

Paradise Dam Community Update

March 2020

Sunwater understands the Bundaberg community's concern about water security for the region. Safety is the key driver for the work we are doing at Paradise Dam and Sunwater is committed to identifying options that provide the water security required by the region.

Water is available for our customers

The Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME) has approved an amendment to water-sharing rules that will enable Sunwater to maximise allocations in the Burnett River sub-scheme for the next water year, commencing 1 July.

Over the last five years, medium priority allocations for the Burnett River sub-scheme have ranged between 71 and 91 per cent at the beginning of the water year.

The amendment to water-sharing rules, along with current inflows, will secure allocations close to this range. Medium priority allocations for the next water year are now anticipated to be in the range of 68 to 74 per cent in the Burnett River sub-scheme. High priority allocations will continue to be 100 per cent.

Sunwater is committed to working with stakeholders to further identify and determine the viability of alternate water storage options to meet future water demand within the Burnett River sub-scheme should they be required based on the final option selected to remediate Paradise Dam.

This will involve close collaboration with growers, their representative peak bodies and other interested community stakeholders.

Sunwater will be working with all stakeholders to:

- identify potential sites
- undertake feasibility analysis on the identified options

- develop a business case to demonstrate how additional storages can be developed should they be required.

The outputs of this work will be provided to Building Queensland and the Queensland Government to inform the final outcome for Paradise Dam and water security for the region.

The future of Paradise Dam

Building Queensland has released an assessment of long-term options for Paradise Dam. The report is available at www.buildingqueensland.qld.gov.au/paradise-dam.

Building Queensland has recommended the following work be undertaken with Sunwater as a matter of priority:

- geotechnical assessment of the dam foundations and development of a 3D geological model (currently underway)
- further sampling and testing of the primary spillway's roller compacted concrete
- an anchoring trial to confirm existing dam foundation capacity (currently scheduled)
- the refinement of option designs and cost ranges using this updated information.

Together, Building Queensland and Sunwater will ensure this information is collected as a matter of priority, allowing government to determine the best long-term option for Paradise Dam.

Getting ready to start work

Sunwater has selected major construction company, CPB Contractors, to undertake the essential works. CPB Contractors was selected after a rigorous procurement and due diligence process.

Sunwater is working with CPB Contractors, and the project designers GHD, to finalise the design and construction methodology.

Site mobilisation and temporary access works will start in April with construction planned to commence in May.

Additional testing of the dam wall will be undertaken during this work.

Project completion is expected in 2021, however, work on the dam wall this year aims to reduce risks before the next wet season.

Sunwater is committed to the project timeline and is working closely with CPB Contractors to understand and manage any risks arising from the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry

Former Supreme Court Judge John Byrne is leading an independent inquiry into Paradise Dam's structural and stability issues.

Hearings will continue until 7 April and a report and recommendations are to be made by 30 April this year.

Public safety priority

The decision to lower the dam wall was made after extensive studies that have been supported by national and international technical experts including:

- the design consultant—GHD
- technical advisors within Sunwater
- six Technical Review Panel experts
- additional peer review experts as engaged by Sunwater and Government.

We cannot ignore the clear evidence and must act to lower the dam wall to improve its stability and the safety of downstream communities.

If the dam were to fail, in addition to anticipated lives lost, the impact on water security would be huge. Millions of megalitres of water would be lost until the structure was replaced, which would take many years and come at an enormous cost.

Combined teleconference

On Wednesday 25 March, a combined teleconference was held to bring together members of the Paradise Dam Community Reference Group and the Burnett Industry Catchment Forum. The Honorable Dr Anthony Lynham, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Damian Gould, CEO, Building Queensland presented to this meeting.

Flexible Engagement

We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and are happy to arrange phone / video-conference meetings so that we can continue to engage with our customers and the community. Please contact us using the details

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.

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