

EJ Beardmore Dam

Our purpose

Sunwater is a water service provider, making the most of the available water supply for our irrigation, industrial and urban customers.

We provide around 40 per cent of all water used commercially in Queensland.

Our purpose is clear at Sunwater – ‘Delivering water for prosperity’.

EJ Beardmore Dam

EJ Beardmore Dam is the major water storage for the St George Water Supply Scheme, located 21km north of St George. The scheme is managed by Mallowa Irrigation.

It provides water supply for the township of St George, irrigation of cotton, wheat, grapes, melons, peanuts and small crops as well as an abattoir and tourist accommodation.

Dam Facts

Watercourse: Balonne River

Lake name: Lake Kajarabie

Dam catchment area: 75,032km²

Nearest town: St George

Storage capacity: 81,800ML

Storage area: 2,850ha

Manual gate operations level: 207.27m AHD

Maximum discharge capacity: 5,522m³/sec

Historical low: 2.93% 20 April 1993

Historical high: 155.27% 7 February 2012

Structure type: zoned earthfill embankment

Scheme: St George Water Supply Scheme

How do the dam gates work?

The E.J. Beardmore Dam spillway gates are designed to be opened manually using a gate hoist.

When the storage level reaches full supply level (FSL) of 207.12m AHD, the gates are progressively opened to allow excess water to pass through the dam safely.

The gates continue to be opened as the storage continues to rise and then lower as inflows reduce.

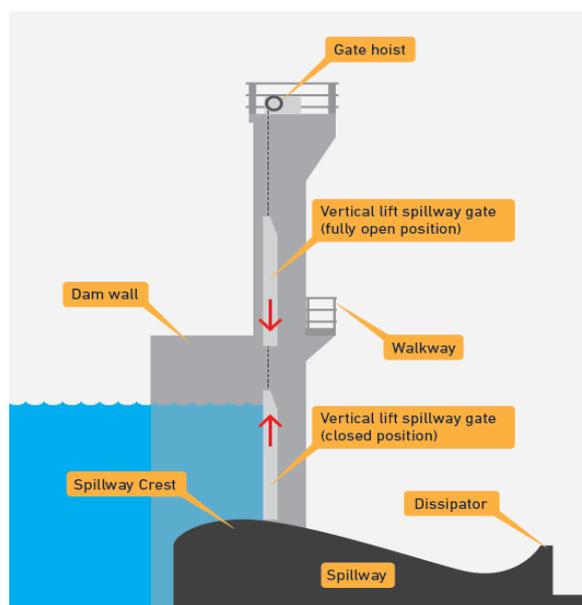


Image: Cross-section of the E.J. Beardmore Dam spillway looking towards the left bank

Upstream gauging stations are monitored to assess the magnitude of dam inflows and a detailed chart is used as a guide to incrementally open the gates as required to safely pass inflows through the dam.

A hoist is used to open and close the vertical lift gates. Gate 3 is opened first, followed by gates 2 and 4, then 1 and 5, until all 12 gates are opened and flows reach 40,040ML/day.

The gates continue to be opened incrementally to minimise downstream erosion until outflows match inflows and the storage level stabilises.

What types of flows can be expected from EJ Beardmore Dam?

Sunwater regularly makes water releases through the dam's outlet works based on:

- downstream demand from end users via Balonne River and Thuraggi Watercourse
- necessity to recharge underground water supplies

A network of channels and drains serves land on the left bank of the Balonne River extending 32 kilometres south-east of St George.

The channel system is supplied from Beardmore Dam, via Jack Taylor Weir, on the Balonne River and Moolabah Weir and Buckinbah Weir on Thuraggi Watercourse.

How can I monitor the water level at Beardmore Dam?

Monitoring the level of the lake (storage behind the dam wall) provides insight into how much water is flowing in and out.

Download the Sunwater app from Google Play or the App Store to receive safety and recreation information and to monitor the lake level. You can subscribe for notifications about other Sunwater dams too.

You can also get spill notifications and recreational updates on the Sunwater website: sunwater.com.au, and by following Sunwater's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Where else might water come from?

Within a catchment there can be many creeks, streams and rivers that meet at different points and can contribute to flooding in your area, even when dams are not spilling.

The **Bureau of Meteorology** is responsible for flood forecasting at key locations within a catchment and informs Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) if it predicts or observes flooding at forecast locations. Monitor forecasts and river levels at bom.gov.au.

How do I stay informed about what's happening in my local area?

Contact Balonne Shire Council for information relating to road and crossing closures. Register with council for alerts and notifications or follow them on Facebook. Remember, rising water can come from many sources, so stay vigilant.

During an emergency, it is important the community listen to the advice of local authorities such as the area's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) who are responsible for coordinating emergency management aspects including evacuations, coordinating disaster response, deploying resources and recovery.

What is a dam Emergency Action Plan?

In Queensland, dams that could pose a risk to life downstream in the unlikely event of a failure are known as referable dams and are regulated by the Queensland Government. As a referable dam, EJ Beardmore Dam requires an Emergency Action Plan by law which is approved by the Queensland Government. An Emergency Action Plan identifies:

- dam hazards and possible emergency events
- the area likely to be affected by an emergency event
- circumstances that increase the likelihood of emergency events
- people who may be harmed and whose property may be impacted, and how these people are warned
- the actions to be taken in response to a dam hazard or emergency event and who is responsible

The Emergency Action Plan for EJ Beardmore Dam is available publicly on the Sunwater website.



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