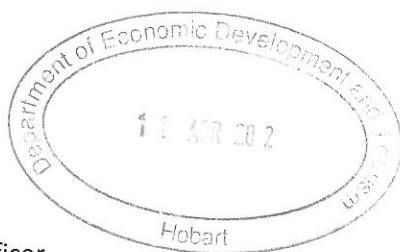


5 April 2012

Tony Mayell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tourism Tasmania  
GPO Box 399  
Hobart TAS 7001



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Dear Tony ,

### **Lake Drawdown - Meadowbank Crest Gates Refurbishment Project 2013**

Hydro Tasmania is conducting maintenance on Meadowbank Crest Gates in early 2013. The maintenance work is to replace the gate seals, treat the corroded areas and replace the failed protective coating.

The work will require the lake to be drawn down six meters below its normal supply level for a period of six weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.

During this time it will not be possible for people and organisations to conduct their normal activities in, from and around the lake.

Flow will be maintained in the river during the works via the riparian outlet on the dam.

Hydro Tasmania recognises that this maintenance work and associated lake drawdown will cause inconvenience to lake users and the Hamilton community. There may also be environmental issues which will be carefully managed by Hydro Tasmania so that their effects are minimised.

Stakeholders at properties directly adjacent to the lake have already been contacted and Hydro Tasmania is negotiating directly with them to find ways to minimise the impact of the works on a case by case basis.

It is important that organisations ready themselves so that disruptions to their activities/operations are anticipated and minimised as much as practicable.

I have included the FAQ sheet which is intended to provide answers to common questions associated with the works.

Hydro Tasmania and Southern Water are co-ordinating their planning and communications. Communications will begin shortly with the wider Hamilton community once details of an alternate water supply during the works for Hamilton are finalised by Southern Water.

In the mean time please feel free to contact me directly to discuss issues that you consider will affect your organisation.

Yours sincerely



Paul Smith  
Project Manager  
m 0407543518  
e paul.smith@hydro.com.au

## Frequently Asked Questions: REV1 March 2012

### Questions about you, us and your information:

*Q: Why is Hydro sending me this letter?*

A: We are contacting all stakeholders to inform them of the planned works as a way of continuing discussions regarding any potential impacts of the outage as well as ways that we can minimise or remove any of these impacts.

*Q: How is what I have to say going to affect the project?*

A: These conversations will enable us to understand the full impact of the proposed work and to investigate potential solutions to any potential issues that may result from the planned work.

*Q: Do you actually care about what I have to say?*

A: The reason these communications are happening so far in front of the works is to allow us sufficient time to consult with stakeholders and to consider all issues and options before the work begins.

*Q: How will you keep me informed?*

A: The project team will keep you informed of progress and follow up in relation to any issues or questions you raise, in whichever manner you would prefer. This can be done by telephone, email, web, post or face to face meetings.

*Q: If I provide my contact details, what will you do with them?*

A: Your contact details will only be used to provide you with any updated information in relation to the project and/or to respond to any issues you raise that need to be followed up later.

*Q: Will my contact details and comments be kept confidential?*

A: Information provided will be seen only by the project team within Hydro Tasmania and will not be shown to or shared with any other person or organisation.

### Questions about the project:

*Q: How long will the work take?*

A: The work is expected to take six weeks from the start of the draw down to when the lake is back to its normal position.

*Q: When will the work start?*

A: It is planned that the drawdown will start on the 14th of March 2013 and be back to its normal position on the 30th of April 2013.

*Q: How will the work affect me?*

A: The project will cause inconvenience to some of the users of Lake Meadowbank through interrupted water supply, reducing effectiveness of some livestock fences and removal of access to the lake and water.

We recognise and appreciate that this will cause you unwanted stresses and/or inconvenience. We hope that we can work with you to find practical solutions to minimise the disruption to you and your family/organisation.

*Q: What's in it for me? What are the benefits?*

A: The work will ensure that the asset is returned to an acceptable condition before it reaches a point where very disruptive, expensive and longer works become required. The work should protect the asset for at least another 20 years.

