Annexure 1

Document number	Date	Title
1	22/02/2016	Minute to the Minister for Energy Subject - Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams: Low Impact Investigation within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
2	12/10/2016	Question Time Brief (**QTB**) - Minister for Energy Subject – Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar
3	2/11/2016	QTB - Minister for Energy Subject – Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar
4	26/02/2019	Minute to the Minister for Energy Subject - Lake Pedder Restoration Campaign
5	August 2022	QTB – Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Resources, Trade, Energy and Emissions Reductions, Veterans' Affairs Subject - Edgar Dam - Strengthening Project ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
6	September 2022	QTB – Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Resources, Trade, Energy and Emissions Reductions, Veterans' Affairs Subject - Edgar Dam - Strengthening Project ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
7	20/02/2023	QTB - Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Subject: Edgar Dam - Strengthening Project ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
8	17/03/2023	QTB - Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Subject: Edgar Dam - Strengthening Project ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*

9	8/05/2023	QTB - Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Subject: Edgar Dam - Strengthening Project ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
10	6/06/2024	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Environment Subject: Upgrades to Edgar Dam ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
11	29/07/2024	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Environment Subject - Edgar Dam strengthening and flood maps ***Please note*** *the 'Last Updated' date in the left footer of this document is incorrect. This date (24 February 2026) instead is when the document was accessed as part of responding to this RTI.*
12	10/10/2024	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Environment Subject - Edgar Dam Strengthening Project
13	25/11/2024	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Environment Subject - Edgar Dam Strengthening Project
14	5/02/2025	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Sports and Events, Minister for Parks Subject - Edgar Dam Upgrades
15	04/03/2025	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Sports and Events, Minister for Parks Subject - Edgar Dam Strengthening Project
16	8/09/2025	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks, Minister for Sport Subject - Edgar Dam Upgrades
17	4/11/2025	QTB – Nick Duigan MLC, Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks, Minister for Sport Subject - Edgar Dam Upgrades

Dept. Ref _____

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Minute to the Minister for Energy

SUBJECT: SCOTTS PEAK & EDGAR DAMS: LOW-IMPACT INVESTIGATION WITHIN THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA (TWWHA)

Minister's notation:

Purpose:

To inform the Minister of a planned site investigation during the week commencing Monday, 7 March 2016.

Recommendation:

That you:

1. **Note the information contained in this briefing note**

Summary:

- Hydro Tasmania is developing concept designs for upgrades of both Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams to strengthen the dams against severe earthquake loading.
- Low-impact geotechnical investigations are proposed at sites on land vested to Hydro Tasmania but within the TWWHA to establish a better understanding of the material sources and costs required for construction of an upgrade of both Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams. Sources external to the TWWHA are also being investigated.
- The proposed investigations within and external to the TWWHA represent the first publicly visible action Hydro Tasmania are taking towards addressing risks at Scotts Peak Dam, which could attract some public interest.

Background

Hydro Tasmania is developing concept designs for upgrade of both Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams to strengthen the dams against severe earthquake loading. The quantity of earth and/or rockfill material required for the upgrade of both dams is extensive; potentially in the order of 300,000 - 400,000 cubic metres. The sourcing of material from within the TWWHA is likely to be contentious as the Tasmanian Government has endorsed a UNESCO recommendation[1] to ban mining within the TWWHA and sourcing of upgrade materials from quarries may be interpreted by the public as "mining".

Early cost estimates indicate that importing material from outside of the TWWHA for the Scotts Peak project could create an additional cost of approximately 10 percent. However, the level of confidence around this estimate remains low. Further investigations into aspects of the project, including quality and availability of material sources, material processing requirements and road maintenance costs, are required to improve the confidence of these estimates.

In order to more fully understand project development options, Hydro Tasmania is undertaking concept work this financial year to reduce the uncertainty around costs. Critically, it is proposed that the concept design stage is to include low-impact investigation in existing gravel pits on Hydro Tasmania Vested Land within the TWWHA, downstream of Scotts Peak Dam. This will comprise geological mapping of the area, geotechnical logging of existing exposures, (including hand-recovery of samples for testing), geophysical survey including seismic refraction, (e.g. hand-held hammer and strike plate) and potential augering by hand-held equipment on existing disturbed areas. These are low impact, non-intrusive investigations and do not require digging or drilling machinery.

The investigation will also seek to further assess other existing quarries within and external to the TWWHA. The purpose of the investigations is to establish a better understanding of the material sources and costs required for construction of an upgrade of both Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams.

For reference, Hydro Tasmania's current position (based on our understanding to date) is that we would avoid the use of the local materials from within the TWWHA and accept the estimated premium incurred to haul materials from external sites. However, there is significant uncertainty over the volume, condition, and costs estimates associated with various sources. The proposed investigation represents a due diligence step to reduce this uncertainty, and develop a rational and informed position on materials selection, that will withstand the expected level of scrutiny the during approvals phase of the project.

This examination of gravel material availability downstream of Scotts Peak Dam is also necessary to validate its use under the earthquake contingency plan for Scotts Peak. Such gravel materials (if available) could be used to staunch a leak in the dam following a severe earthquake. The above mentioned contingency plan is one of the main interim (non-structural) risk mitigation options that Hydro Tasmania is pursuing while we finalise the upgrade options.

Hydro Tasmania's independent expert reviewers have endorsed this approach as yielding useful information with negligible impact. Such work would be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Plan (EIA&MP), as well as careful stakeholder/brand management through the appropriate channels. No other permits are required for this investigation work, although we will provide a courtesy notification to Parks and Wildlife Service.

[1] 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee, 1 July 2015.

It is important to note that even low-impact geotechnical investigations within the TWWHA represent the first publicly visible action we are taking towards addressing risks at Scotts Peak Dam and hence may carry reputational and/or political risks.

The project team has held initial discussions with the Brand and Communications Team and believes that these risks are manageable and the information gained is sufficiently valuable to warrant the investigation.

The proposed timing for the low-impact geotechnical investigations is the week commencing Monday, 7 March 2016.

22/02/2016

Prepared by:	[redacted]	Cleared by:	[redacted]
Position:	Hydro Tasmania Dam Safety Manager	Position:	Government Relations Manager
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Hydro Tasmania

Question Time Briefing
Minister for Energy

Subject: Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar

Date prepared: 12 OCT 2016

Speaking points

- Madam Speaker, Tasmania's hydropower future is robust and secure.
- All of Hydro Tasmania's dams, including Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar are safe and fit-for-purpose.
- Hydro Tasmania's Dam Safety Program meets the standards of the Dam Safety Regulator and world's best practice. It's reviewed every six months by a world-renowned independent expert.
- These three dams' current high risk profiles only relate to extreme events like unprecedented flooding (in the case of Murchison) or a powerful earthquake (in the case of Scott's Peak and Edgar), not their day-to-day safety or performance.
- In recent years, the design criteria for dams of this kind have been modernised and updated in relation to major flood and earthquake resistance.
- Technology has progressed since they were built in the 1970s, and modern dams are built to more modern technological standards.
- Hydro Tasmania will upgrade the three dams to meet modern design criteria in coming years, as already successfully completed at Rowallan Dam.
- This work has been prioritised in the 10-Year Asset Management Plan. It will be funded through normal business arrangements.

Background

- Under the 10-Year Asset Management Plan, Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar are rated as high risk dams. This risk profile only relate to extreme events, not their day-to-day safety or performance.
- These three dams are regularly inspected by Hydro Tasmania engineers and independent experts. They're in good condition and still meet the standards they were built to achieve.
- The three dams are safe and in good condition awaiting upgrade. However, without appropriate context, their risk classifications could be portrayed simplistically, emotively, irresponsibly and opportunistically to create unnecessary and unfounded community anxiety. There are existing examples of wording in Hydro Tasmania's 10-Year Asset Management Plan being reported out of context in a way that has generated unnecessary concern.

