

King and Yolande Sustainability Review

Outcomes and commitments

Community engagement and recreation

Sustainability reviews provide Hydro Tasmania with the opportunity to evaluate the impacts of our hydropower operations in the catchments we operate in. Based on community feedback we're providing improved, safe access to our sites including Lake Margaret. The outcomes and commitments regarding community engagement and recreation within the King and Yolande catchments are presented below.

Community engagement and recreation

The West Coast community and stakeholders have been involved in various aspects of the Sustainability Review, including through the consultation survey.

We maintain engagement and involvement with King and Yolande communities (Queenstown and Gormanston) through activities such as our Community Grants process, local community events and initiatives such as The Unconformity, power station open days, resident employees and our schools outreach program, Generation Hydro.

We are committed to the establishment, strengthening and maintenance of our relationships with stakeholders, and to the transparent communication of our operations and impacts in the area. We will continue to work with stakeholders to identify opportunities to work together.



Protection of heritage assets: Lake Margaret Power Station

Lake Margaret Power Station and village

Community concern

The heritage-listed Lake Margaret Power Station and village are only accessible to the public on an organised tour, as the power station is an operational asset and significant public safety hazards exist in the village. Public tours began in 2012 as part of a joint project driven by the regional tourism body and collaboration with the West Coast council, to overcome access constraints and to support tourism on the West Coast.

A lack of accessibility for local residents to Lake Margaret Power Station and village was consistently expressed as a concern in community feedback.

Outcome and commitment

We have an agreement with RoamWild to subsidise tours by 80 per cent to Lake Margaret village (to a total value of \$3,000) specifically for local residents for 2021 or until the total subsidy value is reached. There are also opportunities for the broader public to visit the site during special events such as *The Unconformity* festival and routine power station open days.

Harris Reward Trail

Community concern

Safe access to the Harris Reward Trail was raised as a concern during community consultation. Complexities at the site include changes in land ownership along the trail, competing management interests and legacy mining impacts which have created safety hazards adjacent the trail in some sections (mine shafts).

Outcome and commitment

In order to address this concern, we have been discussing collaboration opportunities with Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, Mineral Resources Tasmania and RoamWild and to develop a strategy to manage visitor safety at the Harris Reward Trail.

As a first step we have made improvements to the safety signage at the trail head.

Crotty Smelter

Community concern

Crotty Smelter is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. During low water levels in Lake Burbury, the remains of the Crotty Smelter are exposed. Community feedback was provided regarding site access, safety and interpretation.

Outcome and commitment

The old road to the North Mt Lyell Smelter that was submerged under the lake when Crotty Dam was built has been blocked off via the development of a trench and rock barrier. Vehicular access is now prohibited to the Crotty Smelter site and signage has been erected to advise visitors of the closure to conserve the cultural heritage values of the area and ensure public safety.



Crotty Smelter: Blocked access road

Recreational sites and signage

Recreation and tourism are increasingly important for the local West Coast economy, which was highlighted by respondents to the community consultation survey. We aim to allow and support appropriate and safe recreational access on our land and water in the King and Yolande catchments.

Outcome and commitment

We collaborate with Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) and the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) to manage three boat ramps on Lake Burbury: the Lake Burbury boat ramp on the eastern shore, and the Thureau Hills and Darwin Dam boat ramps on the western shore.

We have started a process to assess and prioritise our recreational sites for improvements to amenities to enhance the visitor experience, facilitate recreation and improve safety.

Specific recreation outcomes achieved during the sustainability review, in collaboration with MAST have included:

- Upgrades to the Darwin Dam boat ramp, road, campground and day use area
- Upgrade to the Thureau Hills boat ramp and walkway.

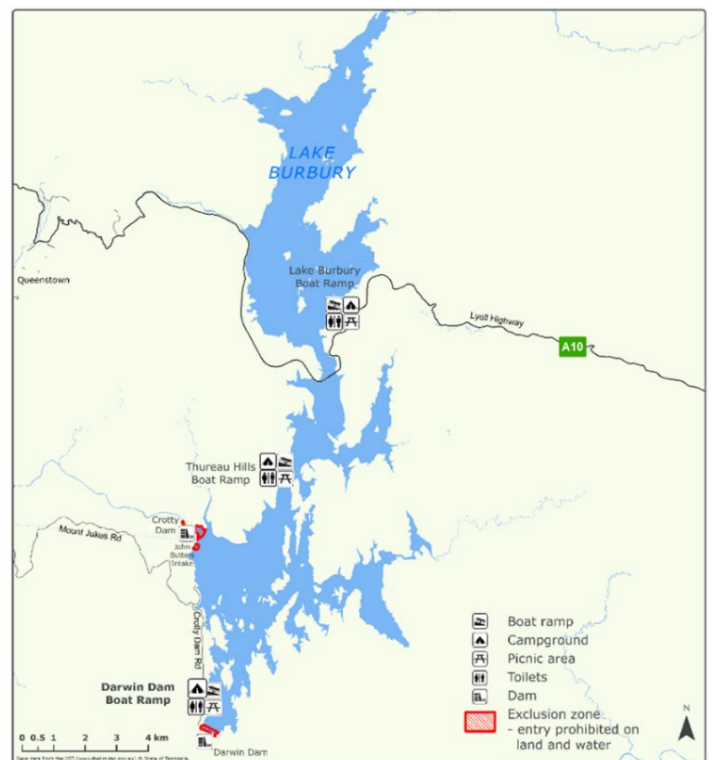


Lake Burbury: Thureau Hills boat ramp



Darwin Dam boat ramp: New signage installed

New signage has also been installed at these sites. Signage upgrades are part of a state-wide initiative that we are undertaking in all of our catchments. All other recreational areas managed by us in the King and Yolande catchments will receive upgraded signage and ongoing management of the signs.



Lake Burbury: Recreation sites managed by Hydro Tasmania

We will continue to work with the community to address recreational opportunities and potential risks at our recreational sites in the King and Yolande catchments (and other catchments where we have an interest). Recreational facilities (including signage) will be improved and maintained on a routine basis.

Similarly, we will continue to work closely with IFS, MAST and the Parks and Wildlife Service, and collaborate with other stakeholders to ensure safe, responsible and enjoyable recreation in our catchments.

Contact us

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