

Recreation Management Plan

Enoggera Reservoir/Gold Creek Reservoir/Lake Manchester

February 2014

It's your water! Have your say...



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Overview

Healthy communities. Prosperous region. This is Seqwater's vision and is intrinsic to our operations. Seqwater is responsible for ensuring a safe, secure and reliable water supply for almost three million people across South East Queensland. We are unique in South East Queensland in that our catchments are more open from both a recreational and broader land use perspective. In developing the recreation management plans for our water storages we need to consider, foremost, that this water is the source for all our drinking water.

Seqwater recognises the importance of recreation to the community and encourages the responsible enjoyment of our natural areas. In June 2013, Seqwater began the most extensive review of recreational activities and facilities at South East Queensland dams and catchments ever undertaken.

Our Objective: Manage access to recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and water quality.

The challenge that faces Seqwater is how to manage our core role of providing drinking water to a growing population, while satisfying growing community demands and expectations for access to lakes and catchment lands. Achieving our objective requires a risk based approach to the management of recreation, and the cooperation and support from the community.

Our promise to the community at the outset of the Recreation Review was to listen and learn about the recreational opportunities in and around the lakes, and within our constraints, deliver a management plan based on this feedback.

The response by the community and stakeholders to the Review has been outstanding. Special thanks are extended to the many people who provided input and participated in the surveys and workshops that helped us shape the new plans.



The Value of Our Natural Areas

Seqwater currently provide more than 50 per cent of the region's green space (excluding areas of conservation), with our recreation assets attracting around two million visitors each year.

Natural Value

Seqwater owns or manages approximately 60,000 hectares of land across South East Queensland. These assets not only supply water to a growing region, but also encompass some of the most scenic and picturesque sites in the region.

The natural areas around our lakes are home to an abundance of native wildlife, including providing important habitat for koalas that are listed as a vulnerable species.

Cultural Value

Seqwater catchments encompass landscapes and places of great importance to Aboriginal communities in South East Queensland. Seqwater is committed to managing those places sensitively and in partnership with those communities.

Social Value

Seqwater sites provide a range of social benefits, including recreation, tourism, education and social interaction between groups, families and others. They also support community wellbeing and provide opportunities for improving general health through outdoor recreation.

Economic Value

Seqwater sites are being increasingly recognised for their potential to encourage economic activity in regional areas. Expenditure by people visiting Seqwater lakes encourages local economic activity and generates local employment.

Seqwater commissioned external advice on the *Economic Value of Recreation Undertaken on Seqwater's Land*. A travel cost study supported by an independent survey of dam visitors was undertaken in June 2013 to understand the value visitors place on recreation. In summary the study found:

- Queensland households place a significant value on visits to Seqwater lakes. On average, an adult visitor to a Seqwater lake values the experience at around \$60 per trip. This translates to a total intrinsic value of recreation of over **\$150 million per annum**.
- A high proportion of people stop at regional towns on the way to and from Seqwater sites providing significant benefits to local businesses.
- Almost 80% of respondents said they visited as part of a group
- 40% of respondents who visited Seqwater sites are in the 55+ age bracket
- The top 3 main reasons for visiting an Seqwater site were

- Relaxing with families and friends
- Enjoying the natural environment
- Picnicking

Both the feedback from the community, and the results of the independent review, has highlighted that visiting our lakes and recreation areas is a highly valued experience. The majority of people that come want to enjoy the environment and natural areas. This aligns well with our objective regarding recreation management – *To manage access to recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and water quality.*

Recreation also provides an opportunity to educate people regarding the importance of maintaining healthy catchments to protect our source water.

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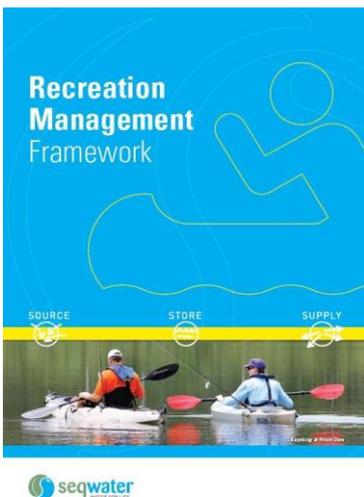
Scope

This recreation management plan encompasses all land based and water based recreation undertaken on Seqwater owned or controlled sites at Enoggera Reservoir, Gold Creek Reservoir and Lake Manchester, unless specifically addressed through legislation or other access arrangements including permits, licences or leases.

