

Meander Dam

a Regional Resource, Tasmania's Future

Newsletter

Issue No. 1 December 2006

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Meander Dam Newsletter. The aim of this newsletter, which will be published on a bi-monthly basis, is to provide an update on the progress of the Meander Dam's construction, together with information on related issues such as recreation and the environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Scott Ashton-Jones
Chairman
Rivers and Water Supply Commission



Construction Progress Report



Concrete is the big ticket item in building the Meander Dam, with a total of over 200,000 tonnes being poured on site before the wall is complete. The crushed aggregate needed to build the roller-compacted core of the dam wall is being stockpiled at an on-site quarry.

The 11 month Northern Tasmania dry spell has proved ideal conditions for dam building, but has reinforced the need for a reliable water resource in the area.

It is anticipated that a plug will be put in the diversion tunnel in early August 2007. Then it will take two months to fill the 364ha inundation area before passing on the water to irrigators.

The construction of the Meander Dam is now more than half way through the contract period. The completion date of the dam will be November 2007.

A giant 80m tower crane (imported from France) has been erected to begin lifting more than 4,600 concrete panels into place to form the dam wall.

The building of the dam wall commenced in early December and will take six months to build up to the full 47m height. The 1.8m long blocks will be positioned and then held with stainless steel bars. 70 workers are already on site with all but 5 coming from the local area.



Recreation Management

A Draft Recreation Management Plan for the Meander Dam has been prepared by consultancy firm "Planning for People" and is based on the Tasmanian Visitor Survey that was completed in 2005. Input from the community and stakeholders has also been taken into consideration when preparing the plan.

The results of the Tasmanian Visitor Survey indicated that very few visitors to the Meander Valley region stay overnight. It is anticipated that with the development of the Meander Dam recreation area will encourage visitors to stay longer. The vision is to develop high quality

facilities that will complement those already available in the area. The facilities will be based around the natural, cultural and scenic landscapes in the Meander Dam planning area and will include picnic areas, sightseeing, bushwalking and swimming.



The biggest attraction could come from the development of the lake as a major fishing destination attracting people from Tasmania and interstate. The lake would be stocked initially with 1000 wild trout provided by Inland Fisheries enhancing the natural recruitment of stock and providing a base for the first couple of seasons. Facilities such as a boat ramp and car/trailer parking will provide easy access for both boat and land based fishing. The draft plan is open for public comment until 20 December 2006. Any comments should be directed to the consultants at enquiries@planningforpeople.com.au.

Irrigation Sales

The sale of irrigation rights to the Meander Dam has been progressing well. Extra interest has been received as a result of the recent dry conditions experienced in Tasmania and interstate. The current round of irrigation rights products (based on \$1,000/ML and a 8%pa discount for pre-purchase) are on offer until the 30 June 2007. For information on the various irrigation sale packages available please contact Luke Curtain at the Rivers and Water Supply Commission
Phone: 62339028
Mobile: 0429 174784



Meander Dam Open Day

The first Meander Dam Open Day was held on August 13 2006. The event proved to be a great success with about 3,000 people attending and touring the site.

Free buses were provided to shuttle visitors to and from the dam site and by 11.30am 450 people had already been transported.

Music was provided by Jamie Davis, Gary Smith, Rod Boxal and others.

The Meander Hall grounds provided pony rides, face painting, the

Apex Train and a display and information trailer from the Inland Fisheries Commission. Planning for People, the consulting firm for



the Recreation Management Plan also had a stand to gather information and community views. The Meander Hall Committee, Meander School and the Meander Volunteer Fire Brigade

received greater than anticipated proceeds due the much larger than expected turnout for the Open Day.

Environment

The Rivers and Water Supply Commission has secured all environmental approvals for the removal of vegetation from the inundation area. Work on the rehabilitation area has commenced and is set to continue for the next 18 months.



Rivers and Water Supply Commission

ABN: 96 014 786 994

Level 1, 63 Salamanca Place

Hobart Tas 7000