



Gladstone Area Water Board

ABN: 88 409 667 181
Service Provider: 200

PO Box 466
GLADSTONE Q 4680

2nd Floor
147 Goondoon Street
GLADSTONE Q 4680

Tel: (07) 4976 3000
Fax: (07) 4972 5632

Email: gawb@gawb.qld.gov.au
Web: www.gawb.qld.gov.au



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MEDIA RELEASE

Awoonga Dam spills

As Lake Awoonga slowly recedes following last week's rain, focus turns towards the official 'wet season' still ahead and the reality that there's ample opportunity for the already full Lake Awoonga to spill again in the near future.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) Chief Executive Officer, Jim Grayson, explains the process used to provide advice to the Local Disaster Management Group concerning the volume of water that is expected to "spill" into the Boyne River during floods.

"Our team input upstream flow data, the level of water at the dam wall as well Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts as inputs to our Hydrological Model.

"The Model conducts a range of complex calculations to generate an estimated dam height, from which our team provides advice concerning the likely volume and speed of water that will flow over the spillway in any given period."

Mr Grayson said the catchment area of Lake Awoonga was 2,230km² and BoM forecasts are unable to specify with precision rainfall over all this area.

"Rainfall across the whole catchment is rarely at uniform levels," Mr Grayson said.

"Notwithstanding all the science, small variations from the predicted rainfall can have a large flow on effect when it comes to the Model's estimates and that's why we constantly run updated data through the Model to monitor changes."

"Lake Awoonga is currently 40.8m, which is just under one meter of water going over the spillway and dropping fairly slowly.

"The BoM is predicting a little rain today but then a clear couple of days, so we expect the dam to continue dropping slowly."

The Lake Awoonga Recreational Area remains closed while clean-up efforts and safety inspections are completed; it is anticipated to reopen Wednesday afternoon.

Boynedale Bush Camp will remain closed all week and is anticipated to open in time for the weekend.

Ends.

For more information, please contact:

GAWB Communications Officer - 0415 755 775