

Community Newsletter

LAKE MACDONALD DAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

AUGUST 2024



Artists impression of new dam wall at Lake Macdonald

Project update

Seqwater's Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project is progressing, with detailed planning and onsite works continuing in 2024.

The Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project will involve building a new spillway and reconstructing the existing earth embankments. This is an important local project, which will reduce risks associated with extreme weather events, achieve regulatory compliance, and ensure the continued reliability of this local water source for the Noosa region.

Seqwater is completing final planning for the construction of an upstream cofferdam, which will enable the lake level to be kept as high as possible during construction.

The revised project design and construction of the cofferdam released by Seqwater earlier this year takes into account feedback from the community, as well as water security considerations, to keep more water in the lake.

The cofferdam will deliver a number of benefits during the construction period including water security, environmental and community amenity, in addition to enabling some recreation activities to continue throughout the project.

Once final preparations and planning to construct the cofferdam are complete, construction is expected to commence in 2025, following this year's wet season which is also the breeding season for local aquatic species.

Works continuing in 2024

In February 2024, Seqwater awarded John Holland the construction contract for the project. Work continues both onsite and offsite by the project team, John Holland, and expert consultants.

In 2024, Seqwater and John Holland will continue planning and site preparation works which include geotechnical investigations, survey works, minor vegetation clearing on Seqwater property, water quality testing, installation of project fencing, and continued engagement with the community and traditional owners.

Seqwater is committed to the delivery of this critical project to ensure the ongoing safety of the dam during extreme weather events and to support local water security for years to come.

Community Engagement Summary

Seqwater released the project concept design and undertook targeted engagement with local residents and stakeholders in January 2024. In February and March 2024, Seqwater held four drop-in community information sessions in Cooroy and Pomona, with 84 attendees. The community information sessions were promoted in a newsletter that was distributed to around 5,000 properties, emailed to around 580 recipients on the project database and promoted on social and local media.

During the community engagement, a number of key themes were raised which the project team are carefully considering as part of project development.

Some of the key themes raised during this period of community engagement were traffic and noise impacts, length of the revised project duration, fish relocation, and where construction materials will be sourced.

At this time, the construction contractor, John Holland, who is responsible for engaging quarries, as well as other business suppliers for the successful delivery of the project, have not yet commenced this process and therefore a decision has not been made on where the construction materials will be sourced from. We will keep the community informed on this matter as it progresses.

In addition, the traffic management plan and construction impact mitigations are still being worked through and we aim to have these finalised shortly to provide more information on plans to reduce community construction impacts.

To view the full community engagement summary report scan the QR code.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the community information sessions and provided feedback.



Noosa Water Treatment Plant and existing dam wall at Lake Macdonald

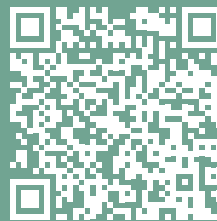
Next steps

Seqwater is continuing to work with John Holland to finalise the construction methodology and project schedule ahead of major works commencing in 2025.


Seqwater is committed to ongoing community engagement as the project progresses and are looking to restart the Lake Macdonald community reference group in 2024. More information will be distributed about this initiative once Seqwater have formalised the terms of reference and establishment process. This group will bring about a formal channel for information dissemination, and community input on impacts and concerns, as the project progresses.

Connect with us



To stay up to date on the project and find out about future engagement opportunities, sign up for project updates on the project web page by scanning the QR code.



For more information about the project:

-  [www.seqwater.com.au /project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project](http://www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project)
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Non-English speakers call 131 450 and ask for Seqwater on 07 3035 5500.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service and give the number 07 3035 5500 a call or visit www.relayservice.gov.au for more information.