

Callide Valley Flood Review Update

JANUARY 2016

Welcome to the January Edition of the Callide Valley Flood Review Update.

Following the Callide Valley Flood Review last year, the Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS) is currently leading a study to review how Callide Dam is operated and determine whether it is feasible or not to operate the dam as a flood mitigation dam. The study will assess the potential effects of any possible changed operations on the Callide Valley water supply, dam safety, flood mitigation outcomes, cost-benefit of alternative strategies, and other means of effecting improved community outcomes.

Public consultation on the study is still to be determined but is expected in the second quarter of 2016 with the study expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2016. If you require any additional information relating to the mitigation study, please contact Richard Priman on (07) 3166 0168.

In the meantime, SunWater is required to manage outflows from Callide Dam in accordance with the Fitzroy Basin Resource Operations Plan (ROP) which currently does not permit SunWater to release water based on predicted weather events.

According to the current ROP, SunWater can only manage outflows from Callide Dam for groundwater recharge, or the supply of water primarily for stock and domestic purposes and in accordance with an approved release strategy. The reason for this is that any additional ad hoc water releases from the dam could impact the water entitlement holders' reliability of supply from the dam.

In relation to the emergency plan for the 2015/16 wet season, SunWater and Banana Shire Council have now developed a multi-channel warning strategy including common messaging and procedures. SunWater has revised its Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Callide Dam and Kroombit Dam to include new processes that capture improvements in accordance with the warning strategy, including a number of earlier warning triggers and more expansive notification tools. The new EAPs have been submitted to the Government. In the event that outflows from Callide Dam or Kroombit Dam are likely this wet season, processes are in place to ensure the community is well informed of the pending situation as early as possible prior to the outflows commencing.



Network Monitoring

SunWater has carried out improvements to its gauging network, including reinstatement and relocation of river gauging stations upstream of Callide Dam to alert for dam inflows (including relocation of flood gauging station at 96km above 2015 flood levels), and downstream (new flow gauge operational at Linkes Road crossing). Installation of additional rain gauging stations will be completed in February 2016 for the catchments upstream of Callide Dam and Kroombit Dam.

A number of camera installations have also been carried out for remote viewing of both Callide and Kroombit dams and to be able to confirm Callide Dam gate positions.

Detailed flood studies

On behalf of Banana Shire Council, KBR conducted community meetings in Jambin, Biloela, Theodore and Taroom late last year regarding the Shire flood studies. Valuable information was gathered from the community feedback to help inform the studies. The development of the computer model of the floodplain is nearing completion and the information gained is being used to help calibrate the simulations to actual events.

Emergency preparedness exercise and workshop

Banana Shire Council, SunWater and the Local Disaster Management Group held an emergency exercise on 26 November 2015. The key focus throughout the exercise was to assess the coordination and timely delivery of messages, actionable messages and multi-channel tools. A number of actions and considerations were determined following the exercise to ensure improved outcomes in the event of a real emergency situation.

On 8 December 2015, following consultation with the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, a workshop was held on "The Practical Application of the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland" in Biloela. The workshop was part of a program of meetings held around Queensland, meeting with local and district disaster management group members to provide orientation to the Standard for Disaster Management.

Living near dams

A new "Living near dams" section has been created on the SunWater website that provides helpful information for communities living downstream of our dams.

The page provides easy access to important sources of information such as how to prepare for a flood, links to council websites and Facebook pages, storage levels, river heights and weather forecasts.

The "Living near dams" section can be accessed directly via the home page or Sustainability > Community www.sunwater.com.au/sustainability/community/living-near-dams.

By now, all residents living downstream of Callide Dam and Kroombit Dam should have received a copy of the Callide Dam Fact Sheet and Kroombit Dam Fact Sheet in the mail. These fact sheets include important flood maps and SunWater urges residents living immediately downstream of these two dams to read the fact sheets and to keep them handy for reference in relation to dam outflows in the future.

Copies are also available on SunWater's website on the "Living near dams" page or can be requested by phoning 13 15 89.

SunWater App available now

SunWater is actively responding to reviews by the Inspector-General Emergency Management to improve warning systems relating to dam outflows and provide multi-channel options for information.

The SunWater App has been developed to be another communication tool which can provide timely and accurate notifications of potential dam outflows during extreme weather events and natural disasters.

The SunWater App provides communities living near our dams, weirs and waterways with the latest information, including operational updates and emergency preparedness notifications - all accessible from an apple or android device.

Download the free app from:



Attendees of the emergency exercise held in November 2015

For more information, please contact:

Banana Shire Council's Infrastructure Services Department on (07) 4992 9500
SunWater on 13 15 89

Copies of this Update may be a downloaded from www.banana.qld.gov.au or www.sunwater.com.au

