

Paradise Dam Community Update

February 2020

Sunwater continues planning for works at Paradise Dam with our focus on the protection of lives and livelihoods.

Planning for Dam Works

The Paradise Dam wall needs to be lowered to reduce the risk of failure in a significant flood event.

Detailed engineering work is underway to determine how the required works will be approached and scheduled between wet seasons. Sunwater is working through a procurement process to select a construction contractor for the initial work with the aim to confirm the selected contractor in March.

While a dam may look like a simple wall, it is a complex piece of critical infrastructure and lowering the wall while the dam is still operating is extremely challenging. Sunwater is committed to ensuring that a robust approach is taken to planning and implementing the work to ensure community safety and maximise availability of water to customers.

Sunwater is currently defining the scope of the Essential Works. Sunwater will complete these works as soon as possible to reduce immediate dam safety risks. Meanwhile, Building Queensland will provide advice to the State Government on the best options for the longer term improvement scope for the dam to protect lives and livelihoods into the future.

Essential Works - the works to occur first to reduce dam safety risk

- Sunwater will consider design, construction approach and sequencing of activities to safely lower the wall.
- Construction contractor to be appointed in March.
- Works to occur in dry seasons as fast as reasonably practicable. Preparation works in March. Construction targeted to start in May.

Dam Improvement Project - ultimate dam design

- Technical reviews confirmed the need to reduce pressure on the dam and that major strengthening works would be required.
- Building Queensland undertaking options analysis to advise State Government, due for completion in February 2020.
- Sunwater Blueprint process looking at future options for water supply in the broader region.
- Timing of works to be confirmed — to occur after the Essential Works and in stages over a number of dry seasons.

Keeping informed about Paradise Dam:

If you live immediately downstream of Paradise Dam, you can **register for SMS updates** at sunwater.com.au **Download the Sunwater App** to receive push notifications when the dam is spilling water and to monitor dam levels.

Follow Sunwater on Facebook and Twitter and visit sunwater.com.au for updates.

Visit bom.gov.au/qld/ for the latest weather information and your local council website for emergency updates.

Water Supply

Alternative water supply options are actively being considered to provide water security for the region. Following workshops held with growers in December, Sunwater is investigating options to maximise water allocations and will continue to consult with customers.

Sunwater is also investigating options to revise water sharing rules under the Burnett Resource Operation Plan in consultation with the Irrigator Advisory Committee and customers, to maximise allocations next water year.

Water Releases

Last year, the dam's storage level was brought down to 42 per cent ahead of the wet season to enhance community safety management and prepare for safety and strengthening works.



If enough rain falls in the catchment to cause significant inflows, Sunwater may need to conduct further water releases to maintain the dam at a safe level between now and when works at the dam are complete.

Releases are managed with the permission of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in accordance with the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act, 2008*. Sunwater will provide advance notice of releases, where possible, and will encourage existing customers and other interested parties to access available water to maximise the volume stored or used for productive purposes. More information will be shared as processes are formalised.

Community Reference Group

The dedicated Community Reference Group with membership including downstream residents, local government representatives, customers and environmental groups, met four times last year and will next meet in mid-February.



Public Safety

Under normal conditions Paradise Dam is safe. In a significant flood, such as that in 2013, the dam wall may fail.

That is why the water level has been lowered and work is required to strengthen the dam.

A mock activation of the Paradise Dam Emergency Action Plan was conducted in December.

We are preparing a summary of the Emergency Action Plan for the community, and working with local councils and Local Disaster Management Groups to ensure clear and consistent information is available.

It is critical that all residents respond to evacuation alerts

For further information on Paradise Dam:

Community enquiries, contact:
3120 0270 or via community@sunwater.com.au

Customers and non-customers wishing to access water, contact:
13 15 89 or via customersupport@sunwater.com.au

Media enquiries, contact:
3120 0047 or via media@sunwater.com.au