



## Bethungara Dam safety upgrade

December 2014

INVESTMENT	NSW Government budget of nearly \$4 million
LOCATION	Bethungara
WORKS COMMENCED	June 2012 – investigations started
EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	June 2016

### About the Dam classification

Bethungara Dam was originally constructed over 100 years ago to supply water to Junee and for steam trains.

Ten years ago the Dam was classified as a 'High' hazard dam by the regulator, the NSW Dams Safety Committee. The classification was made using the available data and best practice guidelines at the time. Since then the guidelines have been revised and more comprehensive flood studies have been completed.

In NSW the practice guideline is DSC3A "**Consequence Categories for dams**", November 2012. Crown Lands and NSW Public Works engineers critically reviewed the classification category against current guidelines and modelling.

The innovative approach by NSW Public Works to the assessment of the hazard led to the Dam being assessed as a 'Low' hazard category, a finding peer reviewed and endorsed by the regulator. In coming to this assessment, the reports below were prepared.

- [Bethungara Dam: Probable Loss of Life report](#) (PDF 6.2 MB) NSW Public Works, March 2014
- [Bethungara Dam: Supplementary Probable Loss of Life report](#) (PDF 4.3MB) NSW Public Works, April 2014
- [Bethungara Dam: Peer review](#) (PDF 3.7 MB) Hunter Water Australia, June 2014

### Current Status

Engineering consultancy GHD has been awarded the contract to design the safety upgrade and strengthening works based on the 'Low' hazard category. The target is to award a contract for the safety upgrade and strengthening works by June 2015 with construction estimated to take a further 12 months. Detailed geological and foundation investigations as well as weather conditions during the works may impact on project delivery.

The PLL report (above) identified the benefits of warning motorists on the Olympic Highway at Bethungara that flood waters may be present. Motorists or 'itinerant population' are the largest contributor to PLL estimate. Crown Lands, worked co-operatively with Roads and Maritime (the highway manager) and the local Junee Council (the road owner) to install warning indicators.



## Benefit to community and local economy

The Dam is a favourite location for picnics, fishing and camping for locals and tourists alike. The lake is used in times of emergency to fight bushfires.

The revised Dam rating to 'Low' is a great outcome for the community. The recreational amenity and bushfire fighting capacity of the existing lake can be maintained and less strengthening works will be needed.

## Access and safety

Throughout the safety upgrade and strengthening project, some access will be restricted for limited times, but not until works commence in the second half of 2015.

## Image gallery

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## Project management

The Bethungara Dam safety upgrade and strengthening works is a Trade and Investment Crown Lands project.

## More information

For more information visit our website [www.crownland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au) and contact us.

## Image gallery

Figure 1 – Bethungara Dam



**Source: Crown Lands**

Bethungara Dam is popular recreation location for the local community and tourists.

Figure 2 – Bethungara Dam during the 2003 flood



**Source: Crown Lands**

This image of the Bethungara Dam shows the 2003 flood and the water spilling down the causeway.

Figure 3 – Bethungara Dam - top of wall



**Source: Crown Lands**

This image shows the top of Bethungara Dam.

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