Management Approach

Seqwater's Recreation Management Framework recognises recreation in natural areas as a legitimate use, however not all activities can be provided at every site, nor is it desirable to do so. The purpose of the Recreation Management Framework is to inform policy and guide decision making regarding recreational use of Seqwater sites.

The Recreation Management Framework has seven key principles:



- Minimise risks to water quality
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Diversity in the range of recreation activities, locations and settings
- Ensure all use is consistent with Seqwater's land management practices
- Facilitate sustainable recreation
- Engage with external regulating agencies
- Meet financial management outcomes

A key management principle in the Framework is *Diversity*. This principle recognises the importance of ensuring that there is a range of recreational experiences catered for so that recreation spaces meet the needs of the wider community. The fact that Enoggera Reservoir, Gold Creek Reservoir and Lake Manchester are all closely located to one another provides an ideal opportunity to embrace and enhance the diversity of recreational settings and experiences in the region thereby maximizing the benefits to both the users and the local community.

Enoggera Reservoir, Gold Creek Reservoir and Lake Manchester are located in a region that already has a variety of recreational opportunities provided by the local Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, as well as clubs and commercial operators. Demand for greater access must be weighed against the primary role of these assets. Water from Lake Manchester is used for drinking supply. Enoggera Reservoir is classified as a drought asset, meaning that water from Enoggera may be used as part of the drinking supply during times of water shortages. Should Enoggera Reservoir be required for drinking water purposes, recreation

activities will need to be reduced or suspended. Gold Creek Reservoir is used for flood mitigation purposes only.

Access to these lakes is somewhat problematic. Historically, permissible on-water recreation activities at these three lakes have been limited. Seqwater has acknowledged that some changes could be made to activities at Enoggera Reservoir and Lake Manchester in line with feedback received through the Recreation Review. This includes:

- Paddle craft will be permitted on Enoggera Reservoir. A designated launch area will be established once a suitable location is identified.
- Paddle craft will be permitted on Lake Manchester once a designated launch area is established.
- Fishing will be permitted on both Enoggera Reservoir and Lake Manchester.

The Seqwater land around Enoggera Reservoir, Gold Creek Reservoir and Lake Manchester adjoins the D'Aguilar Range National Park. There are linkages of trails across Seqwater land, National Park and Brisbane City Council recreation reserves in the area. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Walkabout Creek is located adjacent to Enoggera Reservoir. Seqwater is working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in regard to recreation opportunities at Enoggera Reservoir, including the establishment and management of recreation facilities.

Seqwater recognises there are a range of other agencies, community groups and individuals who have an interest in the management and use of Enoggera Reservoir, Gold Creek Reservoir and Lake Manchester. We will continue to work collaboratively with these groups to achieve sustainable recreational use and deliver on the changes to access and facilities highlighted through the consultation process for the Recreation Review.

Addressing any emerging issues for recreation and the consideration of new management arrangements, Seqwater will continue to include appropriate consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders.

Funding

Seqwater's primary focus is to *"deliver safe, secure, resilient and reliable water supplies at least cost to its customers"*. While we recognise that recreation is an important element of the services we provide to the community, the provision of extensive recreation facilities and services is not something we are explicitly funded for. Seqwater's *Statement of Obligations* requires us, amongst other things, to *"review opportunities for recreation including strategies to recover costs from users and/or beneficiaries where appropriate"*. This will be an ongoing consideration in regard to the management and delivery of recreational facilities.

Funding for Recreation Review Outcomes

The timing of the implementation of the changes highlighted in the recreation review will largely be dependent on when funding can be secured. Seqwater is currently working in partnership

with other agencies to secure funding and develop an implementation plan for the delivery of the recreation review outcomes.

The implementation plan as well as regular updates on the progress of these initiatives will be forwarded to everyone that registered interest for these lakes online, key stakeholders, as well as updates on our website.

Commercial Undertakings

Seqwater recognises that the use of its sites for commercial undertakings contributes to the economic activity in regional areas.

While our primary objective in the management of recreation is to manage access to recreation opportunities for the **public**, we recognise that commercial operators can play a role in supporting visitor needs and increasing the public's enjoyment and appreciation of our natural areas.

Seqwater has developed a *Commercial Activities Policy* which outlines the process and requirements for any commercial use of sites. Where sites are used either temporarily or more permanently for commercial purposes, a commercial fee will be applied.

