

Meander Dam

a Regional Resource, Tasmania's Future

Newsletter

Issue No. 3 April 2007

Meander Dam Open Day—25 March 2007

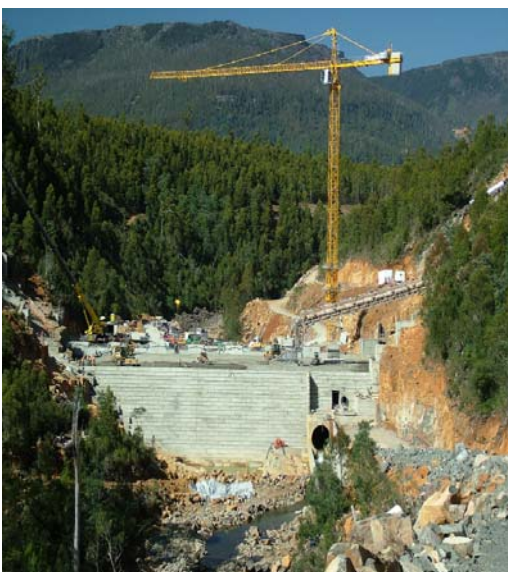
The 2nd Meander Dam Open Day was held on 25th March 2007. The aim of the Open Day was to enable the public to view the construction progress of the Meander Dam. Six buses were used to ferry people to and from the dam site at regular intervals throughout the day, with over 2,000 people attending. Informative commentary was provided at the site by the Project Manager, Mr Garry Evans. Also of great interest was the Recreation Management stand which was staffed by Jamie Allnut from Planning for People. This display included the detailed plans of the recreation area and proposed activities that will be allowed once the dam is completed.



Roberts Ltd continued their support for the dam and were represented by John Macleod who provided valuable irrigation advice. There was plenty of entertainment for families, with live music, face painting, balloon making, a jumping castle and pony rides. Once again our sincere thanks go to the Meander Community, including The Meander Hall Committee, Meander School and the Meander Volunteer Fire Brigade for their assistance in making the day such a success.



Construction Progress Report



With over 75% of the Meander Dam Development Project now complete and with continued good progress, the project is on target to deliver Irrigation Water this year.

The construction of the dam wall is now over 60% complete, meaning nearly 1,800 of the downstream blocks, 300 of the upstream panels and over 100,000 tonnes of the total 200,000 tonnes of concrete has been manufactured on-site and poured.



Reforestation & Quoll Habitat Restoration

The rehabilitation of compensatory habitat of approximately 126ha for the native fauna commenced in earnest this month with the mound ploughing of 22ha in preparation for the natural-random seedling planting in late May 2007.

At this time the native understorey of protected remnant forest and protected sedgeland should be sufficiently advanced to provide cover for resident native fauna species.

Two of the major threats to a successful implementation of the Habitat Restoration Plan are weed control—primarily blackberries, and the control of browsing animals—mostly native marsupials. Vermin proof fencing has been erected along a number of boundaries following removal of the old blackberry infested fence.

Two Tasmanian nurseries have commenced propagating the seedlings of natural tree species to be planted in May 2007 with smaller shrubs and ground cover plants scheduled for planting in the Spring of 2007.



Water Facts

On average, Meander River Irrigators have access to Hydro flood flow takes generally between 50-75 days per year. This year, as a result of the extreme drought there were only 5 days of flood flows declared.

Irrigation Water Sales

Meander Valley Irrigation Field Day

Over 60 people attended the Meander Valley Field Day held on the 19th April 2007. The informative day consisted of speakers presenting talks on a range of issues including:

- Industry outlooks & irrigation for the future;
- Current water licences & allocation, & how they will change for the future;
- Securing irrigation rights in the Meander Dam;
- SMART Farming Water Developments Grants; and
- The financial implication of irrigation rights.

Representatives from the dairy, poppy and vegetable industries presented a very positive outlook for the Meander Valley region and highlighted the importance of securing access to water.

Dr Alan Harradine, General Manager—Water Resources Division, DPIW, discussed the new restrictions on water licences and the increased environmental flow requirements in the Meander River once the dam is commissioned. Environmental flow requirements for next season have increased from 25ML to 70ML at Strathbridge. Further, temporary allocations would no longer be available once the Meander Dam is operational. A link to Dr Harradine's presentation is provided at the Meander Dam website (www.meanderdam.net.au).

The SMART Farming Water Developments Grants provide a subsidy of 75% of the cost of obtaining expert advice to prepare the plan up to a maximum amount of \$3750. The grants are provided to subsidise the costs of preparing a Farm Water Development plan to identify opportunities and options to ensure effective use of existing and additional water supplies and enhance form productivity and production. Further information about SMART Farming Water Developments Grants can be accessed from the Meander Dam website.

RWSC at Agfest 2007

There will be a Meander Dam & Irrigation Water Sales stand at Agfest this year located in the Roberts Ltd tent at Site 120 on First Avenue. Please feel free to come and visit, view the current progress on the dam construction, and discuss securing irrigation rights in the Meander Dam for the up-coming irrigation Season. For more information regarding irrigation rights sales, please contact Luke Curtain on 6233 9028 or 0429 174 784.

water
...securing your future

*The Meander Dam, a sound investment in Tasmania's future prosperity.
To discuss your irrigation needs, visit Roberts site 120 at Agfest*

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