



Upper Yarra Dam Upgrade Project update – June 2021

PROJECT INTRODUCTION



Why this project is important

Melbourne Water has upgraded and completed dam remediation works of the Upper Yarra Dam. These works ensure the ongoing integrity and stability of the dam wall, continuing to supply world class drinking water for Melbournians.

Melbourne Water and our project delivery partner, Seymour Whyte, thank the local community for their patience and understanding while we undertook these works.

Project works completed

After commencing works on site to upgrade the Upper Yarra Dam in October 2019, we have staged our works to maintain the integrity and stability of the dam wall. With the civil earthworks now completed, we move our focus to finalise the ancillary works.

Seymour Whyte has made improvements to the campground amenities and successfully excavated and laid material to create 542 metres of filter trench along the dam wall.



Excavation of the dam wall



Rock placement on the upstream face of the dam wall

STAGED WORKS COMPLETED

During construction we have moved a lot of earthfill, rockfill and clay. We have utilised materials from the existing dam and immediate area as well as importing the additional materials needed. These include;

Excavation of approximately **265,000m³** of dam wall material

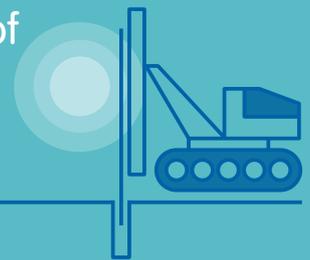
Imported **128,481 tonnes**

of various materials equivalent to **3,974** truck and trailers



181,518m³ of placed material to reinstate the dam wall

Grout injection of **1.6km**



542 metres of filter trench laid

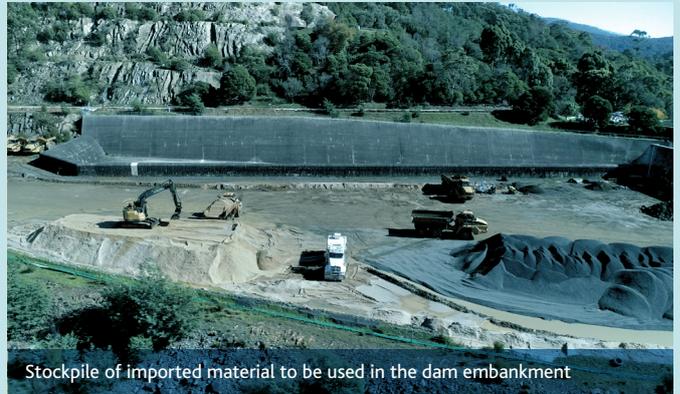


Upper Yarra Dam filler trench works

OUR PEOPLE



Reuse of rocks which were removed during construction



Stockpile of imported material to be used in the dam embankment

To date, there has been
242,549
hours worked on the
project (to the end of March)



which is equivalent
to approximately
30,319
working days



The project has employed over 20 local residents from the Yarra Ranges Council area in a variety roles.



Members of Narrap Rangers team on site for maintenance works

Narrap Rangers, Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Council's Natural Resource Management Team, were engaged to undertake the maintenance work on Country which involved grass cutting and weed spraying and general maintenance.



Wesburn primary school students participating in workshop

As part of the site visit with Wesburn Primary School, students participated in a workshop facilitated by Seymour Whyte. Students were tasked with creating 'mini-dams' using the clay, sand and rocks being used as part of the construction works.

Our fundraising efforts

Over the course of the project our contractors and personnel have been very generous and supported various local charities, purposely selected to address needs of the community during some particularly difficult times. Our fundraising efforts have included:

- Victorian Bushfire Appeal – supporting local communities affected by the devastating fires
- LinC Upper Yarra – assists people in need in the Upper Yarra Valley
- Foodbank – provides more than 70% of the food rescued for food relief organisations
- Berry Street – Christmas gift appeal for children in need
- SES Upper Yarra – support for services and contribute to replacement of stolen equipment

Majority of the project has been constructed during COVID-19 restrictions and unfortunately some of the community site visits we had planned had to be cancelled or postponed. Despite this, we have still been able to host some visitors including Warburton Advancement League and classes from Wesburn Primary School.



Wesburn Primary School site visit - April 2021

WHAT IS LEFT TO DO



Installation of Mechanical and Electrical equipment within the new Seepage Weir and on the Dam crest

Construction of a new Aerator building on the crest

Reinstatement of the crest viewing area including the monument

Installation of new information boards throughout the shire

Reconnection of the High Voltage feed to the Dam

Revegetation works across the site and maintenance within the works area

Amenities improvements within the campground including upgrades to the main toilet block

Upper Yarra Reservoir Park revised opening date

Due to necessary maintenance works throughout the Upper Yarra Reserve over the winter months, the reserve will remain closed to the public until Melbourne Cup Weekend, November 2021.

For an alternative campground during closure please contact Parks Victoria on 13 19 63.

MORE INFORMATION



Keep up to date with Melbourne Water projects by visiting our website.

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