Further information can be found on the Seqwater website at www.seqwater.com.au

Recreation Management

Conditions of Access and Use

The *Seqwater Rules* outline the conditions of access and use by all visitors to Seqwater sites. These are referenced on the on-site signage. A full copy of the rules can be found on the website www.seqwater.com.au.

The primary purpose of the *Seqwater Rules* is to ensure the safety of visitors and to protect the environment and infrastructure provided so that the areas are safe for all to enjoy. All visitors are asked to comply with these rules.

Public Notices

Seqwater endeavours to ensure that visitors are well informed about any issues at sites that may impact the visitor's experience. A number of methods are used to keep everyone informed including:

- Seqwater Website
- Facebook
- Direct stakeholder email notifications
- On-site signage

Seqwater recommends that all visitors check the Seqwater website or facebook page before visiting any sites.

Enforcement

Seqwater actively enforces the use and activities on its sites. Enforcement activities are primarily aimed at visitor education and voluntary compliance to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all users.

Seqwater also partners with key enforcement agencies such as Queensland Police and Maritime Safety Queensland and coordinates the management and enforcement activities across all sites.

Feedback through the Recreation Review has highlighted how important appropriate enforcement is to visitors. As a result Seqwater will be reviewing its resourcing, its enforcement powers and the partnering opportunities that may exist to improve enforcement across all of its sites.

Recreation Infrastructure

Visitors expect a range of settings, experiences and facilities reflecting wide-ranging outdoor interests and cultural diversity.

Any new facilities and amenities should be in harmony with existing settings and should not impact water quality or the environmental values of the area. They need to respect the cultural values, be functional and address visitor needs. Where practical Seqwater will utilise recyclable and/or renewable materials and adhere to energy and water efficiency guidelines.

Seqwater will endeavour to provide adequate, well maintained recreational infrastructure within its budgetary constraints.

Education

There are a variety of opportunities to encourage the uptake of best practices by recreational users and for them to be active stewards for Seqwater lakes and catchments. Seqwater will make available and promote ways for the community and recreational users to contribute to the ongoing protection of our natural areas and drinking water catchments, and thereby ensure sustainable recreation.

All efforts will be made to ensure that visitors are better informed of the opportunities at each Seqwater recreation site, and that the information provided enhances visitor experiences, understanding and appreciation.

Safety

Seqwater's dams and lakes are part of natural systems and have naturally occurring characteristics that visitors need to be mindful of when recreating. These characteristics change regularly and include changing bacteria levels and hazards above and below water. This is a very normal and an expected occurrence in any natural system. Visitors are encouraged to comply with all on site signage, check the website for updates/changes to conditions, and take care when recreating.

Summary of Feedback and Outcomes

Consultation Feedback

The following provides a summary of all the issues raised throughout the consultation process identifying the common themes across all the data collected throughout the consultation period.

Enoggera Reservoir

Key findings:

- There is support for a swimming area.
- There is support for a picnic area to be established.
- Introducing non-motorised watercraft to the lake is highly supported.
- Respondents divided regarding fishing.
- There is satisfaction with the trails however feedback has indicated signage and maintenance could be improved.
- There is support to change the opening hours to reflect seasonal daylight hours.
- The community is divided on allowing dogs on leash.
- Site access needs to be addressed.

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Swimming | Support for the establishment of a swimming area. Those against consider the reservoir not suitable or safe and have concern over the impacts on the wildlife. | Suitable and safe access is a key concern. Further consideration is required. |
| Picnicking | Strong support for the establishment of a picnic area. | A suitable site and access is being investigated in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. |
| Playgrounds | Limited demand for facilities. | Nil required |
| Camping | Over 50% disagree with the introduction of a camping area. | Nil required |
| Motorised Watercraft | | The option of motorised watercraft on Enoggera Reservoir was not open for consideration. Motorised watercraft will not be permitted on Enoggera Reservoir. |
| Non-motorised Watercraft | Strong support for allowing non-motorised watercraft on the reservoir. Some commentary around the disruption to wildlife habitats should non-motorised boats be permitted. | Paddle craft to be permitted. Designated launch area to be identified and established in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. |

