

KEEPIT DAM UPGRADE

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

Year dam completed: 1960

Storage capacity: 425,510 megalitres

Project cost (works packages 1 & 2): \$146.4 million (NSW Government funding)

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improve ability of Keepit Dam to withstand extreme flooding
- Local areas retain portion of the funding through suppliers and subcontractors
- Bringing new, unique and specialised skills to the area

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.

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

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 - Raising the main dam wall by 3.4 metres and post tensioning 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 biodiverse areas and installation of fauna boxes in trees

UPSTREAM WORKS

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

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

The contract for construction was awarded to John Holland Pty Ltd in 2010.

Right: Constructing the right-abutment spillway in January 2011



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A community construction liaison group met regularly throughout construction on the first package of works to ensure stakeholders in the project were up-to-date and could discuss any issues directly with the project managers and contractors. The group includes local residents, community groups, the State Park and park user groups and government agencies. The Gunnedah and Tamworth Councils have been consulted regularly throughout the project.

PROJECT TIMELINE

1997-2001	Technical and engineering investigations
2001	Community Reference Panel established
2003	Interim works completed
2004	Environmental and social investigations
2004	Preferred option submitted for government approval
2005	Detailed technical designs commence
2007	Environmental assessment displayed
2009	Planning approval
2009	Detailed designs and construction documentation completed
2010	Construction commences on stage one works
2011	Complete stage one works
2011	Investigations and detailed design for stage two works
2014	Commence construction on stage two works
2016	Complete stage two works

MAP OF WORKS

