

## Lake Macdonald (Six Mile Creek Dam) – lake lowering

October 2024

Dams are life-long assets requiring continual assessment, monitoring and maintenance. While the dam continues to operate safely under normal conditions, Seqwater will take further precautionary action to enhance safety at Lake Macdonald ahead of the wet season by lowering the lake to manage large spill events and catchment inflows.

From mid-October 2024, Lake Macdonald will be gradually lowered to 42% of its total capacity, or by approximately 2.3 metres. Seqwater is aiming to achieve this desired lake level by the end of 2024, however this timeline may vary depending on rainfall, catchment inflows and other environmental conditions.

The lake level will be lower than usual but similar to what could be experienced during dry periods, and will remain lowered until the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project is completed. Lowering the lake will not impact water supply to Sunshine Coast communities.

### What to expect

- A number of gravity siphons will operate continuously over the spillway until the desired lake level is reached. The noise will be minimal, comparable to the sound of water naturally spilling over the spillway during low flow events.
- There will be minor vehicle movements along Lake Macdonald Drive entering the site.
- As the lake level is lowered, some parts of the lake banks may become exposed. While certain areas of the lake will no longer contain water, the lower regions will still maintain a reduced water level. This is a normal and expected part of the lake lowering process.
- The flow of water out of the dam into the creek will be similar to the levels experienced during a typical wet season. Neighbours living downstream should not notice any unusual waterway rises.
- The lake lowering process will be carefully managed to reduce disturbance to aquatic environments ensuring that aquatic fauna experience minimal impacts.
- Lake Macdonald is expected to remain open for on water recreational activities, including parks and facility use. This includes continued access to Lake Macdonald, Lake Macdonald Park (off Lake Macdonald Drive), and the Noosa Botanic Gardens. While temporary closures may be required for safety reasons, our priority is to maintain access for as long as conditions are safe and practical.

### For more information

Seqwater is dedicated to keeping the community informed. We invite you to join us for coffee and conversation to give you the opportunity to meet the Seqwater team, ask questions, and learn more about the lake lowering.


#### Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday 12 October 2024
- **Time:** 10am to 12pm
- **Location:** Lake Macdonald Park, off Lake Macdonald Drive

For any questions or to meet with Seqwater officers to further discuss the lake lowering, please contact us at [projectinfo@seqwater.com.au](mailto:projectinfo@seqwater.com.au) or call 3432 7000 (during business hours).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

 **3432 7000 (during business hours)**

 [projectinfo@seqwater.com.au](mailto:projectinfo@seqwater.com.au)

 [seqwater.com.au/dams/lake-macdonald-six-mile-creek](https://seqwater.com.au/dams/lake-macdonald-six-mile-creek)

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