

Welcome to Lake Nillahcootie



About the Lake

Lake Nillahcootie has a capacity of 40,400 megalitres, full supply level of 264.5 metres and a surface area of 530 hectares. It is the only storage along the Broken River and has a catchment area of approximately 422 square kilometres.

The storage was built in 1967 by the Rural Water Commission as part of a program to assure water supply in Northern Victoria. The water is used for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes, as well as for urban water supplies.



Did you know?

The name Nillahcootie is of Indian origin and reputedly means "Blue House".

Community Vision:

Lake Nillahcootie is a beautiful, well managed public asset that provides a high quality visitor experience and is an ongoing source of pride to the local community, while also fulfilling its role as an important water supply storage.

History

Little is known about Aboriginal heritage at Lake Nillahcootie. There are no known aboriginal sites within the land managed by Goulburn-Murray Water at Lake Nillahcootie, although there are a number of sites located within the adjoining Mount Samaria State Park and also at nearby Lima South. This would indicate that the water course was used by aboriginal people as a source of water and food.

The land around Lake Nillahcootie has been used for grazing since the early 19th Century. Large-scale timber mills also operated in the region.





Dam Operations

Lake Nillahcootie is designed to fill and spill annually, which regulates the flow of the Broken River to meet downstream requirements of irrigators, urban water authorities and the environment.

The lake features two spillways. The main spillway has a unique Gothic arch-shaped crest that allows the discharge of 117,000 megalitres per day - equivalent to the volume of an Olympic-size swimming pool passing the spillway every two seconds.

The highest historic flood event was recorded in September 1993 with a peak of approximately 30,000 megalitres per day passing through the dam.

The secondary spillway is operated only during severe floods. It uses the 'fuse plug' principle. A section of earthen embankment within the spillway (the fuse plug) has been designed so that at a predetermined flood level it will be eroded away and increase the discharge through the spillway.



Tourist Destination

Lake Nillahcootie is located on the Broken River in north-eastern Victoria, 36 kilometres south of Benalla. It is 24 kilometres from picturesque Mansfield and 25 kilometres from Bonnie Doon and Lake Eildon.

A popular place for fishing, swimming and boating, Lake Nillahcootie also has excellent picnic facilities. Picnic and boating areas are open to the public daily.

The region is well serviced by holiday parks, resorts, camps and guesthouses.

Did you know?

Mount Samaria State Park is next to Lake Nillahcootie and offers spectacular views of the water and beautiful bushwalking and picnicking spots.