Prepared by: [redacted]

Position: S&MD Analyst
Document reference:

Cleared by: [redacted]
Government Relations
Position: Manager
Telephone: [redacted]

Hydro Tasmania

Question Time Briefing
Minister for Energy

Subject: Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar

Date prepared: 2 NOV 2016

Speaking points

- Madam Speaker, Tasmania's hydropower assets are robust and secure.
- All of Hydro Tasmania's dams, including Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar remain safe and fit-for-purpose.
- Technology has progressed since the 1970s, and modern dams are built to more modern technological specifications.
- Hydro Tasmania will upgrade the three dams to meet modern design criteria in coming years, as it has already done successfully at Rowallan Dam.
- Hydro Tasmania's Dam Safety Program meets the standards of the Dam Safety Regulator and world's best practice. It's reviewed every six months by an independent expert.
- The three dams in question are regularly inspected by Hydro Tasmania engineers and independent experts. They're in good condition and still meet the standards they were built to achieve.
- While upgrade plans are being developed, Hydro Tasmania has taken, and will continue to take, proactive non-structural steps to reduce risk.

Background

- Under the 10-Year Asset Management Plan, Murchison, Scotts Peak and Edgar are rated as high risk dams.
- Scotts Peak, Edgar and Murchison dams (which were opened in the 1970s and early '80s), are safe and in good condition awaiting upgrade.
- The cost of upgrading each dam to meet modern design criteria is estimated at approximately $50m. Please note - this cost estimate is preliminary only, and based on the current preferred upgrade option, which is subject to change.
- Emergency response plans, including Hydro Tasmania's Dam Safety Emergency Plan, are updated and tested regularly through emergency exercises involving personnel from Hydro Tasmania, the SES and DPIPWE (the Tasmanian Dam Safety Regulator).
- Hydro Tasmania has also funded upgrades to the Huon Valley and Pieman Flood Emergency Plans, in conjunction with the relevant local council and the SES. This includes development of new flood models, and flood mapping and identification via floor level surveys within the flood zones.

Prepared by: [redacted]

Position: S&MD Analyst
Document reference:

Cleared by: [redacted]
Government Relations
Position: Manager
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Dept. Ref _____

Critical Date _____

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DATE:

Minute to the Minister for Energy

SUBJECT: LAKE PEDDER RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

Minister's notation:

Purpose:

To provide the Minister with background on the importance of Lake Pedder in the States Energy infrastructure.

Recommendation:

That you note the information contained in this briefing note

Summary:

- Hydro Tasmania notes the Restore Pedder campaign launch on Wednesday 27 February, hosted by the Lake Pedder Restoration Committee.
- A formal proposal for the restoration of Lake Pedder has not been presented to Hydro Tasmania to assess or review.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's energy infrastructure and there are no plans to change its status.
- In June 1995 there was a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposal to drain and restore Lake Pedder. It concluded the lake should not be drained.
    - The Inquiry found no compelling biological conservation or environment protection reasons to restore the original Lake Pedder.
- The restoration of Lake Pedder was raised in March 2017, to which the Premier responded:
    - "*As Tasmanians saw last year with frightening circumstances, it is critical that we ensure energy security and Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon are both vital to that. The Gordon/Pedder*

system contributes approximately 13 percent of the total Tasmanian generation with Lake Pedder contributing 42 percent of this and hence this system is a vital part of our integrated hydro system. The Tasmanian Government has no plans to compromise that."[1]

- There are some works to Scotts Peak and Edgar Dam coming into the public domain later in the year that will likely bring interest and increased advocacy from some interest groups. Hydro Tasmania will develop a comprehensive engagement plan in the coming months with regard to the Scotts Peak dam works, and will ensure it keeps the Ministers Office updated as required.

Background

- Lake Pedder and Lake Gordon are vital to Tasmania's energy security.
- The combination of Lake Gordon and Lake Pedder is the largest storage of water in Australia.
- Lake Pedder provides about 515 GWh of renewable hydropower energy each year.
- Lake Pedder is responsible for about five to six per cent of Hydro Tasmania's total revenue, which equates to $20-30 million each year.
- The Gordon Scheme and Poatina Scheme are uniquely important as Hydro Tasmania's only two storages that have multi-year storage capacity. They're central to managing variability in inflows from year to year.

26 February 2019

Prepared by:	[redacted]	Cleared by:	Steve Davy
Position:	Policy and Strategic Engagement Officer	Position:	CEO

[1] Lines supplied by press secretary to the weekend Australian in March 2017

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Resources
Minister for Trade
Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam – Strengthening Project

(Date: August 2022)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure its assets operate safely and efficiently.
- At Edgar Dam, in the south-west region, Hydro Tasmania are planning to add new downstream gravel filters and rock fill which will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts have been carefully considered throughout the design phase, and wherever possible they have been removed or minimised.
- Consultation with project stakeholders and the wider community started in July 2022, and it is expected that the

project will be submitted for environmental assessment in late 2022.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: (BY ISSUE/TOPIC)

Why does Edgar Dam need strengthening?

- Edgar Dam is situated next to the Lake Edgar fault line.
    - the existence of the fault was known at the time of construction – and thought to be inactive.
    - over the intervening decades, understanding of seismic risk has evolved and this has influenced the dam's risk rating.
    - while the likelihood of the fault moving is extremely low, Hydro Tasmania takes a conservative approach to risk management.
- The upcoming works will ensure that Edgar Dam meets contemporary national safety standards
    - this type of risk is currently managed through detailed emergency preparedness plans.

Why hasn't this work started sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania operates a rolling programme of dam safety reviews and this information informs the risk assessment that underpins our Strategic Asset Management Plan.
    - Project start dates are adjusted as new information becomes available – Hydro Tasmania's goal is always to complete the highest priority tasks.
    - Planning for the Edgar Dam Strengthening Project started several years ago and was scheduled to start in 2022
    - This was adjusted following the identified need to work on safety upgrades at Rowallan, Catagunya and Murchison Dams first.

Where are the guidelines from?

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines that draw on global data and real-world experiences to inform best practice for dam owners, including recommendations for a rolling program of dam safety reviews.

How much is this project costing?

- The approved project budget is $21M and will take around 18 – 24 months to complete.

Will the project impact the community or environment?

- Potential impacts have been considered throughout project design and we anticipate them to be minor and localised.
  - Works, including material stockpiles and the truck biosecurity wash down, will be completed within footprint of existing disturbance.
  - Proven controls will be implemented to manage potential impacts, including limiting truck movements to daylight hours and removing all waste materials.
  - Hydro Tasmania will take feedback from the community on how to further manage specific impacts.
  - Once finished, the works are not expected to change the look of the dam.
- We will work with project stakeholders and the broader community to better understand project impacts and how we can minimise them.

Is Scotts Peak Dam also affected?

- Scotts Peak Dam may also be impacted by movement of the Lake Edgar fault, but factors such as distance away mean the risk is lower.

- Hydro Tasmania will continue to monitor this risk and explore engineering solutions to address it in the future – however, in the meantime, this risk is managed via other methods.

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Resources
Minister for Trade
Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam – Strengthening Project

(Date: September 2022)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts have been carefully considered throughout the design phase, and wherever possible they have been removed or minimised.
- Consultation with project stakeholders and the wider community started in July 2022, and it is expected that the

project will be submitted for environmental assessment in late 2022.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: (BY ISSUE/TOPIC)

Why does Edgar Dam need strengthening?

- Edgar Dam is situated next to the Lake Edgar fault line.
    - the existence of the fault was known at the time of construction in 1972-73, and was thought to be inactive.
    - over the intervening decades, understanding of seismic risk has evolved and this has influenced the dam's risk rating.
    - while the likelihood of the fault moving is extremely low, Hydro Tasmania takes a conservative approach to risk management.
- The upcoming works will ensure that Edgar Dam meets contemporary national safety standards
    - this type of risk is currently managed through detailed emergency preparedness plans.

Why hasn't this work started sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania operates a rolling programme of dam safety reviews and this information informs the risk assessment that underpins our Strategic Asset Management Plan.
    - Project start dates are adjusted as new information becomes available – Hydro Tasmania's goal is always to complete the highest priority tasks.
    - Planning for the Edgar Dam Strengthening Project started several years ago and was scheduled to start in 2022
    - This was adjusted following the identified need to work on safety upgrades at Rowallan, Catagunya and Murchison Dams first.

Has Hydro Tasmania completed a cost-benefit analysis to inform the value of this project?

- The main objective of this moderately-sized project is risk reduction. The strengthening works are being completed to deliver immediate and significant safety benefits, ensuring we continue to meet our safety obligations.
- A decision to complete this work does not impact any future government decisions regarding the restoration of Lake Pedder.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manage risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management and most Hydro Tasmania dam assets have one, including Edgar Dam.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2006.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.
- The most recent emergency preparedness scenario planning workshop was hosted in October 2020.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania release its flood maps publicly?

