

Information sheet

Burrendong Dam Cold Water Pollution Control (CWPC) curtain update

FAST FACTS

Location: Burrendong Dam, 30 km south east of Wellington on the Macquarie River.

Project: To reinstate the cold water pollution control curtain after damage from flooding in 2016.

Timeline: Works will commence by November and be completed early 2018.

Background

The Burrendong Dam CWPC curtain was constructed in 2014 to mitigate the effects of cold water pollution. This can occur when cold water from the bottom of a dam is released into a river. The cold water can have a negative impact on the aquatic food chain and breeding of native fish species.

While the curtain initially proved successful, it failed following significant inflows and flooding in late 2016.

Extensive investigations into the curtain anchors continued through 2017 but were hampered by poor visibility due to the storage depth and silt accumulation on the floor of the dam.

When will the curtain be working again?

WaterNSW recently completed engineering analysis and further underwater inspection and is now in a position to reinstate the curtain. The works required are extensive but achievable.

While the reinstatement work is a priority for WaterNSW, Burrendong Dam is currently releasing at high rates to meet demands from irrigation customers and provide water for the Macquarie Marshes, following a very dry winter and spring. The high dam releases are likely to continue until the end of this summer.

WaterNSW will commence the reinstatement works on-site in November 2017 provided the works can be scheduled to be completed safely around the operational requirements of the dam, and with minimal disruptions to downstream river flow.

Ongoing testing of the curtain

Once the curtain is operating again, WaterNSW will resume monitoring and testing of the curtain and continue to assess its potential as a long term option for the management of cold water releases across NSW.

WaterNSW is committed to informing the community and key stakeholders about the work and ensuring minimal disruptions.

For more information call the WaterNSW Helpdesk on **1300 662 077** and visit waternsw.com.au.

How does the curtain work?

The flexible structure sits just below the water level to allow warmer surface water to be released downstream through the outlet valve.

A chain and pulley mechanism allows the curtain to move up and down with the storage level regardless of the water level of the dam.



Contact us:

1300 662 077 | waternsw.com.au

Follow us on twitter @WaterNSW