

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project – CRG – Meeting 6

Date and time	4 March 2026 3:30pm-5:30pm
Location	Cooroy RSL – 25 Maple Street, Cooroy
Attendees	Seqwater: 3 members John Holland: 1 member CRG – Paul O’Hare, Philip Moran, Russell Manning, Brad Wedlock ODAPTIC – Jessica Gallienne, Alana McDermaid
Apologies	Kerry Jones, Norman Bond, Trish Gray, Nick Cooke
Purpose	Meeting 6 of the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project Community Reference Group.

Meeting Minutes

Item	Description
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODAPTIC opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. • CRG members introduced themselves and briefly outlined their connection to Lake Macdonald and interest in the project. • Seqwater and John Holland representatives introduced themselves and their roles on the project.
2.	<p><u>Outstanding Actions from Meeting 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust and Noise Monitoring Data Action: Confirm whether the dust and noise monitoring data is publicly available and able to be shared. Update: Seqwater confirmed monitoring data is available through quarterly compliance reports published on the project website. Two reports have been released to date with a third report currently in development. Action closed. • Downstream Emergency Alert Process (Cooran) Action: Review and improve the downstream emergency alert process and report back to the CRG. Update: Seqwater advised the Emergency Action Plan has been reviewed and updated and clarity about signing on to alerts via the website. Provision 12 has been submitted to the Dam Safety Regulator and will activate during the demolition stage. Action closed. • Rowing Club Development Application

	<p>Action: Provide update on the Rowing Club development application and any access or storage impacts.</p> <p>Update: Seqwater advised the currently proposed location remains unsuitable due to water depth and access constraints. Discussions with Noosa Shire Council regarding alternative options are ongoing. Update to be provided at next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet Piling Completion and Construction Camp Arrangements <p>Action: Confirm completion of sheet piling and revised construction camp arrangements for the left embankment.</p> <p>Update: John Holland confirmed sheet piling for the cofferdam is complete and the previous construction camp has been demobilised. The area will continue to be used as a construction laydown area and to provide workforce facilities where required, but not as a camp. Action closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRG Meeting Dates for the Next Year <p>Action: Circulate draft CRG meeting dates for the next year.</p> <p>Update: ODAPTIC confirmed draft CRG meeting dates have been circulated to CRG members. Action closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Society Liaison <p>Action: Follow up and confirm the Wildlife Society meeting location.</p> <p>Update: A CRG member confirmed they will share updates from CRG meetings with the Wildlife Society and relay any queries back to the project team. Action closed.</p>
3.	<p><u>Communications Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seqwater provided an update on recent community and stakeholder engagement activities. • A Coffee in the Park community event was held on 21 February and attended by approximately 60 residents. • Meetings were held with Noosa Shire Council and other stakeholders. • Demolition notifications have been distributed to nearby residents via door knocking and letterbox drops. • A Q1 Community Update newsletter is scheduled for distribution in March 2026.
4.	<p><u>Project Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet piles for the cofferdam have been driven and are 100% complete. • Final pile cutting is approximately 90% complete. • Rock bag installation across the cofferdam is complete. • Approximately 135 mm of rainfall was recorded during a recent rainfall event, with the dam level rising to approximately 93.48 m. • The cofferdam did not overtop during this event and continued to operate as designed. • Demolition of the existing spillway structure is currently planned to commence on 16 March 2026, weather permitting, and will occur over approximately 15 days of continuous work. • Demolition will remove the existing spillway structure to allow construction of the new spillway. • Following demolition, construction will progress through several stages including establishment of the working platform, installation of sheet piles and the low flow channel, followed by secant piling and excavation of pile cells, mass concrete works and construction of the spillway and outlet tower. • Two tower cranes are planned to support excavation and construction activities.
5.	<p><u>Lake Macdonald Drive/Elm Street Intersection Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection upgrade works are expected to commence after Easter from April 2026.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works will include road widening and traffic improvements. • Construction is expected to continue through to approximately August 2026. • Traffic will remain operational through the intersection with some minor delays possible.
6.	<p><u>Trucking and Quarry Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockfill and construction materials are being sourced from a variety of quarries including Boral Moy Pocket and Cordwell Kin Kin to supply the different material types required for construction.
7.	<p><u>Gympie Weir Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and environmental assessment activities are continuing. • Seqwater is engaging with Gympie Regional Council regarding construction access and laydown areas.
8.	<p><u>Environment Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A turtle survey undertaken between 16–20 February recorded 568 turtles across three species, compared with 232 turtles recorded during the previous survey. • Environmental monitoring recorded a lungfish measuring approximately 1.27 metres in length and weighing approximately 19 kilograms. The capture confirmed the presence of lungfish in Lake Macdonald. • Fish salvage activities removed 874 fish from the stilling basin including 27 Tilapias. • Platypus monitoring through eDNA and camera surveys indicate platypus continue to occupy waterways within the catchment. • Water temperature monitoring continues, comparing current results with historical data. • Environmental monitoring will continue throughout construction in accordance with project approvals and environmental management plans. • Positive feedback was provided about the John Holland Community and Engagement Manager, who was appreciated for responding quickly and helpfully in all instances.
9.	<p><u>Additional Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRG members asked questions regarding demolition timing, noise management and upcoming construction activities. • The project team advised demolition timing will continue to be monitored based on weather conditions and updates will be provided as required. • CRG members were encouraged to contact the project team with any further questions outside the meeting.

Action items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Provide CRG members with a walk through of the noise and dust monitoring reports to assist CRG members in understanding the monitoring data.	Seqwater
2.	Investigate whether a footpath will be installed on the verge of Dam wall with Council, noting this is a long-term action over four years.	Seqwater
3.	Provide an update on the Quarterly Turtle Survey Report at the next CRG.	Seqwater
4.	Explore revegetation options prior to the refilling of the Dam, in order to maintain vegetation and prevent an unnecessary fire hazard, noting this is a long-term action over four years.	Seqwater

5.	Gympie weir. Provide the Urban Rivers Rejuvenation Program with an overlay of the proposed impacted flora/fauna areas to support in their forward planning.	Seqwater
6.	Provide continued construction staging updates including detailed look ahead for the next six months following demolition.	John Holland

The meeting closed at 5:25pm.