- Hydro Tasmania provides relevant documentation, including maps, to all organisations involved in the coordination and delivery of incident responses.
- These documents are securely held on the Tasmanian Government's Common Operating Platform.

What about the safety of the Huon Valley community?

- The likelihood of a major earthquake occurring in this area and impacting the Edgar dam is calculated to be extremely remote, a 1 in 10,000 chance of it happening in any given year.
- There is a comprehensive Huon River flood evacuation plan in place to address this risk, in the extremely unlikely event of it occurring.

- The most effective and quickest way to reduce this risk to a level considered tolerable under dam safety guidelines, is for Hydro Tasmania to complete dam strengthening.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania engage with the public on this risk?

- Hydro Tasmania manages its dam safety risks in accordance with the relevant state legislation and provides information to all organisations involved in planning, coordinating or implementing emergency management responses.

Where are the dam safety guidelines from?

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines that draw on global data and real-world experiences to inform best practice for dam owners, including recommendations for a rolling program of dam safety reviews.

How much is this project costing?

- The approved project budget is $21M and will take around 18 – 24 months to complete.

Will the project impact the community or environment?

- Potential impacts have been considered throughout project design and we anticipate them to be minor and localised.
    - Works, including material stockpiles and the truck biosecurity wash down, will be completed within footprint of existing disturbance.
    - Proven controls will be implemented to manage potential impacts, including limiting truck movements to daylight hours and removing all waste materials.
    - Hydro Tasmania will take feedback from the community on how to further manage specific impacts.

    - Once finished, the works are not expected to change the look of the dam.
- We will work with project stakeholders and the broader community to better understand project impacts and how we can minimise them.

Where are construction materials coming from?

- This project requires a large volume of specialised materials, some of which must be sourced from specific locations across the state.
- Hydro Tasmania is hopeful that the bulk of materials can be sourced from local quarry sites, within 100 km of the work site.
- Hydro Tasmania is currently assessing the technical suitability of three local sites.

Is Scotts Peak Dam also affected?

- Scotts Peak Dam initially sat above the tolerable risk level, as defined by Australian National Committee on Large Dams Incorporated's 1998 earthquake guidelines and was originally scheduled to be addressed first.
    - Following the release of updated guidelines in 2019, Scotts Peak Dam's seismic risk was reviewed and consequently downgraded.
    - According to ANCOLD, this update was required to incorporate the significant advances made in the understanding of earthquakes, seismic hazard assessments, analysis and design. This work is no longer considered a priority and no decisions have been made on potential works at this location.
    - Hydro Tasmania will continue to monitor this risk.

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam – Strengthening Project

(Date: 20 February 2023)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts have been carefully considered throughout the design phase, and wherever possible they have been removed or minimised.
- Project approvals have commenced, with submission of the Dam Works Permit in February 2023.

- A referral under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) is expected to be made in March 2023.
- Consultation with project stakeholders and the wider community started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: (BY ISSUE/TOPIC)

Why does Edgar Dam need strengthening?

- Edgar Dam is situated next to the Lake Edgar fault line.
    - the existence of the fault was known at the time of construction in 1972-73, and was thought to be inactive.
    - over the intervening decades, understanding of seismic risk has evolved and this has influenced the dam's risk rating.
    - while the likelihood of the fault moving is extremely low, Hydro Tasmania takes a conservative approach to risk management.
- The upcoming works will ensure that Edgar Dam meets contemporary national safety standards
    - this type of risk is currently managed through detailed emergency preparedness plans.

Why is this project behind schedule?

- Hydro Tasmania operates a rolling programme of dam safety reviews and this information informs the risk assessment that underpins our Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- In initial project communications, we took a *no surprises* approach and shared earliest possible start dates.

- We anticipate works will commence in late 2023, subject to our ongoing rolling assessment of emerging risks across our asset portfolio.

Has Hydro Tasmania completed a cost-benefit analysis to inform the value of this project?

- The main objective of this moderately-sized project is risk reduction.
- The strengthening works are being completed to deliver immediate and significant safety benefits, ensuring we continue to meet our safety obligations.
- A decision to complete this work does not impact any future government decisions regarding the restoration of Lake Pedder.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management and all Hydro Tasmania dam assets have one, including Edgar Dam.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2006.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.
- The most recent emergency preparedness scenario planning workshop was hosted in October 2020.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania release its flood maps publicly?

- Hydro Tasmania provides relevant documentation, including maps, to all organisations involved in the coordination and delivery of incident responses.
- These documents are securely held on the Tasmanian Government's Common Operating Platform.

What about the safety of the Huon Valley community?

- The likelihood of a major earthquake occurring in this area and impacting the Edgar dam is calculated to be extremely remote, a 1 in 10,000 chance of it happening in any given year.
- There is a comprehensive Huon River flood evacuation plan in place to address this risk, in the extremely unlikely event of it occurring.
- The most effective and quickest way to reduce this risk to a level considered tolerable under dam safety guidelines, is for Hydro Tasmania to complete dam strengthening.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania engage with the public on this risk?

- Hydro Tasmania manages its dam safety risks in accordance with the relevant state legislation and provides information to all organisations involved in planning, coordinating or implementing emergency management responses.

Where are the dam safety guidelines from?

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines that draw on global data and real-world experiences to define mandatory requirements and inform best practice for dam owners, including recommendations for a rolling program of dam safety reviews and safety risks.

How much is this project costing?

- The approved project budget is $21M and the estimated project cost is within budget.
- The project will take around 18 – 24 months to complete.

Will the project impact the community or environment?

- Potential impacts have been considered throughout project design and we anticipate them to be minor and localised.
    - Works, including material stockpiles and the truck biosecurity wash down, will be completed within footprint of existing disturbance.
    - Proven controls will be implemented to manage potential impacts, including limiting truck movements to daylight hours and removing all waste materials.
    - Hydro Tasmania will take feedback from the community on how to further manage specific impacts.
    - The dam safety risk will not increase during the work.
    - Once finished, the works are not expected to significantly alter the appearance of the dam.
- We will work with project stakeholders and the broader community to better understand project impacts and how we can minimise them.

Where are construction materials coming from?

- This project requires a large volume of specialised materials, some of which must be sourced from specific locations across the state.
- Hydro Tasmania is hopeful that the bulk of materials can be sourced from local quarry sites, within 100 km of the work site.
- Hydro Tasmania is currently assessing the technical suitability of two local sites.

Is Scotts Peak Dam also affected?

- Scotts Peak Dam initially sat above the tolerable risk level, as defined by Australian National Committee on Large Dams based on 1998 earthquake guidelines and was originally scheduled to be addressed first.
    - Following the release of updated guidelines in 2019, Scotts Peak Dam's seismic risk was reviewed and consequently downgraded.

- According to ANCOLD, this update was required to incorporate the significant advances made in the understanding of earthquakes, seismic hazard assessments, analysis and design. This work now has lower priority and no decisions have been made on potential works at this location.
- Hydro Tasmania will continue to monitor this risk.

How is this project being assessed?

- This project will be subject to dam safety (State) and environmental impact (Federal) assessments.
- We are working closely with regulators to progress these assessments processes, and both include an opportunity for broader stakeholder input that will be shared by Hydro Tasmania.

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam – Strengthening Project

(Date: 17 March 2023)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts have been carefully considered throughout the design phase, and wherever possible they have been removed or minimised.
- Project approvals have commenced, with submission of the Dam Works Permit in February 2023.

- The public inspection period closed on 20 March.
- A referral under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) will be made in coming months.
- Consultation with project stakeholders and the wider community started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: (BY ISSUE/TOPIC)

Why does Edgar Dam need strengthening?

- Edgar Dam is situated next to the Lake Edgar fault line.
    - the existence of the fault was known at the time of construction in 1972-73, and was thought to be inactive.
    - over the intervening decades, understanding of seismic risk has evolved and this has influenced the dam's risk rating.
    - while the likelihood of the fault moving is extremely low, Hydro Tasmania takes a conservative approach to risk management.
- The upcoming works will ensure that Edgar Dam meets contemporary national safety standards
    - this type of risk is currently managed through detailed emergency preparedness plans.

