

January
2025

COMMUNITY UPDATE

North Pine Dam Improvement Project

As part of our Dam Improvement Program, Seqwater is progressing an Options Analysis to carefully assess the long-term improvement options for North Pine Dam and ensure it continues to operate safely in extreme flood events.

Seqwater is undertaking its most ambitious capital investment program to date, aimed at securing water reliability and safety for South East Queensland. As part of this initiative, the North Pine Dam Improvement Project is being carried out to bring the dam up to modern engineering standards, ensuring it continues to serve the community efficiently and safely for years to come.

We acknowledge such a significant project may cause disruptions, and we deeply appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work together to enhance our region's water infrastructure.

As detailed planning for the North Pine Dam Improvement Project continues, we have identified an opportunity to deliver enhanced safety benefits through Staged Strengthening.

The Staged Strengthening project will involve installing post-tensioned anchors vertically through sections of the dam wall and into the rock foundation below the dam. Post tensioned anchoring is an industry standard strategy to enhance the structural stability of dams and will ensure the dam can withstand more extreme floods, if this was to occur prior to the long-term upgrade is complete.

Work on the Staged Strengthening is expected to commence later this year. This phased approach not only reduces risks as we plan for future stages but also minimizes disruption to dam operations, ensuring the continued supply of water and making it easier for surrounding communities to adapt to the construction activities.

Community Engagement Overview

Community engagement commenced on 15 July 2024 and the community was invited to participate in engagement activities to learn more about the project and have their say.

Community information sessions with staffed 'drop-in' displays were held at the Warner Marketplace Shopping Centre, McGavin View Park and the Petrie Markets on 23 and 27 July, and 1 and 4 August 2024. An online survey was open between 15 July and 12 August 2024.

Community engagement generated six key themes (overleaf) generated by the following interactions:



Community newsletter sent to over
51,000 letterboxes

275 email newsletter recipients

on the project database



38
online survey responses received



Around 100 people

attended the information sessions



98
Facebook post
engagements



14
phone calls received

135 directly adjacent
properties door knocked



Throughout this community engagement, six key themes were raised.



Environment

Key themes from the feedback received include the safety of wildlife, the current reduced dam level, flooding downstream of the dam and road safety. Most concerns were about construction activities and the effects on the environment such as koalas and fish, and wildlife safety.

As part of the planning and delivery, Seqwater has investigated and selected field surveys to understand local species habitats and waterway environments. Our commitment to minimising and mitigating impacts on local fauna and flora will be continued in an environmental management plan during construction. We will continue to care for our flora and fauna and comply with the relevant legislation and environmental requirements.



Flooding

The community raised concerns about flooding in downstream areas. The level of flood mitigation is influenced by several factors including inflows from the catchment, the design capacity of the flood compartment and the dam's additional spare capacity.

The dam's original purpose did not extend to mitigation of flooding in the Pine River. There is limited storage capacity above the Operational Full Supply Level for the temporary storage of the flood water to protect the safety of the dam. The dam continues to operate under the current Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at North Pine Dam Revision 12 (Dec 2023).



Recreation Facilities

Lake Samsonvale is surrounded by six public recreation sites: McGavin View Park, Tukuwompa Park, Bullocky Rest, Forgan Park, Forgan Cove and Postman's Track trails, which provide popular activities including fishing, birdwatching, kayaking, rowing and picnicing.

Community feedback stressed the importance of these recreation areas and expressed views on maintaining or improving the parks. The likely effects from the projects on activities such as water sports, fishing, access to park facilities and walking tracks were raised.



Construction impacts

Comments were received that traffic impacts, including the presence of heavy vehicles, were a considerable concern. Only three respondents mentioned interrupted access to their homes.

While the Staged Strengthening project is in early stages of procurement and design, it is expected that the community will experience some impacts from the work, such as an increased number of workers around the area, short-term traffic increases, and access disruptions, as well as potential minor noise and dust impacts.

We understand that construction can be disruptive, and we are committed to minimising its impact. Together with the appointed construction contractor, we will implement measures to effectively manage noise, vibration, dust and traffic management.



Water security

The survey asked respondents open-ended questions about whether there were other opportunities, risks, or impacts that we should consider when planning the project. Many responses related to water security, including recognition of population growth.

The primary purpose of North Pine Dam (Lake Samsonvale) is a water storage facility and an important component of the South East Queensland Water Grid, primarily providing around 10 per cent drinking water supply to the people of North Brisbane and Moreton Bay. The benefit of increased water security as an outcome of the North Pine Dam Improvement Project was one of the two most stated benefits perceived by respondents.



Legacy

Feedback during consultation suggested an investment in not just current project needs, but an ongoing legacy for the dam and its many users to come. Suggestions included upgrades to recreation infrastructure, such as building a new lookout and protecting koala habitat. Recognition of cultural heritage was also important to the community. We are committed to addressing the impacts of the North Pine Dam Improvement Project on the community where possible. A Community Reference Group will be formed to partner with Seqwater to provide further insights into the specific impacts that might be experienced by the local community and will include legacy projects.

Next Steps

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the community information sessions and the online survey. We are committed to ensuring that this feedback is incorporated into project development, where possible. Feedback will also be used in conjunction with further investigations to support the planning of the project.

We will work with the Staged Strengthening project construction contractor to finalise the construction methodology and schedule and are committed to ongoing community engagement.

It is expected that construction work will start in mid 2025 and we will be in touch in the coming months with opportunities to chat with the project team.



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