*Q: Why can't Hydro just paint in winter?*

A: Safety. Both gates must be operational in winter months to protect people and property from flooding and/or dam failure during spill events. Temperatures for painting during winter will also cause a much longer outage therefore raising the risk of a spill during the works.

*Q: Why can't hydro use an underwater painting system?*

A: As well as painting the gates, the seals which have never been replaced need to be replaced which will require the lake to be drawn down. Also underwater painting is not as effective, is dangerous and will not protect the gates as well as a system applied to a grit blasted surface.

*Q: Will the work affect our power supply?*

A: No. Hydro Tasmania's system can cope with one or more station outages simultaneously. In any case, the station will still be operating during the painting works.

### **Question about water supply and flow quality:**

*Q: How will the project affect my access to water?*

A: All intakes in the lake which do not extend to a depth of six metres will be cut off for the period of the work. Access to the lake will not be possible for the duration of the works.

*Q: How long will I lose my water supply?*

A: It will take 6 weeks for the water level to return to normal.

*Q: What about drinking water?*

A: Hydro Tasmania is working closely with Southern Water to ensure that drinking water will remain available. More information about this will be communicated closer to the work.

*Q: How will I water my crops while the lake is drawn down?*

A: The drawdown will cause disruption to some irrigators. Hydro Tasmania require you feedback to ensure that through adjustments to project plan, the project has as smaller impact as possible on irrigators.

*Q: Will water quality be affected by drawing down the lake?*

A: Hydro Tasmania are conducting detailed water quality and environmental assessments including benchmarking before, during and after the work so that issues with turbidity and decomposition pollutants are anticipated and planned for.

*Q: Will the painting work affect water quality?*

A: The painting work will not affect the quality of the water in Lake Meadowbank.

### **Questions about lake uses and physical effects of the lake drawdown:**

*Q: My stock will get out when the lake is drawn down. What can we do about that?*

A: we appreciate that this is going to cause you some inconvenience. We hope that by providing you with sufficient information and notice, you can make adjustments for the period. For example, you may be able to move stock a paddock that does not border the lake during the works. If a workable solution is not available to you, please let us know your situation.

*Q: Can we extend our boat ramp while you have the lake drawn down?*

A: Access to the lake in a drawn down state is not permitted for any reason for safety reasons. Floods can happen any time of year in Tasmania and Hydro Tasmania is concerned that anyone accessing the lake may be in danger during such an event due to the potential for rapidly rising water in the lake area. Any work upstream of the painting works may cause damage to the worksite during a spill as well as endangering workers on the Hydro Tasmania work site.

*Q: Can I walk down to the lakes edge while the lake is drawn down?*

A: Access to the lake in a drawn down state is not permitted for any reason due to potential for floods, threats to safety and damage to equipment as described above.

*Q: Can I clear dead trees from the lake while the lake is drawn down?*

A: Access to the lake in a drawn down state is not permitted for any reason due to potential for floods, threats to safety and damage to equipment as described above.

*Q: Can I go fishing in the lake while it is drawn down?*

A: Access to the lake in a drawn down state is not permitted for any reason due to potential for floods, threats to safety and damage to equipment as described above.

*Q: Can I go water skiing while the lake is drawn down?*

A: Water skiing while the lake is drawn down may be particularly dangerous due to trees and branches being closer to the surface.

*Q: Can we go out in the boat while the lake is drawn down?*

A: Access to the lake in a drawn down state is not permitted for any reason due to potential for floods, threats to safety and damage to equipment as described above.

*Q: How will the drawdown affect fishing stocks?*

A: It is anticipated that some fish may become trapped in pools as the lake is drawn down. Hydro Tasmania are working closely with the Inland Fisheries Service to ensure that environmental impact assessments adequately address, plan for and minimise any impact on fish stocks.

*Q: Will there be any other work by Hydro Tasmania to take advantage of the lake drawdown?*

A: Hydro Tasmania has engaged Greening Australia to assess potential to address removing willows from the waters edge and possibly address some erosion issues.