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|---------------|--|--|
| | 52% agree with the introduction of a SEQ wide boating permit scheme. | Decision on a boating permit scheme will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014. |
| Fishing | <p>Respondents were divided over allowing fishing.</p> <p>Some commentary around ensuring the fishing is sustainable.</p> <p>Those against allowing fishing noted the affects on the wildlife and the environment.</p> | <p>Fishing from paddle craft to be permitted when access point is established.</p> <p>Enoggera Reservoir is not currently stocked with fish.</p> |
| Trails | <p>There is satisfaction with existing trails.</p> <p>Comments from those who were dissatisfied reflect a need for additional signage and maintenance.</p> <p>Feedback also included the possibility of new trails, including a full loop trail around the lake.</p> | <p>Seqwater will improve signage and mapping in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Brisbane City Council.</p> <p>A full loop trail cannot be provided due to the operational assets located near the dam wall.</p> |
| Dogs | <p>Feedback divided.</p> <p>Significant commentary around the need for dogs to be on leash and for owners to clean up after their dogs.</p> <p>Strong commentary regarding the negative effects on flora and fauna.</p> | <p>No change</p> <p>The areas around Enoggera Reservoir are home to an abundance of native wildlife. This area provides an important wildlife corridor to the D'Aguilar Range.</p> |
| Site Access | <p>68% would like to see access improved.</p> <p>Commentary centred on suitable access to the reservoir itself and parking arrangements.</p> | <p>Site access to Enoggera Reservoir to be addressed in consultation with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> |
| Opening Hours | <p>Majority in support for a change in the opening hours to match seasonal influences.</p> | <p>Decisions on opening hours will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014.</p> |
| Environment | <p>Agreement that areas of environmental significance exist.</p> <p>Some commentary around the wildlife habitats in the area, particularly birdlife.</p> | <p>Seqwater is committed to protecting environmentally sensitive areas, including the management of animal and plant pests.</p> |

Gold Creek Reservoir

Key findings:

- Respondents were divided over permitting swimming.
- There is support for a picnic area to be established.
- Introducing non-motorised watercraft to the lake is supported, however there is a contingent that disagree.
- There is strong opposition to the introduction of camping in the area.
- Majority do not support the introduction of fishing.
- There is overall satisfaction with the trails however feedback has indicated signage and maintenance could be improved.
- There is support to change the opening hours to reflect seasonal daylight hours.
- The community does not support allowing dogs on leash.

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Swimming | Respondents were divided regarding swimming. Commentary around the dangers of swimming, including jumping off the tower, and the illegal behaviour in the area such as graffiti. | Swimming near dam wall, spillway and intake tower cannot be allowed for safety reasons. Due to the site's access no safe swimming location could be identified. |
| Picnicking | General support for the establishment of a picnic area. | Seqwater will provide basic picnic facilities. |
| Playgrounds | Over 50% disagreed with establishing a playground. | Nil required |
| Camping | Strong disagreement with allowing camping in the area. | Nil required |
| Motorised Watercraft | | The option of motorised watercraft on Gold Creek Reservoir was not open for consideration. Motorised watercraft will not be permitted on Gold Creek Reservoir. |
| Non-motorised Watercraft | Some support for allowing non-motorised watercraft on the reservoir. Some commentary around the disruption to wildlife habitats should non-motorised boats be permitted. | Due to the site's location and access, an appropriate launch point could not be identified. Therefore non-motorised watercraft will not be permitted on Gold Creek Reservoir. Due to regulations, launching of paddle craft from the dam wall is not permissible. Paddle craft will, however, be allowed on Enoggera Reservoir and Lake Manchester. |
| | 55% agree with the introduction of a SEQ wide boating permit scheme. | Decision on a boating permit scheme will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014. |
| Fishing | Majority disagree with allowing fishing. | Nil required |

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|---------------|--|---|
| | Those against allowing fishing noted the affects on the wildlife and the environment. | |
| Trails | The majority are satisfied with the trails. Comments of dissatisfaction reflect a need for additional signage and maintenance. Feedback also included requests for new trails, particularly for mountain biking. | Seqwater will improve signage, and mapping in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife and Brisbane City Council. The establishment of new single purpose trails would require significant funding for construction and ongoing maintenance. Given this cluster already has extensive multi-use trails, the establishment of additional single purpose trails is not considered a priority at this time. |
| Dogs | Strong opposition to allowing dogs, with comments centred around the affects of the fauna and flora. | No change The areas around Gold Creek Reservoir are home to an abundance of native wildlife. This area provides an important wildlife corridor to the D'Aguilar Range. Dogs and other domestic pets will not be permitted. |
| Site Access | 52% would like to see access improved. Some commentary around improvements to Gold Creek Road. | Gold Creek Road is under control of the Brisbane City Council. Given that there will not be significant change to permissible activities at Gold Creek Reservoir, Seqwater does not intend to change access to this site. |
| Opening Hours | Majority in support for a change in the opening hours to match seasonal influences. | Decisions on opening hours will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014. |
| Environment | Strong agreement that areas of environmental significance exist. Some commentary around the wildlife habitats in the area, particularly birdlife, and the need to protect and restore the pump house. | Seqwater is committed to protecting environmentally sensitive areas, including the management of animal and plant pests. |
| Other | Details of illegal activity happening onsite including vandalism, graffiti and littering. | Seqwater will continue to monitor the site and liaise with the Queensland Police Service. |