Why is this project behind schedule?

- Hydro Tasmania operates a rolling programme of dam safety reviews and this information informs the risk assessment that underpins our Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- In initial project communications, we took a *no surprises* approach and shared earliest possible start dates.
- We anticipate works will commence in late 2023, subject to our ongoing rolling assessment of emerging risks across our asset portfolio.

Has Hydro Tasmania completed a cost-benefit analysis to inform the value of this project?

- The main objective of this moderately-sized project is risk reduction.
- The strengthening works are being completed to deliver immediate and significant safety benefits, ensuring we continue to meet our safety obligations.
- A decision to complete this work does not impact any future government decisions regarding the restoration of Lake Pedder.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.

- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management and all Hydro Tasmania dam assets have one, including Edgar Dam.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2006.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.
- The most recent emergency preparedness scenario planning workshop was hosted in October 2020.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania release its flood maps publicly?

- Hydro Tasmania provides relevant documentation, including maps, to all organisations involved in the coordination and delivery of incident responses.
- These documents are securely held on the Tasmanian Government's Common Operating Platform.

What about the safety of the Huon Valley community?

- The likelihood of a major earthquake occurring in this area and impacting the Edgar dam is calculated to be extremely remote, a 1 in 10,000 chance of it happening in any given year.
- There is a comprehensive Huon River flood evacuation plan in place to address this risk, in the extremely unlikely event of it occurring.

- The most effective and quickest way to reduce this risk to a level considered tolerable under dam safety guidelines, is for Hydro Tasmania to complete dam strengthening.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania engage with the public on this risk?

- Hydro Tasmania manages its dam safety risks in accordance with the relevant state legislation and provides information to all organisations involved in planning, coordinating or implementing emergency management responses.

Where are the dam safety guidelines from?

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines that draw on global data and real-world experiences to define mandatory requirements and inform best practice for dam owners, including recommendations for a rolling program of dam safety reviews and safety risks.

How much is this project costing?

- The approved project budget is $21M and the estimated project cost is within budget.
- The project will take around 18 – 24 months to complete.

Will the project impact the community or environment?

- Potential impacts have been considered throughout project design and we anticipate them to be minor and localised.
    - Works, including material stockpiles and the truck biosecurity wash down, will be completed within footprint of existing disturbance.
    - Proven controls will be implemented to manage potential impacts, including limiting truck movements to daylight hours and removing all waste materials.
    - Hydro Tasmania will take feedback from the community on how to further manage specific impacts.
    - The dam safety risk will not increase during the work.
    - Once finished, the works are not expected to significantly alter the appearance of the dam.
- We will work with project stakeholders and the broader community to better understand project impacts and how we can minimise them.

Where are construction materials coming from?

- This project requires a large volume of specialised materials, some of which must be sourced from specific locations across the state.
- Hydro Tasmania is hopeful that the bulk of materials can be sourced from local quarry sites, within 100 km of the work site.

- Hydro Tasmania is currently assessing the technical suitability of two local sites.

Is Scotts Peak Dam also affected?

- Scotts Peak Dam initially sat above the tolerable risk level, as defined by Australian National Committee on Large Dams based on 1998 earthquake guidelines and was originally scheduled to be addressed first.
- Following the release of updated guidelines in 2019, Scotts Peak Dam's seismic risk was reviewed and consequently downgraded.
- According to ANCOLD, this update was required to incorporate the significant advances made in the understanding of earthquakes, seismic hazard assessments, analysis and design. This work now has lower priority and no decisions have been made on potential works at this location.
- Hydro Tasmania will continue to monitor this risk.

How is this project being assessed?

- This project is subject to dam safety (State) and environmental impact (Federal) assessments.
- The Dam Works Permit was submitted in February 2023, with the public inspection period closing on 20 March.

- And the project will be referred for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in coming months.
- We are working closely with regulators to progress these assessments processes, and both include an opportunity for broader stakeholder input that will be shared by Hydro Tasmania.

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam – Strengthening Project

(Date: 8 May 2023)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts have been carefully considered throughout the design phase, and wherever possible they have been removed or minimised.
- Project approvals have commenced, with submission of the Dam Works Permit in February 2023.

- The public inspection period closed on 20 March.
- A referral under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) will be made in coming months.
- Consultation with project stakeholders and the wider community started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: (BY ISSUE/TOPIC)

Why does Edgar Dam need strengthening?

- Edgar Dam is situated next to the Lake Edgar fault line.
    - the existence of the fault was known at the time of construction in 1972-73, and was thought to be inactive.
    - over the intervening decades, understanding of seismic risk has evolved and this has influenced the dam's risk rating.
    - while the likelihood of the fault moving is extremely low, Hydro Tasmania takes a conservative approach to risk management.
- The upcoming works will ensure that Edgar Dam meets contemporary national safety standards
    - this type of risk is currently managed through detailed emergency preparedness plans.

Why is this project behind schedule?

- Hydro Tasmania operates a rolling programme of dam safety reviews and this information informs the risk assessment that underpins our Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- In initial project communications, we took a *no surprises* approach and shared earliest possible start dates.
- We anticipate works will commence in late 2023, subject to our ongoing rolling assessment of emerging risks across our asset portfolio.

How much is this project costing?

- The approved project budget is $21M and the estimated project cost is within budget.
- The project will take around 18 – 24 months to complete.

Has Hydro Tasmania completed a cost-benefit analysis to inform the value of this project?

- The main objective of this moderately-sized project is risk reduction.
- The strengthening works are being completed to deliver immediate and significant safety benefits, ensuring we continue to meet our safety obligations.

- A decision to complete this work does not impact any future government decisions regarding the restoration of Lake Pedder.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management and all Hydro Tasmania dam assets have one, including Edgar Dam.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2006.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.
- The most recent emergency preparedness scenario planning workshop was hosted in October 2020.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania release its flood maps publicly?

- Hydro Tasmania provides relevant documentation, including maps, to all organisations involved in the coordination and delivery of incident responses.
- These documents are securely held on the Tasmanian Government's Common Operating Platform.

What about the safety of the Huon Valley community?

- The likelihood of a major earthquake occurring in this area and impacting the Edgar dam is calculated to be extremely remote, a 1 in 10,000 chance of it happening in any given year.
- There is a comprehensive Huon River flood evacuation plan in place to address this risk, in the extremely unlikely event of it occurring.
- The most effective and quickest way to reduce this risk to a level considered tolerable under dam safety guidelines, is for Hydro Tasmania to complete dam strengthening.

Why doesn't Hydro Tasmania engage with the public on this risk?

- Hydro Tasmania manages its dam safety risks in accordance with the relevant state legislation and provides information to all organisations involved in planning, coordinating or implementing emergency management responses.

Where are the dam safety guidelines from?

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines that draw on global data and real-world experiences to define mandatory requirements and inform best practice for dam owners, including recommendations for a rolling program of dam safety reviews and safety risks.

Will the project impact the community or environment?

- Potential impacts have been considered throughout project design and we anticipate them to be minor and localised.
    - Works, including material stockpiles and the truck biosecurity wash down, will be completed within footprint of existing disturbance.
    - Proven controls will be implemented to manage potential impacts, including limiting truck movements to daylight hours and removing all waste materials.
    - Hydro Tasmania will take feedback from the community on how to further manage specific impacts.
    - The dam safety risk will not increase during the work.
    - Once finished, the works are not expected to significantly alter the appearance of the dam.
- We will work with project stakeholders and the broader community to better understand project impacts and how we can minimise them.

Where are construction materials coming from?

- This project requires a large volume of specialised materials, some of which must be sourced from specific locations across the state.
- Hydro Tasmania has recently confirmed that the bulk of materials can be sourced from Halls Quarry near Maydena,

markedly decreasing the potential impacts on local communities (noise) and environment (truck emissions).

Is Scotts Peak Dam also affected?

- Scotts Peak Dam initially sat above the tolerable risk level, as defined by Australian National Committee on Large Dams based on 1998 earthquake guidelines and was originally scheduled to be addressed first.
- Following the release of updated guidelines in 2019, Scotts Peak Dam's seismic risk was reviewed and consequently downgraded.
- According to ANCOLD, this update was required to incorporate the significant advances made in the understanding of earthquakes, seismic hazard assessments, analysis and design. This work now has lower priority and no decisions have been made on potential works at this location.
- Hydro Tasmania will continue to monitor this risk.

