



Mersey-Forth Water Management Review

FACT SHEET

Forth River Flood Evacuation Plan Enhancement Study



The Forth River Estuary. Photograph courtesy of Central Coast Council.

Through Hydro Tasmania's Mersey-Forth Water Management Review stakeholder consultation process a number of concerns were raised regarding flooding in the Forth and Mersey Rivers. Flooding in the Wilmot River has caused significant loss of property and is a potential safety risk to recreational users.

In addition, Hydro Tasmania's role in relation to providing flood mitigation and notification of flood events had been queried. Access to better flood mitigation, lake level and river flow information, and receiving flood notifications were identified as actions that could assist in reducing the risk caused by flooding.

Aim of Study

To address the issue of flooding the Mersey and Forth Flood Study was initiated with the aim of collaborating with local Councils to further develop and operationalise flood evacuation plans for the Forth and Mersey Rivers.



Wilmot Dam on spill in August 2013.

Process

To achieve the aim of the study a number of processes were undertaken:

- Discussions were held with Latrobe, Kentish and Central Coast Councils regarding their flood evacuation plan requirements. With initiatives already underway in the Councils it was with the Central Coast Council that an agreement was reached for Hydro Tasmania to support their flood planning initiatives;
- For the Lower Forth River, the Central Coast Council required more certainty over the likely performance of various flood defenses installed in the Forth River estuary area. To achieve this Council had already initiated a process of commissioning consultants to model flood scenarios in order to update flood response protocols. The Central Coast Council aimed to enhance and re-issue the *Lower Forth Flood Response and Recovery Plan* with updated computer modelling to refine inundation zones and assess the impact of flooding on assets in the Forth River estuary. Hydro Tasmania agreed to contribute to the cost of undertaking this modeling; and
- Hydro Tasmania's role in relation to providing flood mitigation, lake level and river flow information, and notification of flood events was clarified through the consultation process.

Outcomes

The outcomes from the study were:

- Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the Forth River Estuary is nearing completion. This will lead to a better understanding of the performance of the Leith Road/Harvest Moon Levee and downstream flood plains. The information will then be used by Central Coast Council to update and re-issue the *Lower Forth Flood Response and Recovery Plan*;
- Tasmanian flood warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and not Hydro Tasmania. This information is available at www.bom.gov.tas.au/tas/warnings/index.shtml. In addition, BoM provides flood warning services to the public and information on this is available at www.bom.gov.au/water/floods/floodWarningServices.shtml;
- Information on how Hydro Tasmania assists BoM and what Hydro Tasmania can do to decrease the size of a flood can be found at www.hydro.com.au/about-us/whats-about; and
- Information on lake levels and river flows, for most Hydro Tasmania lakes at key locations, are now available on Hydro Tasmania's website at www.hydro.com.au/water/lake-levels and www.hydro.com.au/water/water-flow-and-levels.

Commitment

Hydro Tasmania will continue to work with Councils, as required, to improve flood planning and response for the Mersey River.

For More Information

To see all the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review technical and social studies go to www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies.

Find out more about the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review at www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR.

Contact Us:

Post: GPO Box 355, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia
 Email: contactus@hydro.com.au
 Call: 1300 360 441
 (Local call cost Australia-wide)

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