

# KEEPIT DAM SAFETY UPGRADE

*One of seven dam safety upgrades State Water is managing in regional NSW to enable major dams to safely pass extreme floods.*



## ABOUT THE DAM

**Location:** Namoi River, 56km west of Tamworth in northern NSW

**Year dam completed:** 1960

**Storage capacity:** 425,510 megalitres

**Project cost (Works package one and two):** \$146.4M funded by the NSW Government

## WHY IS THE UPGRADE NEEDED?

The upgrade will enable Keepit Dam to safely pass extreme floods and withstand earthquakes. Keepit is safe for day-to-day operations and can pass the largest flood on record but requires modifications to comply with revised standards on extreme floods as set by the NSW Dams Safety Committee.

## WHAT WILL THE UPGRADE INVOLVE?

The process involves technical investigations, environmental assessments, extensive community consultation, approvals, design and construction.

**Works package one** - Construct two spillways and three saddle dams.

**Works package two** - Raise the main dam wall by 3.4 metres and post tension the concrete section of the wall.

**Environmental works** - Works to offset the impact to the environment from the upgrade project include:

- Construction of a multi-level offtake structure on the main dam wall to reduce cold water pollution;
- Construction of fishways on Mollee and Gunidgera weirs;
- Removal of Weeta weir to provide fish passage;
- Creation of biodiversity areas and installation of fauna boxes in trees

## DAM OPERATIONS AS NORMAL

The water level of the dam and normal water releases will not be affected by the upgrade.

The Lake Keepit Recreation Park will remain open throughout construction.

## UPSTREAM WORKS

Split Rock Dam will be upgraded concurrently with Keepit Dam to ensure both dams can withstand extreme flooding given that Split Rock can impact on Keepit Dam.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The works involved some modifications to the Lake Keepit Recreation Park with a new amenities building constructed, caravan sites relocated and associated facilities provided.

Surplus road base material was also donated to the local gliding club to assist them with repairing roads at the site.

## PROJECT BENEFITS

- Increase spillway capacity to ensure the dam can withstand extreme flooding
- Local areas retain portion of the funding through supplies and subcontractors
- Bringing new, unique and specialised skills to the area

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## PROJECT TIMELINE

2010	Commence construction on works package one
2011	Complete construction on works package one
2011	Investigations and detailed design for works package two
2012	Revegetation and environmental works
2014	Commence construction on works package two
2016	Complete works package two

## COMMUNITY UPDATES AND INVOLVEMENT

State Water is committed to keeping those affected by the upgrade informed as the project progresses. Project managers have been working with key stakeholders, including local councils and the Lake Keepit State Recreation Park management throughout the development stages.

A Keepit construction liaison group was established at the start of construction on works package one and met regularly throughout construction to discuss any issues and receive updates on the project.

The general community will be kept up-to-date via information sheets, the State Water website [www.statewater.com.au](http://www.statewater.com.au), local media and presentations to community groups.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

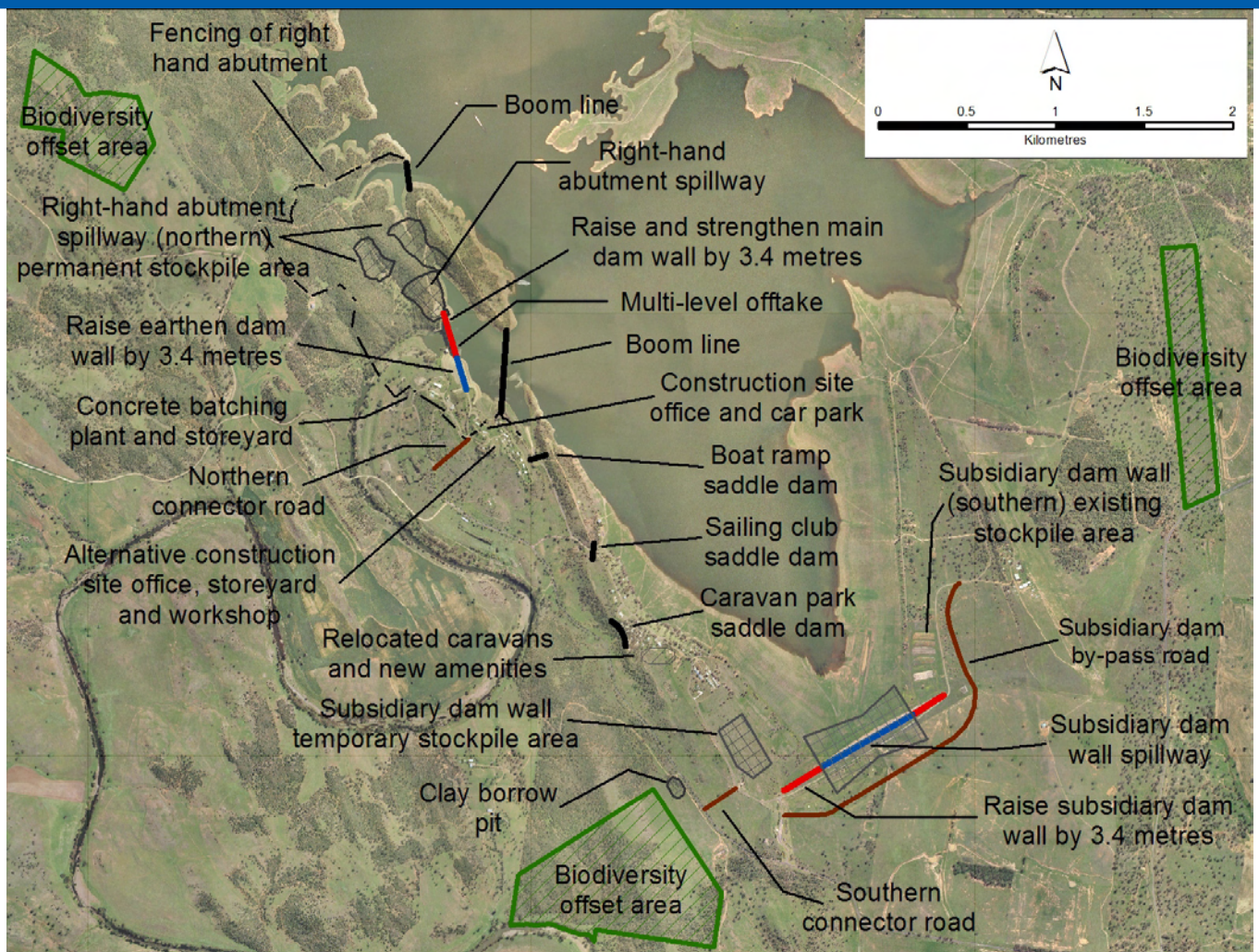
An environmental assessment for all works was carried out.

Environmental offset works are being implemented during and after construction including noise and dust reduction measures and works to revegetate the site.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the upgrade please contact State Water on 1300 662 077 or visit the project web page [www.statewater.com.au/keepitupgrade](http://www.statewater.com.au/keepitupgrade).

## MAP OF WORKS



Phone: 1300 662 077  
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