How is this project being assessed?

- This project is subject to dam safety (State) and environmental impact (Federal) assessments.
- The Dam Works Permit was submitted in February 2023, with the public inspection period closing on 20 March.

- And the project will be referred for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in coming months.
- We are working closely with regulators to progress these assessments processes, and both include an opportunity for broader stakeholder input that will be shared by Hydro Tasmania.

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Upgrades to Edgar Dam

(Date: 6 June 2024)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts were carefully considered throughout the design phase, and this is reflected in the recent EPBC approval for works to go ahead.
- Consultation started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

- Upgrades to the Edgar Dam will start later this year and are anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Right to Information Requests – Flood Maps

- Hydro Tasmania received a Right to Information request from Greens MP Vica Bayley to release modelling of potential flood impacts to the Huon Valley and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area should Edgar and/or Scotts Peak Dam fail.
- This information has been provided and includes routine maps the regulator requires organisations to produce for most large dams in Tasmania.
- I want to be very clear – the maps are used for emergency management purposes and should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The maps show the worst possible case scenario if a major earthquake caused Edgar or Scotts Peak Dams, or both, to fail suddenly.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) Tasmania is the regulator for safe management of dams in Tasmania.
- NRE Tasmania collates all such maps in the state and shares with emergency services and police.

- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
    - 24/7 monitoring and routine inspections of the dams;
    - Ongoing engineering studies;
    - Comprehensive emergency management plans and training scenarios; and
    - Infrastructure upgrades
- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned upgrades to Edgar Dam, and this work will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.

Should the community be concerned?

- No. These are routine maps produced as part of a regulatory requirement and are used for emergency management purposes.
- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.

- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to upgrade Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrades is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management and all Hydro Tasmania dam assets have one, including Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams.

- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

- Such a scenario is extremely unlikely, but as responsible dam managers we consider and plan for all risks.
- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
- Upgrades will reduce the risk even further to one in 1 million or 0.000001 in any year.

What's the likelihood of Scotts Peak Dam failing in any year?

- 1 in 9,000 per annum (approx.)

What magnitude earthquake needs to occur to trigger the risk of dam failure?

- A major earthquake over 6.8 magnitude.

What would happen if there was a major earthquake?

- There are 10 seismic monitoring stations around the state.

- Scotts and Edgar Dams are monitored 24/7 and Hydro Tasmania would immediately notify Police if anything out of the ordinary was detected.
- If dam failure was considered likely, it would trigger emergency response plans led by the Tasmanian Police and coordinated with other emergency service agencies.
- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.
- Hydro Tasmania prepares for these kinds of scenarios as part of good dam safety management and emergency planning preparation, as do other dam owners across Australia.

Why haven't the maps been made public before now?

- Hydro Tasmania provided these maps to the regulator, NRE Tas, in 2016.
- Hydro Tasmania has also shared the maps with the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- These maps are produced as part of a regulatory requirement and as part of good dam safety management.
- The maps are created specifically for emergency personnel and not intended for a general audience.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Will this information negatively affect property value and insurance premiums?

- I can only provide information about dams and how Hydro Tasmania manage them.
- I would also reiterate that these maps are produced for emergency planning purposes.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The maps should not cause unnecessary community concern.

Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
- Hydro Tasmania has been working through all the necessary planning and approvals for the work, including extensive community consultation.
- Hydro Tasmania has recently received approval from the Federal Government under the Environment Protection and

Biodiversity Conservation Act for the upgrade to Edgar Dam and this is due to commence at the end of the year.

- Planning for strengthening Scotts Peak Dam is well underway.
- In the meantime, Hydro Tasmania is managing the risks at both dams appropriately.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to Federal Government approvals, the project has also been assessed and approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.
- Both these assessment processes include public consultation.

- There are several environmental controls that Hydro Tasmania will put in place, including:
    - Restricting truck movements within the TWWHA to daylight hours to minimise impacts to wildlife;
    - Washing vehicles thoroughly before entering and exiting the site;
    - Importing materials from a commercially accredited quarry; and
    - Keeping the site footprint and vegetation clearing to a minimum.
- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, and in the final preparation stages before works begin towards the end of this year.

How much is this project costing and when will it be completed?

- The approved project budget is $21 million.
- The project will take around 18 to 24 months to complete.

Background:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.

- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines.

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam strengthening and flood maps

(Date: 29 July 2024)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts were carefully considered throughout the design phase, and this is reflected in the recent EPBC approval for works to go ahead.
- Consultation started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

- Work to the Edgar Dam will start later this year and are anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Right to Information Requests – Flood Maps

- I want to be very clear – these maps are used for emergency management purposes and should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The maps show the worst possible scenario if a major earthquake caused Edgar or Scotts Peak Dams, or both, to fail suddenly.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) Tasmania is the regulator for safe management of dams in Tasmania.
- NRE Tasmania collates all such maps in the state and shares with emergency services and police.
- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
    - 24/7 monitoring and routine inspections of the dams;
    - Ongoing engineering studies;

    - Comprehensive emergency management plans and training scenarios; and
    - Infrastructure upgrades
- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned work to Edgar Dam, which will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- If anyone would like more information on the strengthening project or to ask questions direct to Hydro Tasmania, I encourage you to visit the Connect Hydro website, at www.connect.hydro.com.au.

Should the community be concerned?

- These are routine maps produced as part of a regulatory requirement and are used for emergency management purposes.
- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrades is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

- Such a scenario is extremely unlikely, but as responsible dam managers we consider and plan for all risks.
- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
- Upgrades will reduce the risk even further to one in 1 million or 0.000001 in any year.

What's the likelihood of Scotts Peak Dam failing in any year?

- 1 in 9,000 per annum (approx.)

What magnitude earthquake needs to occur to trigger the risk of dam failure?

- A major earthquake over 6.8 magnitude.

What would happen if there was a major earthquake?

- There are 10 seismic monitoring stations around the state.
- Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams are monitored 24/7 and Hydro Tasmania would immediately notify Police if anything out of the ordinary was detected.
- If dam failure was considered likely, it would trigger emergency response plans led by the Tasmanian Police and coordinated with other emergency service agencies.

- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.
- Hydro Tasmania prepares for these kinds of scenarios as part of good dam safety management and emergency planning preparation, as do other dam owners across Australia.

Why haven't the maps been made public before now?

- Hydro Tasmania provided these maps to the regulator, NRE Tas, in 2016.
- Hydro Tasmania has also shared the maps with the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- These maps are produced as part of a regulatory requirement and as part of good dam safety management.
- The maps are created specifically for emergency personnel and not intended for a general audience.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Will this information negatively affect property value and insurance premiums?

- I can only provide information about dams and how Hydro Tasmania manage them.
- I would also reiterate that these maps are produced for emergency planning purposes.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The maps should not cause unnecessary community concern.

Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
- Hydro Tasmania has been working through all the necessary planning and approvals for the work, including extensive community consultation.
- Hydro Tasmania has recently received approval from the Federal Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act for the upgrade to Edgar Dam and this is due to commence at the end of the year.
- Planning for strengthening Scotts Peak Dam is well underway.

- In the meantime, Hydro Tasmania is managing the risks at both dams appropriately.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to the Federal Government proposal, the project has also been assessed and approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.
- Both these assessment processes include public consultation.
- There are several environmental controls that Hydro Tasmania will put in place, including:

    - Restricting truck movements within the TWWHA to daylight hours to minimise impacts to wildlife;
    - Washing vehicles thoroughly before entering and exiting the site;
    - Importing materials from a commercially accredited quarry; and
    - Keeping the site footprint and vegetation clearing to a minimum.
- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, and in the final preparation stages before works begin towards the end of this year.

Background:

Costs and timelines:

- The approved project budget is $21 million.
- The project will take around 18 to 24 months to complete.

Regulatory bodies:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.
- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines.

