

Paradise Dam Community Update

October 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.

We are committed to ongoing customer and stakeholder engagement to ensure that water users have their voice heard as the detailed business case process to determine the future of Paradise Dam is developed.

Essential Works update

Last month, the target of lowering the Paradise Dam spillway was met. The focus is now on planning for the coming wet season as this phase of major construction work approaches completion.

Once the Essential Works package is complete, the risk of a dam failure in a significant flood event will have been reduced through a combination of: lowering the spillway (to reduce peak flood levels and pressure on the dam wall); drilling and grouting passive steel anchors up to 19 metres deep through the layers of roller compacted concrete (RCC); and the construction of a 600 mm thick concrete crest fixed in place by the passive anchors.

We are aiming to have these works predominantly completed by mid-December 2020, pending good progress and no delays or impacts from weather or overtopping events. Remaining works will be completed in 2021 after the wet season.



Figure 1: Rows of passive anchors installed and ready for grout fill

Opportunity to Have Your Say on Future Water Demand

Bundaberg growers have been invited to outline their water needs into the future by completing a survey that will help determine the next phase of works at Paradise Dam.

The demand survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Customers, and potential customers, are encouraged to have their say before the survey closes at 5pm Friday, 30 October 2020.

Take the [survey](#).

Sunwater is working closely with Building Queensland on a detailed business case (DBC) for Paradise Dam. The DBC will determine the remediation works required for the dam to comply with dam safety requirements. The business case is also investigating options to ensure adequate and secure water supply to support growth in the Bundaberg region.

Emergency Action Plan updated

Sunwater has made a second addendum to the Paradise Dam Emergency Action Plan to reflect the progress of construction works. The updates have been developed in consultation with the Bundaberg and North Burnett Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG).

The likelihood of requiring an evacuation of downstream residents is now lower than it was whilst the spillway was being lowered. Evacuations are managed by the Local and District Disaster Management Groups and it is critical that all residents respond to evacuation alerts.

Information about the revised emergency triggers is available in an updated [Emergency Response Overview](#) document.

Learn more about engineering testing

In parallel with the Essential Works, Sunwater is undertaking:

- geotechnical investigations
- anchor trials
- sampling and testing of the RCC.

A fact sheet about each of these activities is available on our [Essential Works webpage](#).

The results of these three activities, together with a detailed water demand assessment, will influence the long-term remediation design for Paradise Dam.

The long-term remediation options include large post tensioned anchors or, alternatively, mass concrete buttressing (widening the base of the dam and increasing the wall thickness by mass concrete), or a combination of the two (amongst other improvement works). These options require further design development and will need several years of construction to implement.

Data reporting change

Sunwater has updated Paradise Dam's supply level and current capacity to reflect the lowered spillway. This is necessary to provide clarity for operational and safety matters, and to ensure the community has access to accurate and consistent information.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, it is important that '100% capacity' represents when the water level reaches the top of the dam wall and is about to spill.

This is a temporary measure and no decision has been made about the long-term future of the dam. The data reporting change does not impact on current announced allocations for Sunwater customers.

Keep 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 the Sunwater Paradise Dam Facebook Page

Follow Sunwater on Twitter

Visit sunwater.com.au/projects/paradise-dam-essential-works/ for updates.

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

Live links to more information are included in the electronic version of this newsletter. If you are reading a printed copy and need help finding the linked information, please call or email and we can assist.

For further information on Paradise Dam:

Community enquiries: 3120 0270 or via paradise.dam@sunwater.com.au

Customer enquiries: 13 15 89 or via customersupport@sunwater.com.au

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