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Media Release

Upgrades commence on dam critical to Hobart's water supply

Essential infrastructure upgrades have begun at the Upper Reservoir Dam in the Waterworks Reserve, increasing surety of water supply for our Hobart customers.

The Upper Reservoir Dam is around 130 years old and is critical to Hobart's water supply.

TasWater Dam Safety Manager Fraser White said the works will include upgrading and improving the dam while maintaining its heritage elements.

"Modifications are being made to improve the safety of the dam, including improved flood capacity, modifying drainage to protect water quality and vegetation control measures to protect it," he said.

"We will also be upgrading the stormwater management, refurbishing outlet works and installing performance instrumentation so we may continue to monitor the dam and ensure it is operating correctly at all times."

TasWater has been working closely with Heritage Tasmania on this project. A consultant has been engaged to recommend design changes to preserve the heritage significance of Waterworks Reserve. For example, stone kerbing along the Upper Reservoir dam crest will be removed by hand during construction to ensure no resultant damage. The stone kerbing will also be numbered, stored and carefully reinstalled in the pre-existing location, under supervision of a Heritage Stone Mason.

An exclusion zone will also be maintained around heritage items during the works.

Throughout the upgrades, some walking trails will be closed and there will be some areas that are not accessible, including Dam Crest Road, Depot Road, and the Upper and Lower Reservoir circuits.

"These closures ensure the community and users of the reserve remain safe during construction," Fraser said.

"We thank the community for their patience while these vital works are carried out, which will help to ensure the Southern Tasmanians have a continued security of water supply," he said.

Routine investigation works have also commenced at Lower Reservoir, Waterworks Reserve as part of a separate proactive dam safety project.

The Upper Reservoir upgrades are expected to be completed by October 2021.

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