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Strengthening Project

(Date: 10 October 2024)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- The sustainable project design will increase community safety while protecting the unique natural values of the surrounding Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
- Potential social and environmental impacts were carefully considered throughout the design phase, and this is reflected in the recent EPBC approval for works to go ahead.
- Consultation started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

- Work to the Edgar Dam will commence early 2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Right to Information Requests – Flood Maps

- I want to be very clear – these maps are used for emergency management purposes and should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The maps show the worst possible scenario if a major earthquake caused Edgar or Scotts Peak Dams, or both, to fail suddenly.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) Tasmania is the regulator for safe management of dams in Tasmania.
- NRE Tasmania collates all such maps in the state and shares with emergency services and police.
- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
    - 24/7 monitoring and routine inspections of the dams;
    - Ongoing engineering studies;

    - Comprehensive emergency management plans and training scenarios; and
    - Infrastructure upgrades
- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned work to Edgar Dam, which will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- If anyone would like more information on the strengthening project or to ask questions direct to Hydro Tasmania, I encourage you to visit the Connect Hydro website, at www.connect.hydro.com.au.

Should the community be concerned?

- These are routine maps produced as part of a regulatory requirement and are used for emergency management purposes.
- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrades is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes safety seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

- Such a scenario is extremely unlikely, but as responsible dam managers we consider and plan for all risks.
- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
- Upgrades will reduce the risk even further to one in 1 million or 0.000001 in any year.

What's the likelihood of Scotts Peak Dam failing in any year?

- 1 in 9,000 per annum (approx.)

What magnitude earthquake needs to occur to trigger the risk of dam failure?

- A major earthquake over 6.8 magnitude.

What would happen if there was a major earthquake?

- There are 10 seismic monitoring stations around the state.
- Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams are monitored 24/7 and Hydro Tasmania would immediately notify Police if anything out of the ordinary was detected.
- If dam failure was considered likely, it would trigger emergency response plans led by the Tasmanian Police and coordinated with other emergency service agencies.

- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.
- Hydro Tasmania prepares for these kinds of scenarios as part of good dam safety management and emergency planning preparation, as do other dam owners across Australia.

Why haven't the maps been made public before now?

- Hydro Tasmania provided these maps to the regulator, NRE Tas, in 2016.
- Hydro Tasmania has also shared the maps with the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- These maps are produced as part of a regulatory requirement and as part of good dam safety management.
- The maps are created specifically for emergency personnel and not intended for a general audience.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Will this information negatively affect property value and insurance premiums?

- I can only provide information about dams and how Hydro Tasmania manage them.
- I would also reiterate that these maps are produced for emergency planning purposes.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The maps should not cause unnecessary community concern.

Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
- Hydro Tasmania has been working through all the necessary planning and approvals for the work, including extensive community consultation.
- In May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.
- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.
- Planning for strengthening Scotts Peak Dam is well underway.

- In the meantime, Hydro Tasmania is managing the risks at both dams appropriately.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to the Federal Government proposal, in May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.

- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.
- Both these assessment processes include public consultation.
- There are several environmental controls that Hydro Tasmania will put in place, including:
    - Restricting truck movements within the TWWHA to daylight hours to minimise impacts to wildlife;
    - Washing vehicles thoroughly before entering and exiting the site;
    - Importing materials from a commercially accredited quarry; and
    - Keeping the site footprint and vegetation clearing to a minimum.
- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, and in the final preparation stages before works begin early 2025.

Background:

Procurement process:

- Hydro Tasmania has gone to market and tenders are currently being considered internally with a decision to be made late 2024.
- Site works are expected to commence early 2025 and finish late 2026.

Regulatory bodies:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.
- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines.

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Strengthening Project

(Date: 25 November 2024)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- Hydro Tasmania is preparing to strengthen Edgar Dam to ensure it continues to meet its safety obligations.
- To complete this work, new downstream gravel filters and rock fill will support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- Community engagement started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.
- Procurement for a contractor to undertake the works opened in July 2024, and I am advised the successful contractor will be announced very soon.
- Works to the Edgar Dam will commence early 2025 and are anticipated to be completed in 2026.

Project cost:

- The initial business case approved in 2021 included a project budget of $21 million.
- The market response from the recent procurement process clearly demonstrated the increase in construction prices in the last three years.
- The revised project cost is $35 million.
- This also includes extensive environmental planning and control costs, along with a conservative contingency component.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrade is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes dam safety very seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

- Such a scenario is extremely unlikely, but as responsible dam managers we consider and plan for all risks.
- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
- Upgrades will reduce the risk even further to one in 1 million or 0.000001 in any year.

Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
- Hydro Tasmania has been working through all the necessary planning and approvals for the work, including extensive community consultation.
- In May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.
- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.

- Planning for strengthening Scotts Peak Dam is well underway.
- In the meantime, Hydro Tasmania is managing the risks at both dams appropriately.

What's the likelihood of Scotts Peak Dam failing in any year?

- 1 in 9,000 per annum (approx.)

What magnitude earthquake needs to occur to trigger the risk of dam failure?

- A major earthquake over 6.8 magnitude.

What would happen if there was a major earthquake?

- There are 10 seismic monitoring stations around the state.
- Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams are monitored 24/7 and Hydro Tasmania would immediately notify Police if anything out of the ordinary was detected.
- If dam failure was considered likely, it would trigger emergency response plans led by the Tasmanian Police and coordinated with other emergency service agencies.
- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.

- Hydro Tasmania prepares for these kinds of scenarios as part of good dam safety management and emergency planning preparation, as do other dam owners across Australia.

Right to Information Requests – Flood Maps

- I want to be very clear – these maps are used for emergency management purposes and should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The maps show the worst possible scenario if a major earthquake caused Edgar or Scotts Peak Dams, or both, to fail suddenly.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) Tasmania is the regulator for safe management of dams in Tasmania.
- NRE Tasmania collates all such maps in the state and shares with emergency services and police.
- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
    - 24/7 monitoring and routine inspections of the dams;

    - Ongoing engineering studies;
    - Comprehensive emergency management plans and training scenarios; and
    - Infrastructure upgrades
- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned work to Edgar Dam, which will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- If anyone would like more information on the strengthening project or to ask questions direct to Hydro Tasmania, I encourage you to visit the Connect Hydro website, at www.connect.hydro.com.au.

Should the community be concerned?

- These are routine maps produced as part of a regulatory requirement and are used for emergency management purposes.
- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.

- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

Why haven't the maps been made public before now?

- Hydro Tasmania provided these maps to the regulator, NRE Tas, in 2016.
- Hydro Tasmania has also shared the maps with the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- These maps are produced as part of a regulatory requirement and as part of good dam safety management.
- The maps are created specifically for emergency personnel and not intended for a general audience.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Will this information negatively affect property value and insurance premiums?

- I can only provide information about dams and how Hydro Tasmania manage them.
- I would also reiterate that these maps are produced for emergency planning purposes.

- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The maps should not cause unnecessary community concern.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to the Federal Government proposal, in May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.
- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.
- Both these assessment processes included public consultation.
- There are several environmental controls that Hydro Tasmania will put in place, including:
    - Restricting truck movements within the TWWHA to daylight hours to minimise impacts to wildlife;
    - Washing vehicles thoroughly before entering and exiting the site;
    - Importing materials from a commercially accredited quarry; and

    - Keeping the site footprint and vegetation clearing to a minimum.
- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, and in the final preparation stages before works begin early 2025.

Background:

Regulatory bodies:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.
- The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) issues dam safety guidelines.

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Sports and Events
Minister for Parks

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Upgrades

(Date: 5 February 2025)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- The Edgar Dam Upgrade will deliver important safety improvements.
- Work commenced in late January 2025 and is anticipated to be completed in 2026.
- This work will include new downstream gravel filters and rock fill to support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- Community engagement started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.
- Hydro Tasmania has contracted Tasmanian civil construction company, Hall Earthmoving to undertake the upgrade works.

Project cost:

- The project cost is $35 million.

- This includes extensive environmental planning and control costs, along with a conservative contingency component.

If needed:

- The initial business case approved in 2021 included a project budget of $21 million.
- The market response from the recent procurement process clearly demonstrated the increase in construction prices in the last three years.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Restore Lake Pedder Group:

- Hydro Tasmania talks regularly to the Restore Lake Pedder group and is happy to continue to engage.

- As a responsible dam owner, Hydro Tasmania's job is to manage and maintain the dam infrastructure to continue to provide safe reliable energy supply to all Tasmanians.