## **Questions about the cost of the project:**

*Q: How much is this project going to cost?*

A: The works are anticipated to cost in the order of \$800,000. Hydro Tasmania are making a significant investment to maximise the life, maintain reliability of the gates and hence lake levels and minimise the risk of unplanned, more costly and more disruptive works.

*Q: Will Hydro need to shut off the station?*

A: No. The station can still operate while the lake is drawn down.

*Q: Who is paying for this work? Hydro? Tax Payers? Government?*

A: Hydro Tasmania are paying for this work to be undertaken and the work forms part of normal maintenance activities.

*Q: Will this project cause my power bill to rise?*

A: The cost of power in Tasmania is not determined by Hydro Tasmania and is in no way related to this work. Any increase in the cost of power cannot be considered the result of this work being undertaken.

*Q: Will this project cause my water bill to rise?*

A: The cost of water in Tasmania is not determined by Hydro Tasmania and is in no way related to this work. Any increase in the cost of water cannot be considered the result of this work being undertaken.

## **Questions about information, contacts and feedback:**

*Q: Where can I get more information?*

A: If you would like more information you can contact:

1. Paul Smith  
Project Manager – Meadowbank Crest Gates Refurbishment  
03 6230 5733 or 0407 543 518  
paul.smith@hydro.com.au  
GPO Box 355, Hobart TAS 7001.
2. Hugh Skerritt  
Meadowbank Crest Gates Refurbishment Stakeholder Liaison Officer  
hrskerritt@bigpond.com  
0417 508 835

*Q: Is there a website?*

A: There will most likely be information available via the web closer to the works.

*Q: Is there a contact phone number?*

A: Yes                Paul on 03 6230 5733 and 0407543518  
                         Hugh on 0417 508 835

*Q: Is there an email address?*

A: Yes, it's paul.smith@hydro.com.au and hrskerritt@bigpond.com

*Q: Can I talk in person to someone?*

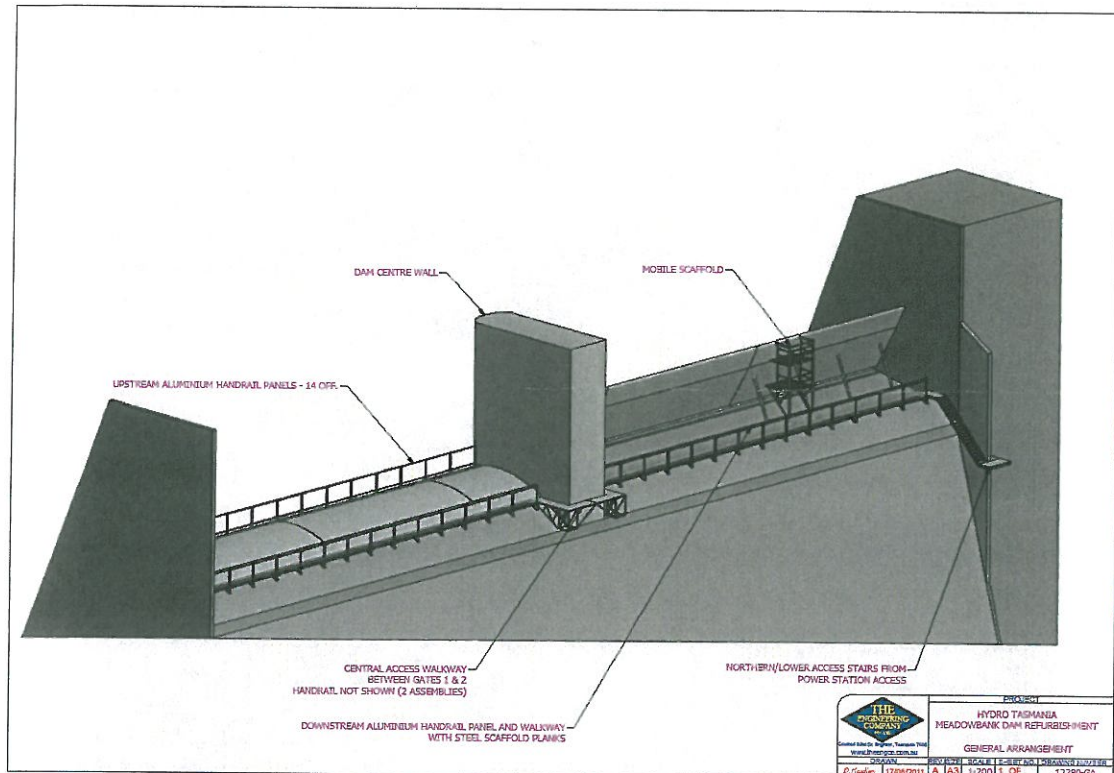
A: Certainly. Contact Paul or Hugh for further discussions and organise a meeting face to face.

