

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

Lake Kurwongbah (Sideling Creek Dam)

June 2018



Dams are long-life assets and require continual assessment, monitoring and maintenance. In 2012-13, Seqwater commissioned an independent review of our 26 referable dams. The review found improvements were needed at a number of our dams to meet the Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines into the future.

Sideling Creek Dam (Lake Kurwongbah) is located on a tributary of the Pine River in the Moreton Bay region.

Assessing our dams

In Queensland, dam owners are responsible for the safety of their dams under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (the Act). The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy requires Seqwater to comply with the Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines under the Act. Like all dam operators across the country, Seqwater seeks to meet the national guidelines set by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD).

Our Dam Improvement Program considers all of these factors so our dams can operate as they should, now and into the future. There are some key changes since Sideling Creek Dam was built, which impact on its compliance with the dam safety guidelines, including:

- the latest estimates of extreme rainfall
- data from flood events and updated flood modelling
- improved understanding of earthquake probabilities and loads
- significant population growth downstream
- advances in dam design and development of consistent methodologies for assessment.

The 2018 upgrade will address these changes.

Timing of the upgrade

The upgrade work is scheduled to start from mid-June 2018 and is expected to be complete mid-2019, subject to approvals, weather and site conditions. Seqwater has engaged experienced contractor Fulton Hogan to complete the construction.

We will continue to work closely with our neighbours to minimise disruptions where possible.

2012-14	✓
DAM SAFETY REVIEW	
2014-15	✓
OPTION ANALYSIS & CONCEPT DESIGN	
2016	✓
PRELIMINARY DESIGN & APPROVALS	
2017	✓
DETAILED DESIGN & APPROVALS	
2017-18	✓
PROJECT PLANNING	
2018-19	←
CONSTRUCTION	



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About the upgrade

Sideling Creek Dam was commissioned in 1957 and upgraded in 1969.

In 2015, the water level in Sideling Creek was lowered as a short-term risk reduction measure while investigations continued to identify a suitable upgrade option. More than 25 options were identified during these detailed investigations including raising the dam wall and decommissioning the dam. The approved option involves strengthening the main dam wall and spillway to help the structures withstand earthquakes, extreme weather events and to comply with current engineering standards and safety guidelines.

The upgrade will involve a number of works including:

- installing a new filter buttress along the downstream shoulder of the main dam, as well as a stabilising weighting berm.
- raising the height of the spillway guide walls and upper chute walls on both sides of the spillway, as well as reinforcing with concrete buttressing.
- constructing a pre-excavated dissipator downstream of the spillway to manage erosion, protect the structure and improve fish migration downstream.
- reinstating the slot in the spillway to allow the dam to be restored to its full supply level.

Recreation

We will minimise impacts on recreation during the upgrade and plan to keep recreational facilities open throughout the duration of the works where it is safe to do so.

Lake Kurwongbah will remain open to on-water recreation during construction, however temporary exclusion zones may be established to keep everyone safe. Any temporary exclusion zones will be lifted once construction is complete.

Once the upgrade is complete, Sideling Creek Dam will be used as a drought response dam and the lake will remain open to the public for recreation, seven days a week.

Living near our dams

In the unlikely event of an emergency, it is important that residents adjoining and downstream of Sideling Creek Dam know what to do. The dam has an Emergency Action Plan in place to enable us in partnership with emergency services and local council to respond quickly to potential incidents. Through targeted intervention, we also work together to prevent an incident from developing into an emergency.

You can subscribe to dam release notifications for Sideling Creek Dam on Seqwater's website or by download our app from Google Play or the App Store.

In addition, emergency services have a range of ways to warn the community about severe weather and other emergencies that require preparation and action at the household level. For help with preparing an emergency kit and evacuation plan, visit getready.qld.gov.au

Keeping you informed

You can stay up to date with the progress of the Sideling Creek Dam upgrade by subscribing to our e-updates. To subscribe or for more information:

- W** yourseqwater.com.au/sideling-creek-dam-upgrade
E sidelingcreekdam@fultonhogan.com.au
S subscribe to our e-updates via the Seqwater website
P 1800 881 495