Restore Lake Pedder Group claims re: road works:

- Minor road works are nearing completion on the intersection of Gordon River Road (DSG owned) and Hydro's Scotts Peak Road ahead of increased truck traffic.
- Sealing a small section of the Hydro owned road close to the intersection with Gordon River Road is necessary to support the wash-down facility to reduce biosecurity risks.
- While the facilities are being built, project vehicles arriving and leaving site are being disinfected using mobile equipment. I am advised that no laws have been breached.

Vehicle movement:

- I am advised there was a technical breach of the EPBC Act in relation to the vehicle movements which took place outside of the authorised hours.
- This occurred very early in the commencement of work and was quickly acted upon.
- Hydro Tasmania proactively notified DCCEEW and took steps to ensure the project would continue within the agreed conditions.

- I am advised there was no impact to threatened fauna during this event.

More information on washdown facilities:

- As part of approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, Hydro Tasmania proactively put forward a range of measures to minimise impact in the Tasmanian World Heritage Area. These measures are being implemented.
- Two comprehensive vehicle (and truck) wash down and disinfection facilities are being constructed: one at the dam site and one 800m along Scotts Peak Road from Gordon River Road.
- These facilities are some of the first construction works to commence along with the dam site accommodation.
- Interim wash down procedures are being implemented, involving wash down trailers and backpack sprayers using the approved disinfectant. The interim measures will be in place until the large, automated facilities are commissioned.
- Sealing a small section of the road around the northern washdown facility is an important part of the biosecurity measures. It prevents clean vehicle tyres contacting gravel that potentially contains soil pathogens recorded in the area, and further spreading it within the World Heritage Area.

Restore Lake Pedder (RLP) claims in social media post

- I am advised the upgrade works at Edgar Dam are progressing well.
- The current focus is establishing the site facilities, staff accommodation and biosecurity wash down stations which will service all project vehicles coming and going from the site.
- In line with Hydro Tasmania's commitment to minimise environmental impacts, interim washdown measures have been adopted while the wash down stations are constructed, along with a range of other environmental controls.
- These interim measures are compliant with the project's environmental requirements.
- I am advised that for safety and operational reasons, two approved areas of vegetation have been cleared within the construction footprint.
- This regrowth vegetation was carefully surveyed as part of project preparations and was approved for clearing before works commenced.
- The cleared areas will be revegetated at the end of the project.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to the Federal Government proposal, in May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment,

Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.

- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.
- Both these assessment processes included public consultation.
- There are several environmental controls that Hydro Tasmania will put in place, including:
    - Restricting truck movements within the TWWHA to daylight hours to minimise impacts to wildlife;
    - Washing vehicles thoroughly before entering and exiting the site;
    - Importing materials from a commercially accredited quarry; and
    - Keeping the site footprint and vegetation clearing to a minimum.
- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, with upgrade efforts now underway.

Proposal to replace with battery or VRE:

- Lake Pedder provides critical inter-seasonal storage that helps drought-proof our energy system and meet daily energy needs.
- There is no readily available wind, solar or battery technology that can replace this level of energy generation and storage.

- To even try would require hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in new assets.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrade is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes dam safety very seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

- Such a scenario is extremely unlikely, but as responsible dam managers we consider and plan for all risks.
- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
- Upgrades will reduce the risk even further to one in 1 million or 0.000001 in any year.

Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
- Hydro Tasmania has been working through all the necessary planning and approvals for the work, including extensive community consultation.
- In May 2024, the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.

- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions are necessary.
- Planning for strengthening Scotts Peak Dam is well underway.
- In the meantime, Hydro Tasmania is managing the risks at both dams appropriately.

What's the likelihood of Scotts Peak Dam failing in any year?

- 1 in 9,000 per annum (approx.)

What magnitude earthquake needs to occur to trigger the risk of dam failure?

- A major earthquake over 6.8 magnitude.

What would happen if there was a major earthquake?

- There are 10 seismic monitoring stations around the state.
- Scotts Peak and Edgar Dams are monitored 24/7 and Hydro Tasmania would immediately notify Police if anything out of the ordinary was detected.
- If dam failure was considered likely, it would trigger emergency response plans led by the Tasmanian Police and coordinated with other emergency service agencies.

- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.
- Hydro Tasmania prepares for these kinds of scenarios as part of good dam safety management and emergency planning preparation, as do other dam owners across Australia.

Flood Maps

- I want to be very clear – these maps are used for emergency management purposes and should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The maps show the worst possible scenario if a major earthquake caused Edgar or Scotts Peak Dams, or both, to fail suddenly.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NRE) Tasmania is the regulator for safe management of dams in Tasmania.
- NRE Tasmania collates all such maps in the state and shares with emergency services and police.
- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.

- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
    - 24/7 monitoring and routine inspections of the dams;
    - Ongoing engineering studies;
    - Comprehensive emergency management plans and training scenarios; and
    - Infrastructure upgrades
- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned work to Edgar Dam, which will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- If anyone would like more information on the strengthening project or to ask questions direct to Hydro Tasmania, I encourage you to visit the Connect Hydro website, at www.connect.hydro.com.au.

Should the community be concerned about the risk of floods?

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- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.

- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Background:

Regulatory bodies:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.
- The Water Management Act 1999 and its associated regulations, Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015 requires the use of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines incorporating dam safety.

Cleared by: Jesse Clark
EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER Assets and Infrastructure

Contact Officer: [redacted] phone: [redacted]

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Sports and Events
Minister for Parks

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Strengthening Project

(Date: 4 March 2025)

TALKING POINTS:

- Hydro Tasmania delivers a rolling program of strategic maintenance work to ensure it meets its safety and operational responsibilities.
- The Edgar Dam Upgrade will deliver important safety improvements.
- Work commenced in late January 2025 and is anticipated to be completed in 2026.
- This work will include new downstream gravel filters and rock fill to support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam, in line with national guidelines.
- Community engagement started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.
- Hydro Tasmania has contracted Tasmanian civil construction company, Hall Earthmoving to undertake the upgrade works.

Project cost:

- The project cost is $35 million.

- This includes extensive environmental planning and control costs, along with a conservative contingency component.

If needed:

- The initial business case approved in 2021 included a project budget of $21 million.
- The market response from the recent procurement process clearly demonstrated the increase in construction prices in the last three years.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- Lake Pedder is an important part of the state's power infrastructure and is one of only three multi-season water storages.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Restore Lake Pedder Group:

- Hydro Tasmania talks regularly to the Restore Lake Pedder group and is happy to continue to engage.

- As a responsible dam owner, Hydro Tasmania's job is to manage and maintain the dam infrastructure to continue to provide safe reliable energy supply to all Tasmanians.

Restore Lake Pedder Group claims re: road works:

- Minor road works are nearing completion on the intersection of Gordon River Road (DSG owned) and Hydro's Scotts Peak Road ahead of increased truck traffic.
- Sealing a small section of the Hydro owned road close to the intersection with Gordon River Road is necessary to support the wash-down facility to reduce biosecurity risks.
- While the facilities are being built, project vehicles arriving and leaving site are being disinfected using mobile equipment. I am advised that no laws have been breached.

Vehicle movement:

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- This occurred very early in the commencement of work and was quickly acted upon.
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More information on washdown facilities:

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- Two comprehensive vehicle (and truck) wash down and disinfection facilities are being constructed: one at the dam site and one 800m along Scotts Peak Road from Gordon River Road.
- These facilities are some of the first construction works to commence along with the dam site accommodation.
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- Sealing a small section of the road around the northern washdown facility is an important part of the biosecurity measures. It prevents clean vehicle tyres contacting gravel that potentially contains soil pathogens recorded in the area, and further spreading it within the World Heritage Area.

Assessments

- This project is subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
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- I'm pleased to see the project at this point, with upgrade efforts now underway.

Proposal to replace with battery or VRE:

- Lake Pedder provides critical inter-seasonal storage that helps drought-proof our energy system and meet daily energy needs.
- There is no readily available wind, solar or battery technology that can replace this level of energy generation and storage.
- To even try would require hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in new assets.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.
- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam will begin this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrade is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be reduced even further.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes dam safety very seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.

- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
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What is the likelihood of the dams failing prior to their upgrade?

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- That is the likelihood of Edgar Dam failing in any year. It is extremely low at one in 10,000 or 0.0001 chance in any year.
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Why hasn't Hydro Tasmania fixed the dams sooner?