*Q: My friend is interested – can they contact you?*

A: Certainly, please pass on these contact details to them.



## Asset Photos and Refurbishment Concept



Temporary Works required to provide safe access and minimise scaffold requirements therefore reducing length of works

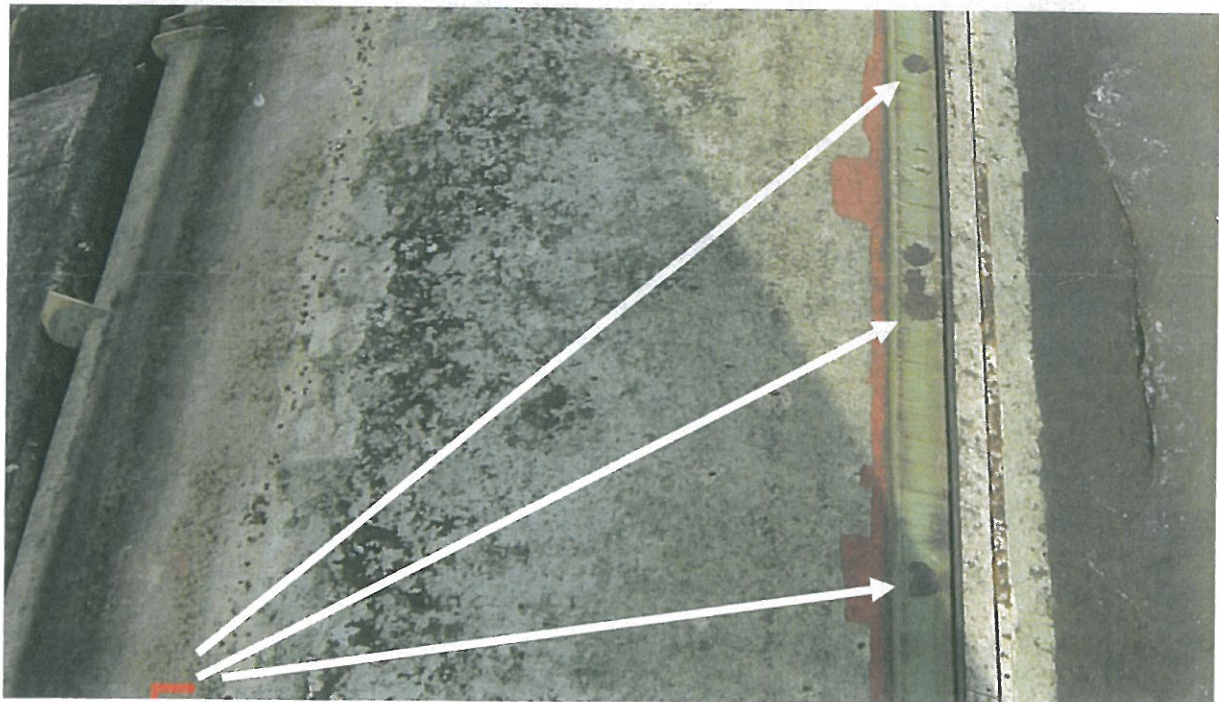


Plate Corrosion



Rust Nodules a and damaged seals and fastenings