Lake Manchester

Key findings:

- The existing picnic facilities are of a good standard and require little change.
- There is support for a swimming area.
- Introducing non-motorised watercraft to the lake is highly supported.
- The community does not support the introduction of motorised watercraft.
- There is support to allow fishing at the lake.
- The trails are satisfactory.
- There is support to change the opening hours to reflect seasonal daylight hours.
- The community is divided on allowing dogs on leash.

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Swimming | Support for the introduction of a designated swimming area. Limited commentary supplied. | A designated swimming area will not be established. A suitable, viable access point could not be identified. The designated picnic area is remote from the lake and the option of having a remote designated swimming area is not considered appropriate or cost effective to monitor and maintain. |
| Picnicking | Over 40% of respondents are happy with the current picnic facilities, 36% are indifferent. Commentary centred around wanting a picnic area closer to the water's edge and improvements to the toilets and bbqs. | Seqwater will undertake cosmetic changes to the picnic area. However relocating the current picnic area is not a feasible option. |
| Playgrounds | Over 50% were indifferent, and 32% believe installing a playground is a priority. In addition, this was not raised as a key issue at the workshops. | Based on feedback, playground equipment is not considered a priority for this site. |
| Camping | Majority are indifferent to camping at this site. | Nil required |
| Motorised watercraft | Strong opposition to allowing motorised watercraft on Lake Manchester. Reasons against included the impact on the ambience of the lake, wildlife and water quality. Also mentioned was the small size of the lake. | Based on feedback received, motorised watercraft will not be permitted on Lake Manchester. |
| Non-motorised Watercraft | Very strong support for the introduction of non-motorised watercraft. Commentary shows support for kayaks, canoes and electric motors with some recognising the | Paddle craft to be allowed on the lake. Due to topography and access limitations, the launch point will need to be remote, and will require recreators to manually transport equipment to the launch point. Vehicular access is not feasible, making this |

| Activity | Issue Summary | Seqwater Response |
|---------------|--|--|
| | access limitations. | paddle experience more challenging than at other sites. |
| | 52% agree with the introduction of a SEQ wide boating permit scheme. | Decision on a boating permit scheme will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014. |
| Fishing | Majority believe fishing should be permitted. Feedback was also received regarding the need to have the lake stocked. | Fishing will be permitted from paddle craft. Shoreline fishing will also be permitted at the designated recreation area at the launch point. |
| Trails | Support exists for the current trail network. Feedback was received on ways the trail network could be improved such as new signage and maps, and increased maintenance. | Seqwater will improve signage and mapping in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Brisbane City Council. Seqwater will investigate trail linkage to avoid use of Lake Manchester Road. |
| Dogs | Feedback divided. | No change. The areas around Lake Manchester are home to an abundance of native wildlife. This area provides an important wildlife corridor to the D'Aguilar Range. It is imperative Seqwater takes measures to protect these animals and their habitat. Dogs and other domestic pets will not be permitted. |
| Site Access | Support for access to be improved. Feedback included a demand for access to the water's edge including a boat ramp. | Access to the water's edge for paddle craft and fishing will be available at the paddle craft launch point. Vehicular access to trail network can not be permitted. |
| Opening Hours | Over 80% support a change in the opening hours to match seasonal influences. | Decisions on opening hours will be made at the completion of the recreation review in October 2014. |
| Environment | Response divided between indifferent or agreement to the existence of environmental areas. Commentary particularly focused on the adjoining creeks and the general abundance of birdlife in the area. | Seqwater is committed to protecting environmentally sensitive areas, including the management of animal and plant pests. |

Recreation Review Outcomes

Based on the feedback received, priorities for changes to recreational activities and access have been identified at each lake as follows:

