



## MEDIA RELEASE

1 December 2021

### **Recent rainfall kickstarts downstream releases from Awoonga Dam Pike's Crossing residents urged to remain aware of changing water levels**

Due to increasing inflows at Awoonga Dam, Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has begun downstream water releases for the first time since 2016.

Under the Awoonga Dam Resource Operations Licence (ROL) GAWB is required to commence downstream water releases following four or more consecutive days where inflows are greater than 3,210 megalitres a day.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the releases are required to ensure that Awoonga Dam's strict downstream environmental conditions are met.

"These releases are very controlled and highly regulated to ensure we balance dam capacity, environmental compliance and, of course, the health and safety of our downstream neighbours," Mr Barlow said.

"The purpose of releasing water is to manage and maintain the environmental health of the waterways downstream of Lake Awoonga. It's a matter we take very seriously."

The Pikes Crossing community located downstream of Awoonga Dam is urged to remain aware of changing water levels.

"Water levels will begin to rise over the next few days as we trigger the release, and they are likely to fluctuate in the coming weeks," Mr Barlow said.

"While the volume of water is not expected impact access to and from the Pikes Crossing community, it is important to ensure your property is adequately prepared for rising water levels.

"We're paying close attention and will monitor the situation very closely."

Capacity at Awoonga Dam is currently 58% - an almost 10% increase in just one week.

Page 1 of 4

GAWB's Low Supply Alert status will remain in place until at least April next year.

Ends.

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