



Mersey-Forth Water Management Review

FACT SHEET

Lake Gairdner Water Level Management Study



Lake Gairdner from the dam wall with water level at 469.5 metres Above Sea Level (mASL) which is approximately 3 metres below Full Supply Level (472.4 mASL).

The Mersey-Forth Water Management Review technical study at Lake Gairdner investigated opportunities to address stakeholder concerns relating to water level management.

During the consultation stage of the Mersey-Forth Water Management Review stakeholders raised concern regarding the impact of low lake levels on recreational and environmental values during holiday periods, especially over the summer months.

Aim of Study

The aim of the Lake Gairdner study was to engage with stakeholders to better understand and address concerns relating to water level management at Lake Gairdner.

The objectives of the study were to:

- Conduct a survey to determine the recreational requirements of Lake Gairdner stakeholders;

- Respond to issues raised by stakeholders relating to water level management;
- Raise awareness about Hydro Tasmania's operational requirements, limitations and risks associated with water level management; and
- Determine and implement management actions to address stakeholder concerns where appropriate.

Process

To achieve the study objectives the following actions were undertaken:

- Forty Lake Gairdner stakeholders were invited to complete a one on one survey over the telephone. Twenty-nine stakeholders participated in the survey with results showing that fishing is the most popular recreational activity at Lake Gairdner followed by boating and camping. The most popular times for recreational activities are from December to February and during the Easter holidays. Stakeholders indicated they would prefer higher water levels to be maintained during these periods so that they can undertake recreational activities. The main issues raised during the survey were the impacts of low and fluctuating lake levels on access, safety, aesthetics and biodiversity. Lack of signage encouraging people to remove their rubbish and toilet waste was also mentioned; and
- To help stakeholders better understand Hydro Tasmania's operations and multiple use values at Lake Gairdner, a factsheet on Lake Gairdner was developed and was sent to all Lake Gairdner stakeholders (go to www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR to view the factsheet) together with directions on how to access information on Lake Gairdner lake levels and Iris River inflows (go to <http://www.hydro.com.au/water/water-flow-and-levels>).

Outcomes

The outcomes from the study were:

- Hydro Tasmania has altered its Lake Gairdner Storage Operating Rules with the intention of, where practicable, to maintain high water levels (in the top 3 metres of the lake's operating capacity) during December to February and the Easter holidays;
- Stakeholders will now receive notification emails when Hydro Tasmania undertakes major outages and maintenance requirements at the Wilmot Power Station and at Wilmot Dam from December to February and over the Easter period, should the lake need to be drawn down more than 7 metres below Full Supply Level;



Lake Gairdner from the dam wall with water level at 464.8 metres Above Sea Level (mASL) which is approximately 7.5 metres from Full Supply Level.

- For questions, related to operations and water level management, stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Environment Program Manager; and
- A technical report has been written detailing this study.

Commitment

Lake Gairdner is a small, run of river hydro power storage, in a high rainfall area. Where practicable, Hydro Tasmania will maintain higher water levels during key holiday periods to provide for multiple use activities. Hydro Tasmania will also notify Lake Gairdner stakeholders when the lake is to be drawn down to low levels for major operational events during the key holiday periods.

For More information

The technical report for this study is available at

www.hydro.com.au/MFWMR-studies.

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)