Enoggera Reservoir

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Establish paddle craft launch point</p> <p><i>The timing of works and the funding required are currently being worked through with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</i></p> | <p>Action</p> <p>Potential sites are currently being investigated in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> |
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Permit fishing on Enoggera Reservoir</p> <p><i>The timing of works and the funding required are currently being worked through with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</i></p> | <p>Action</p> <p>Fishing from paddle craft to be permitted when access point is established.</p> |
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Improve trail signage and mapping</p> <p><i>Planning and scoping of works will be progressed as a priority.</i></p> | <p>Action</p> <p>Review and improve current signage and mapping, in collaboration with QPWS and BCC.</p> |
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Establish a picnic area</p> <p><i>The timing of works and the funding required are currently being worked through with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</i></p> | <p>Action</p> <p>Potential sites are currently being investigated in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> |

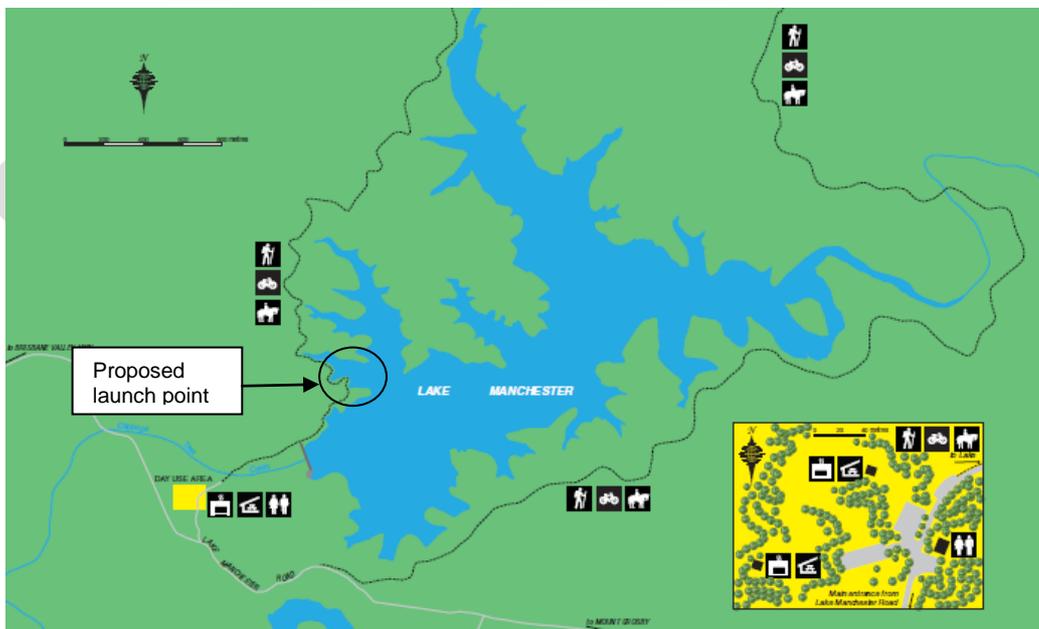
Gold Creek Reservoir

| Outcome | Action |
|---|---|
| <p>Upgrade picnic facilities</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that this will be completed by June 2014.</i></p> | <p>Install basic picnic facilities.</p> |

| Outcome | Action |
|---|--|
| <p>Improve trail signage and mapping</p> <p><i>Planning and scoping of works will be progressed as a priority.</i></p> | <p>Review and improve current signage and mapping, in collaboration with QPWS and BCC.</p> |

Lake Manchester

| Outcome | Action |
|---|---|
| <p>Establish launch point for paddle craft</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that this will be implemented by October 2014</i></p> | <p>Establish launch point.</p> <p>Signage will be upgraded.</p> |



| Outcome | Action |
|---|---|
| Permit fishing on Lake Manchester <i>This will be delivered as part of the establishment of the launch point.</i> | Fishing will be permitted from paddle craft. Shoreline fishing will be permitted at the designated recreation area at the launch point. |

| Outcome | Action |
|--|---|
| Improve trail signage and mapping <i>Planning and scoping of works will be progressed as a priority.</i> | Review and improve current signage and mapping, in collaboration with QPWS and BCC. |

| Outcome | Action |
|---|---|
| Improve trail linkage to avoid use of Lake Manchester Road <i>Planning and scoping of works will be progressed as a priority.</i> | Investigate trail alignment to avoid the use of the road. |

| Outcome | Action |
|--|--|
| Improve picnic area <i>Planning and scoping of works will be progressed as a priority.</i> | Implement cosmetic changes to picnic area. |

In addition to website notices, we will provide regular updates on the progress of these initiatives to key stakeholders and to people who registered interest in these lakes via the Recreation Review website.