- Hydro Tasmania is constantly monitoring its infrastructure and planning for and conducting maintenance as required.
- The Edgar and Scotts Peak upgrades are complex and need to be adequately planned for and implemented.
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- In the extremely unlikely event of this occurring, people in the area would be informed via the usual emergency channels, including TasALERT.
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- Hydro Tasmania shared the maps with NRE Tas in 2016, and provided the maps to the Huon Valley Council Emergency Management Committee.
- Hydro Tasmania is managing the risk appropriately, with measures that include:
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    - Ongoing engineering studies;
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- Hydro Tasmania has engaged extensively with the community about the planned work to Edgar Dam, which will get underway this year.
- This is important hydro power infrastructure, and is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- If anyone would like more information on the strengthening project or to ask questions direct to Hydro Tasmania, I encourage you to visit the Connect Hydro website, at www.connect.hydro.com.au.

Should the community be concerned about the risk of floods?

- These are routine maps produced as part of a regulatory requirement and are used for emergency management purposes.
- They should not be used to create unnecessary community concern.
- The likelihood of these scenarios occurring is extremely unlikely.
- We produce the maps and conduct emergency preparedness exercises as part of good dam safety management.

How many properties are within the flood zones identified in the maps?

- About 2,000 properties could be, based on worst-case-scenario modelling.

Background:

Regulatory bodies:

- The Tasmanian regulator (NRE Tas) requires operators of most large dams to produce flood maps as part of emergency response planning.
- The Water Management Act 1999 and its associated regulations, Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015 requires the use of the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines incorporating dam safety.

Cleared by:	Jesse Clark **EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER Assets and Infrastructure**

Contact Officer: [redacted] phone: [redacted]

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
Minister for Sport

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Upgrades

(Date: 8 September 2025)

TALKING POINTS:

- Edgar Dam upgrade works commenced in late January 2025 as part of Hydro Tasmania's rolling program of strategic maintenance work.
- The work will deliver important safety improvements.
- Work is progressing well and is anticipated to be completed in 2026.
- The bulk of the work involves construction of a gravel and rockfill buttress to support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam.
- This will strengthen the dam in line with national guidelines.
- Community engagement started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

Project cost:

- The approved project cost is $35 million which includes investigation and design work dating back to 2014 along with more recent environmental planning and control costs, and a conservative contingency component.

If needed:

- The initial business case approved in 2021 included a project budget of $21 million.
- The market response from the recent procurement process clearly demonstrated the increase in construction prices in the last three years, particularly for a remote setting in South-West Tasmania.

Should the dams be pulled down and Lake Pedder be restored?

- Edgar Dam and Scotts Peak Dams are important hydro power infrastructure helping to deliver renewable power to Tasmania.
- It is part of the Gordon scheme that produces 13 per cent of Tasmania's energy.
- With rising demand for electricity, we need to be growing our capacity, not reducing it.

Restore Lake Pedder Group

- As a responsible dam owner, Hydro Tasmania's job is to manage and maintain the dam infrastructure to continue to provide safe reliable energy supply to all Tasmanians.
- Hydro Tasmania has consistently engaged with the Restore Lake Pedder group and welcomes their continued interest in this project.

Restore Lake Pedder Group breach claims:

- Strict environmental controls were built into the project from the outset, in recognition of the site's rich and important natural values
- Environmental officers from the Contractor and Hydro Tasmania are providing on-site support and monitoring to ensure works are delivered consistent with the Particular Manners that apply to the works.
- Several minor technical breaches of Particular Manners regarding vehicle movements outside of daylight hours have occurred.
- Hydro Tasmania has worked with the Head Contractor to ensure processes to manage this requirement are improved to be as robust as possible.
- I am advised no impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance occurred as a result of these incidents.
- I am advised that all other alleged breaches are inaccurate.

Biosecurity management:

- As part of approval under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, Hydro Tasmania proactively put forward a range of measures to minimise impact in the Tasmanian World Heritage Area. These measures are being implemented.

- Two comprehensive vehicle (and truck) wash down and disinfection facilities are in operation: one at the dam site and one 800m along Scotts Peak Road from Gordon River Road.
- Interim wash down procedures were implemented, involving wash down trailers and backpack sprayers using the approved disinfectant, until the large, automated facilities commenced operation.
- Minor road sealing has also been completed to further support the efficacy of the northern facility.

Vegetation Clearance

- Small areas of regrowth vegetation have been cleared. This activity was part of the assessed project.
- Relevant surveys were completed prior to clearing and the clearing boundaries were marked on ground by Hydro Tasmania prior to Contractor involvement.
- The cleared areas will be revegetated at the end of the project.

Assessments

- This project was subject to State and Federal assessments.
- In terms of the State Government approvals, the Dam Works Permit was approved in May 2023.
- In respect to the Federal Government approvals, in May 2024, the Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy

and Water (DCCEEW) determined the upgrade works to Edgar Dam 'not a controlled action – particular manner'.

- The assessment took longer than the normal statutory timeframe due to the Minister seeking an extension to consider the referral.
- An appeal was lodged and in Aug 2024, the original decision was upheld and a detailed statement of reason provided. This is publicly available.
- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions were necessary.
- Both these assessment processes included public consultation.

Proposal to replace with battery or VRE

- There is no readily available wind, solar or battery technology that can replace this level of energy generation and storage.

What's the problem with Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams?

- Edgar and Scotts Peak Dams are adjacent to the Lake Edgar Fault Line, which was thought to be inactive at the time of construction.
- After extensive investigation, experts determined that the fault could not be considered to be inactive and that it could move in the future.

- Works to strengthen Edgar Dam began this year and planning for the Scotts Peak upgrade is well underway.
- Once completed, the risk of dam failure will be significantly reduced, to levels recognised by the national dam safety industry as tolerable.

How is this risk currently managed?

- Hydro Tasmania takes dam safety very seriously and regularly reviews and manages risks associated with its asset portfolio.
- Dam Safety Emergency Plans play an important role in risk management.
- These plans are managed in accordance with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.
- For Edgar Dam, the Huon Valley Emergency Management Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing emergency response activities.

Cleared by: Jesse Clark
EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER Assets and Infrastructure

Contact Officer: [redacted] phone: [redacted]

Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
Minister for Sport

Ref No:

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: Edgar Dam Upgrades

(Date: 4 November 2025)

TALKING POINTS:

- Edgar Dam upgrade works commenced in late January 2025 as part of Hydro Tasmania's rolling program of strategic maintenance work.
- The work will deliver important safety improvements.
- Work is progressing well and is anticipated to be completed in 2026.
- The bulk of the work involves construction of a gravel and rockfill buttress to support the existing dam wall to improve the seismic resistance of the dam.
- This will strengthen the dam in line with national guidelines.
- Community engagement started in July 2022 and will be ongoing through the life of the project.

Recent seismic activity:

Magnitude 4.1 earthquake recorded on 25 September 2025

- Hydro Tasmania's 24/7 monitoring system provided immediate notification of the September event and staff responded within 15 minutes.

- Our assets performed as designed and no damage was sustained.
- There were no safety concerns for downstream communities and works at Edgar Dam were not impacted.

If needed: Location of the earthquake

- Hydro Tasmania has been advised that the epicentre of the earthquake was 14km south-west of Strathgordon.
- This location is not associated with any known fault.
- It was not associated with the Lake Edgar Fault Line.

Source: Seismic Research Centre (SRC), the organisation that monitors Hydro Tasmania's seismic instrument network.

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Project cost:

- The approved project cost is $35 million which includes investigation and design work dating back to 2014 along with more recent environmental planning and control costs, and a conservative contingency component.

If needed:

- The initial business case approved in 2021 included a project budget of $21 million.

- The market response from the recent procurement process clearly demonstrated the increase in construction prices in the last three years, particularly for a remote setting in South-West Tasmania.

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- The Department accepted Hydro Tasmania's specific environmental controls and deemed no further assessment or conditions were necessary.
- Both these assessment processes included public consultation.
- Members of DCCEEW's Compliance Branch visited the project to ask questions about and observe implemented environmental controls in August.

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- There is no readily available wind, solar or battery technology that can replace this level of energy generation and storage.

Cleared by:	Jesse Clark **EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER Assets and Infrastructure**
Contact Officer: [redacted]	phone: [redacted]