

COPETON DAM UPGRADE

Location: Gwydir River 35km south west of Inverell in northern NSW

Year dam completed: 1976

Storage capacity: 1,364,000ML (more than three times the size of Sydney Harbour)

Project cost (stage 1): \$60M funded by the NSW Government

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Ensure 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

WHY IS THE UPGRADE NEEDED?

The upgrade will increase the spillway capacity of Copeton Dam to ensure the dam can safely pass extreme floods. Copeton 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.

Copeton is one of seven dams throughout regional NSW that State Water is upgrading.

WHAT WILL THE UPGRADE INVOLVE?

Copeton Waters State Park relocation

Elements of the Copeton Waters recreation park have been relocated to make way for the new spillway. A new administration centre has been built overlooking new play equipment, barbecues, amenities, seating and water spray park. The relocation also involved building a new managers residence, workshop and boat sheds.

Fuse plug spillway construction

The stage one works will include construction of a four bay, 250m wide, 12 metre deep auxiliary fuse plug spillway at Diamond Bay. A temporary road will be constructed for continued access during construction. The illustration overleaf indicates the location of the fuse plug and other works.

CONSTRUCTION AREA SAFETY

Please abide by all signage in and around the construction zone.

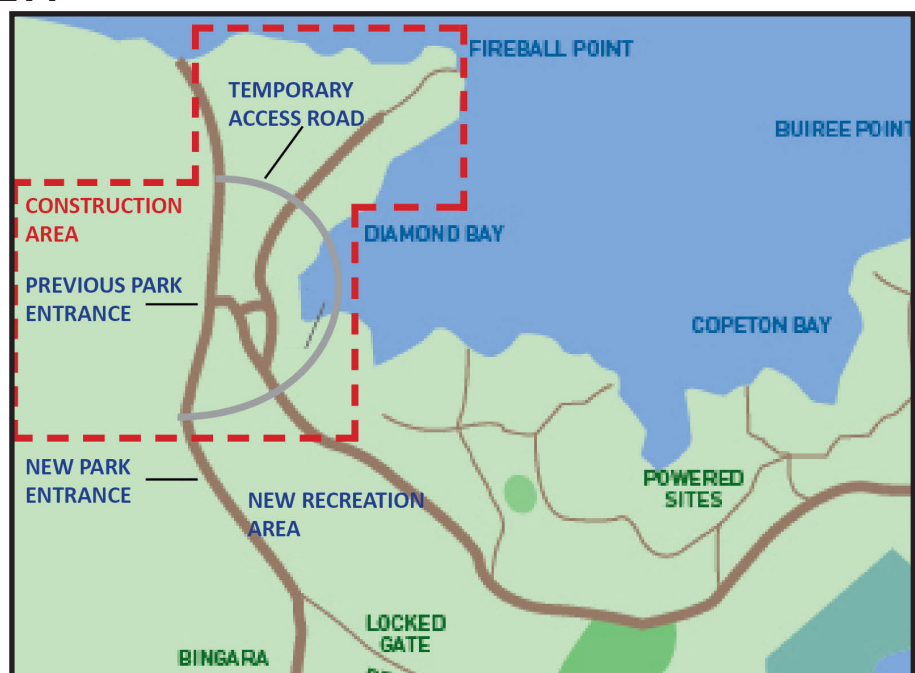
Copeton Dam will stay open throughout the construction period. All visitors are advised to avoid construction areas.

BLASTING SAFETY

The upgrade will involve some blasting to excavate rock.

An exclusion zone will be set up for scheduled blasting activities.

Please stay clear of this zone.



TIMELINE OF WORK

February 2010	Commence relocation of Copeton Waters State Recreation Park
June 2011	Complete relocation of the Copeton Waters State Recreation Park
June 2011	Commence construction on auxiliary spillway
December 2012	Complete construction on auxiliary spillway

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The water level of the dam will not be affected by the upgrade. A Review of Environmental Factors for stage one works has been completed.

COMMUNITY UPDATES AND INVOLVEMENT

State Water is committed to keeping those affected by the upgrade informed as the project progresses. Key stakeholders, including local councils and the Copeton Waters State Park management are participating in the development stages.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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MAP OF WORKS

