

Meander Dam

a Regional Resource, Tasmania's Future

Newsletter

Issue No. 5 August 2007

Meander Dam Appreciation BBQ—5 August 2007



On Sunday August 5, the Rivers & Water Supply Commission held an Appreciation BBQ at the Dam site for investors and workers involved in the Meander Dam Development. Throughout the day, over 180 people viewed the progress of the dam construction and the rehabilitation works on the surrounding areas.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn thanked the investors for their support and contractors and their employees for their efforts in building the Meander Dam to the stage where the dam wall is almost finished. He added that all Tasmanians can be thankful for their commitment to the project, for without them the dam would never have commenced.

The RWSC would like to thank everyone who was able to make the day such a success. A very special mention should be made to Thanx Manx who provided the catering service for the day.

Irrigation Scheme Manager

Some of you may have already met John Gaby the newly appointed Scheme Manager for the Meander Valley Irrigation Scheme. Over the next month or so John will be getting around the valley to meet as many of you as he can and discuss arrangements for supply of irrigation water.

Prior to taking up the position at Meander, John has for more than 6 years held the position of Scheme Manager for the Cressy-Longford Irrigation Scheme and therefore comes to Meander with extensive knowledge and experience in irrigation water supply and scheme management.

John's primary role is to ensure reliable water

supplies in accordance with irrigators water orders, whilst complying with the environmental flow requirements and optimising mini-hydro power generation. John will also be responsible for overseeing all infrastructure maintenance including metering and monitoring equipment, mini-hydro and the dam.

John will be reviewing the current water supply infrastructure and pump installations advising irrigators on the proper installation of water meters, suction lines and pumping equipment as necessary to meet current industry standards and to ensure equipment operates properly and meters record accurately.

Construction Progress Report

Construction of the Dam wall is now complete with the final concrete pour to secure the “Ogee” main spillway profiles due early September. Only, the placing of the waterproofing membrane on the upstream face, completion of the control system and inlet tower bulk-head and trash-rack crane remains to be completed before the dam is “fully operational” and filling of the Huntsman Lake can commence. A SCADA remote control system is being installed that will allow for operation of the valves, mini-hydro and monitoring of river and dam release flows and weather data over the telephone line.



Catchment & Climate Facts

Whilst the Meander Dam can hold 43,000 ML, run-off from the catchment behind the Meander Dam yields on average 190,000 ML per annum. Since the start of the construction of the Meander Dam nearly two years ago, river flows, water quality and rainfall within the catchment has been monitored and a summary of the rainfall and river flows through July and August is given below.

	July	August
Total water flow for month (ML)	18,296.15	82,192.51
Total rainfall for month (mm)	97	142
Ave monthly rainfall (mm)	125	120

National Climate Centre warns of a bleak outlook for Australia’s water supply.

Climate scientists are now reporting that the La Nina system that was expected to bring much needed rain this year has stalled and the cycle appears likely to head back to even drier conditions. For Irrigators it indicates another tough year with possible restrictions to water supplies and substantially reduced incomes.

Mini-Hydro Power Station

A 1.9MW Francis Turbine mini-hydro power station is being constructed at the foot of the Meander dam wall and will operate from 21 to 42m head of water (ie top-half of Meander Dam) at flow rates from 190 and 475 ML/day. Construction of the mini-hydro plant has commenced off-site at Tyco Tamar’s workshop at Exeter with on-site installation to commence in early October and the mini-hydro fully operational by mid-November.

Meander Valley Irrigation District

The proposed Meander Valley Irrigation District is currently on display at the Meander Valley Council and Department of Primary Industries & Water offices within the district inviting public comment for the Minister’s consideration before declaring the district.

Once the district is declared the Commission formally assumes responsibility for irrigation water from the Meander River supplied from the Meander Dam.

The Commission is developing, in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and Water operational rules and policies in regard to the equitable management of the various water allocations along the Meander River. Current allocations defined under water licences, winter-take dam-filling, declared flood flows, Hydro transfers and inter-property transfers will all be addressed in the operating rules to be finalised before the first irrigation release from the Meander Dam.

