

Managing the Scheme

- The Department of Industry (Water) is the owner of the scheme assets.
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment manages the scheme under delegation from the NSW Minister for Water. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment funds 75% of the scheme's annual operating and maintenance costs.
- Hunter Local Land Services contributes 25% of the operating and maintenance costs for the scheme. This money is derived from the Hunter Catchment Contributions Levy under the *Water Management Act 2000*.
- Any development on the floodplain that affects flood mitigation will require consent under section 256 of the *Water Management Act 2000*. If you are planning on developing within the floodplain, please contact your local council to request your s256 consent to develop.

Our Services

In partnership with approved government contractors, Scheme assets are maintained by works such as drain clearing, weed spraying and other reactive and preventative maintenance activities. Soil Conservation Services are our main contractors for maintenance activities.



We Need You

From time to time the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and their respective contractors will need to visit properties with Scheme assets. Scheme infrastructure must be maintained to a high standard to ensure maximum protection for the community. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has a private and secure register for landowners who want to be up to date with current maintenance schedules. This helps us to inform you when we will be accessing the Scheme, and we encourage landowners with Scheme infrastructure on their property to check if their details are up to date by getting in touch with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment staff on the details below.



Contact us

Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Email: Info.hvfms@environment.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4927 3155

In Writing: Locked Bag 1002, Dangar NSW 2309

In Person: Level G 117 Bull St Newcastle West

Photos: Cover and Internal pages, John Spencer/DPIE.
Published by the Environment, Energy and Science Group, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Environment, Energy and Science Group, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124. Phone: 1300 361 967 (environment and national parks enquiries); email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au; website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. ISBN 978-1-922493-33-0; EES 2020/0454 October 2020.



Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme

Fact Sheet



Bolwarra Spillway

The Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme

The Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme (the 'Scheme') is a well-designed and maintained state owned engineering work, which affords significant protection from flooding to community and commercial interests. Valued at more than \$860 million, the Scheme is the largest integrated flood mitigation scheme in New South Wales.

The function of the Scheme is to reduce the potential damage to property by controlling the velocity, direction and depth of floodwaters. The scheme currently consists of:

- 185 km of levees and control banks.
- 3.8 km of spillways.
- 165 km of drainage channels.
- 259 floodgates.
- 36 km bank protection works.

Importantly, the levees and spillways give considerable protection but they are not designed to control major floods. The Scheme consists of 15 areas within the local councils of Newcastle, Port Stephens, Dungog, Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook, and the Upper Hunter.

Response to Flood

The Scheme was engineered in response to the devastating floods in the Hunter valley in February 1955 where 14 people lost their lives and a reported £2 billions (1955 value) of damage was caused. Flooding was widespread and severely impacted rural and urban communities on the entire floodplain from the Upper Hunter to Newcastle. The Scheme was designed using available information and methods contemporary at the time, to protect the townships and agricultural lands on the floodplain as they existed in the 1950s and 1960s.

Since the Scheme was constructed there have been significant flooding events, specifically in the years of 1971, 1977, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015. These floods have shown that the Scheme withstands the varied flood levels experienced in the Hunter Valley. However, this may not be the case in the future. Climate change is set to increase the frequency and intensity of flooding across Australia. Under climate change scenarios, a 1 in 100-year flood event (or other lesser events) may become more frequent. The Office of Environment and Heritage is currently undertaking a review of the Scheme to assess the impact of climate change and effectiveness of Scheme infrastructure.



Data sources: Aerial and shaded relief imagery supplied by © 2014 ESRI. Base cadastral and topographic data supplied by © NSW Department of Finance Services. © Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH); this map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. OEH and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the map and consequences of such acts or omissions. Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Legend

- City
- Town
- Village
- Major Roads
- Rail

HVFM Assets

- Inlet/Pit
- Floodgate
- Spillway
- Levee
- Drain Channel
- Bank Protection Structure