

Lake Buffalo spillway upgrade

Frequently asked questions

Between April and June 2017, Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is upgrading Lake Buffalo's spillway gates to bring them in line with current Australian dam design and construction standards.

What does the upgrade involve?

The upgrade, which began last year, involves replacing all three existing flood gate lifting hoists and refurbishing the spillway gates.

The \$3 million project, funded by GMW, will strengthen the spillway gates and increase the structure's stability, ensuring the long-term reliable supply of water to our customers and the safety of downstream communities.

Last year, work was completed on Gate 1 of the spillway. This year, GMW expects to refurbish Gates 2 and 3 and complete the project.

Will there be any impact on local residents?

We are committed to minimising inconvenience and impact on residents and visitors.

To ensure the safety of road users and workers during the upgrade, we intend to partially close and fully close the section of Buffalo River Rd traversing the dam wall on the following dates*:

- Partial road closure (restricting traffic to one lane) from 7.30am to 4.30pm on **Monday 3 April to Wednesday 5 April** inclusive.
- Full road closure from 8am to 4.30pm on **Thursday 6 April and Friday 7 April**. An alternative route via Bread and Butter Gap Rd is available.
- Partial road closure from **Monday 10 April to Sunday 28 May** inclusive. During this period, from 18 April to 27 May, the road will be partially closed 24-hours to allow equipment to be stored on the Lake Buffalo embankment.
- Full road closure from 8am to 4.30pm on **Monday 29 May to Thursday 1 June** inclusive. The alternative route via Bread and Butter Gap Rd is available.
- Partial road closure from 7.30am to 4.30pm on **Friday 2 June to Wednesday 14 June** inclusive.

**Inclement weather or other unforeseen events may result in late changes. Road users will be alerted via electronic traffic signage, the media, GMW's website and Facebook page and other means depending on circumstances.*

We expect some increase in traffic, particularly heavy vehicles, on roads near the lake during the upgrade and advising drivers to take extra care when using these roads.

Will the lake need to be lowered?

Yes. To enable us to undertake the upgrade safely, we must keep the lake to at least 1m below the spillway's sill level during the works.

To achieve this, we are gradually drawing down the lake to about half of its full capacity.

Will there be any impact on water delivery?

The way we release water from the lake will remain unchanged during and after the upgrade.

We will continue to allocate water as usual and does not expect the upgrade works to impact on irrigation or urban water delivery.

Lake Buffalo's usual recreation activities at this time of year will continue. As always, we are advising recreational users to check weather conditions and water levels before heading out on the lake.

Will the lake still be able to capture water?

We have purposely timed the upgrade to have minimal impact on the lake's ability to capture water and we intend to replace spillway gates prior to the traditionally wet winter season.

The lake's storage capacity will remain unchanged.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about our Lake Buffalo upgrade, visit www.gmwater.com.au/lakebuffalo or contact our Customer Service Centre on 1800 013 357.

