

Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme

Paradise Dam update

11 March 2021

The risk of failure has been successfully reduced as a result of the Essential Works at Paradise Dam. Ensuring community safety has always been our number one priority. A recommendation will be made on the best long-term option to meet dam safety and water demand objectives. *The Queensland Government is expected make a decision about the long-term future of Paradise Dam by the end of 2021.*

Dam failure risk reduced

Following the work to lower and strengthen the spillway, Paradise Dam is no longer expected to fail if we were to experience another significant flood.

The risk of dam failure has been reduced to a 1 in 5000-year event. Prior to the start of the essential works, the dam failure risk was 1 in 200-year event.

We will now work to amend the Paradise Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in consultation with the Bundaberg and North Burnett local disaster management groups.

Further strengthening and stabilising work is required as part of the long-term remediation of Paradise Dam to meet safety guidelines.

Read our Paradise Dam [Essential Work Risk Reduction Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Ancillary works will continue at Paradise Dam through 2021. This will include final quality control activities, construction of a new improved fishway and placement of initial concrete works downstream of the dam to prepare for the next stage apron extension and provide some interim protection against scour.

Future of Paradise Dam

Sunwater is making sure Paradise Dam is safe and that Bundaberg's future water needs will be met. We are taking the time needed to get the best outcome for the community.

A range of activities, including roller compacted concrete (RCC) shear strength testing, post-tensioned anchor trials, geotechnical investigations, water demand studies, and complex hydrology studies will inform an assessment of the long-term options for Paradise Dam. These activities are progressing.

A number of primary spillway heights are being considered to meet dam safety and water security objectives. Alternative supply options will also be examined. Decommissioning the dam is not an option.

An options report and recommendation will be provided to the Queensland Government, which is expected to make a decision about the long-term future of Paradise Dam by the end of 2021.

Read our Paradise Dam [Detailed Business Case Fact Sheet](#) for more information about the work required to make a recommendation on the future of Paradise Dam.

Storage update

Sunwater continues to provide water for our customers. In addition to Paradise Dam, the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme is supplied by Fred Haigh Dam, Ned Churchward Weir, Bucca Weir, Ben Anderson Barrage and Kolan Barrage.

There is enough water in Paradise Dam and other storages within the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme to meet allocations for the 2020–21 water year.

Allocations for the next water year will be announced in July 2021. Sunwater undertakes announced allocation forecasting in the 1–2 months before the start of the next water year. Forecasting ahead of this time is challenging as it is subject to many variables and unknowns such as inflows, weather conditions and customer usage.

Questions?

If you have any questions about Paradise Dam please do not hesitate to contact us on 3120 0270 or paradise.dam@sunwater.com.au.

If you have a general customer enquiry, please contact 13 15 89, Monday–Friday 8:30am–4:30pm.

For more information, visit sunwater.com.au/projects/paradise-dam-essential-works/.