey modelling of the lowered lake levels anticipated at 60% capacity, which is not expected to significantly impact any aquatic life in this lake. Seqwater will be monitoring the lake during the lowering process to make sure there are no negative impacts to aquatic life.

As a baseline, in January 2020 the lake reached around 70% capacity and did not observe any negative aquatic impacts.

5. Will fish still be stocked in the lake for recreational fishing?

There will be no fishing permitted in the lake when it has been lowered. Fish stocking will cease during the construction period and recommence once the lake level has refilled. Ewen Maddock is one of 63 stocked fishing impoundments in Queensland and will continue to be in the future.

Seqwater will be supporting the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and local fish stocking association to restock the lake once the project is complete.

6. Can I still swim in the lake?

In the interest of public safety, there will be no swimming or any other recreational water activities in the lake during the upgrade. As part of the work, Maddock Park will remain closed to the public and no water based recreational use of the lake is permitted from any access points

We recognise how much the local community values swimming recreation and so Seqwater are in consultation with local user groups to explore options for free use of a local swimming pool over the 20/21 school holiday period.

Seqwater's Baroon Pocket Dam offers similar recreation facilities and is around 30 minutes from Ewen Maddock Dam. In addition, paddle crafts are permitted at Lake Macdonald, Baroon Pocket Dam, Enoggera Dam and Borumba Dam. Please refer to the recreation map here for more information on the recreation changes to Ewen Maddock Dam as part of the upgrade.

7. Where can I ride my horse or bike?

Alternate access points will be available to keep the multi-use trails around the lake open during the upgrade and are shown in the recreation map here. Seqwater recently built a new horse float unloading area at Maddock Park to ensure continued access for horse riders during the upgrade. This carpark offers the shortest route to the new multi-use trail access on Connection Road and additionally offers limited public parking additional to the horse float parking. Please adhere to the signage on site.

Before planning to use these trails please check our website [here](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding our recreational facilities.

8. What are the changes to the Maddock Park Recreation Area?

The changes include new shade shelters, picnic tables, BBQ, footpath, washdown facility, non-motorised vessel launch area and grassed embankment. Please refer to the concept plan [here](#) for further information on these changes.

Seqwater has also significantly invested in the ornamental wetlands picnic area on Steve Irwin Way to provide an alternate recreation location with upgraded amenities during the project.

9. How do I stay up to date with the project details?

You can stay up-to-date with the progress of the project by subscribing to our newsletter at <https://www.seqwater.com.au/project/ewen-maddock-dam-upgrade> or contact us on 1300 SEQWATER (1300 737 928)

If you are interested in learning more about dam upgrades check out our short video explaining the six stages of a dam upgrade:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4cVsOk9L-4&t=6s>

If you encounter a question that you don't know the answer to please direct the enquiry to ewenmaddockdamupgrade@seqwater.com.au

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