

## Paradise Dam Community Update

### November 2019

#### Is Paradise Dam safe?

Under normal and current forecast weather conditions, Paradise Dam is safe.

However, in the unlikely event of another flood of record like the community experienced in 2013, the dam spillway (wall) may not perform to dam industry standards.

#### What is Sunwater doing ahead of the wet season?

- **Releasing water** from the dam to reduce the amount of water stored to 42 per cent of the dam's full capacity.
- **Participating in an exercise** that will test the Dam's Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in conjunction with Council and other agencies.
- **Working closely with Council's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)** who manage local flood risks and emergencies.

Since the last Update, Sunwater has also:

- **Convened a Community Reference Group (CRG)** to facilitate an effective two-way exchange of information between Sunwater and communities.
- **Activated an additional emergency warning system** at the dam including a siren.

#### Who is on the CRG?

Chaired by Major General Richard Wilson (Retd), the CRG has members representing downstream residents, Councils, customers and environmental groups.

A dedicated web page has been established where the CRG's Terms of Reference can be viewed, along with meeting summaries—[sunwater.com.au/projects/paradise-dam-essential-works/community-reference-group/](https://sunwater.com.au/projects/paradise-dam-essential-works/community-reference-group/)

#### What will happen if there is another significant weather event before the essential work is complete?

*It is important to remember* that under normal and forecast weather conditions, Paradise Dam is safe. If another significant weather event similar to 2013 occurs, Sunwater will:

- **Trigger the Emergency Action Plan** for Paradise Dam that sets in motion a series of processes and alerts for the community and for Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).
- **Communicate up-to-date information** via text messages directly to downstream residents, as well as to the broader community via the Sunwater App, our social media channels (Facebook and Twitter), through local media broadcasts and emergency alerts.

#### What is the problem with Paradise Dam and when did Sunwater know?

As part of the Dam Improvement Program underway, we conducted technical investigations that identified a structural problem relating to the dam wall. Once this issue was confirmed we acted immediately and made the difficult decision to release water from Paradise Dam and lower the spillway by 5m.

#### Keeping informed about Paradise Dam:

If you live immediately downstream of Paradise Dam, **register for SMS updates** at [sunwater.com.au](https://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](https://sunwater.com.au)** for updates.

Visit [bom.gov.au/qld/](https://bom.gov.au/qld/) for the latest weather information and your local council website for emergency updates.



### Why is the dam level being reduced to 42 per cent?

The decision to lower the spillway by 5m to significantly reduce the risk means needing dry space to ensure works are not disrupted by frequent spills and on site safety can be managed.

The 42 per cent storage level achieves this only using Sunwater's allocation—not water owned by customers. There is also a community safety benefit as it does allow for additional warning time.

### Is the water being released going to waste?

To achieve the 42 per cent, 105,000 ML of water is being released from Paradise Dam over 10 weeks. Around 26,000 ML has been stored in Ned Churchward Weir and Ben Anderson Barrage. Sunwater's allocation—around 80,000 ML—has been made available at no charge to customers and non-customers. Amongst other beneficial uses, Gregory Weir was filled to provide drinking water for Childers and Woodgate.

### When will the work on Paradise Dam start and finish?

We have commenced planning to facilitate site access and construction work to lower the spillway after the 2019/20 wet season.

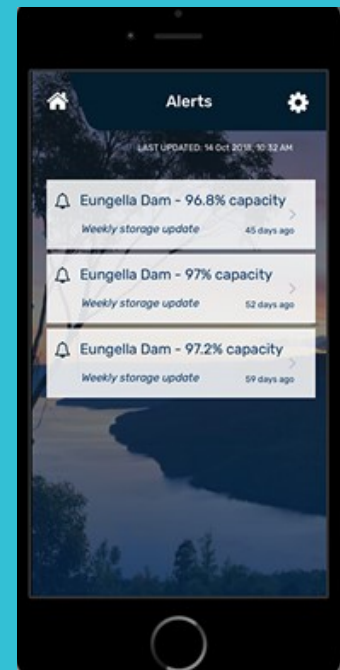
While the structural issues will have been managed in the short-term at the completion of these essential works, further improvement will be needed to secure the dam's long-term stability.

Building Queensland will undertake an accelerated assessment to guide Sunwater on future options, including the final revised spillway height and the final full supply level for Paradise Dam beyond the 5m lowering. This assessment is due to be completed by February 2020.

### How do I download the Sunwater App?

With the latest dam information and alerts at your fingertips, the Sunwater App is the perfect tool to stay informed about Sunwater dam operations, especially during heavy rain and flood.

You can download the App for free from Google Play and Apple's App Store.



For further information on Paradise Dam:

**Community** enquiries, contact:

3120 0270 or via [community@sunwater.com.au](mailto:community@sunwater.com.au)

**Customers and non-customers** wishing to access water, contact:

13 15 89 or via [customersupport@sunwater.com.au](mailto:customersupport@sunwater.com.au)