

Engineering Heritage Australia

Enoggera Dam

Brisbane

Queensland



CEREMONY REPORT

On the presentation of a

ENGINEERING HERITAGE MARKER

On 22 October 2025

At Enoggera Dam

Prepared by Allan Churchward
Engineering Heritage Queensland

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1. Introduction

Some 20 invited guests attended a ceremony on 22nd October 2025 at Enoggera Dam, Brisbane to unveil a marker and Interpretation Panel awarding an Engineering Heritage Marker to the Enoggera Dam located along Mt Nebo Road, The Gap, Brisbane.

The ceremony was coordinated by Seqwater, the owner of Enoggera Dam, in collaboration with Engineers Australia Queensland Division. Representatives from these organisations and other invited guests from the community attended.



2. The Invitation and Run Sheet

Invitation from Seqwater



You're Invited: Engineering Heritage Marker Award Ceremony for Enoggera Dam

Seqwater is honoured to have received an Engineering Heritage Marker Award for the Enoggera Dam and Pipeline, recognising its historical and engineering significance through Engineers Australia's Engineering Heritage Recognition Program.

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating this monumental achievement.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 22 October 2025

Time: 12.45pm to 3.00pm

Venue: Walkabout Creek Cafe & Events ([view on Google maps](#))

Dress code: Smart casual - *enclosed flat shoes and a wide-brim hat are strongly advised.*

Event Highlights

- Guests will be transported from Walkabout Creek Café to the Event Lawn for the unveiling of the Engineering Heritage Marker and Interpretation Panel.
- Following the unveiling, guests will have the opportunity to board a bus for a behind-the-scenes tour of Enoggera Dam.
- The event will conclude with light refreshments back at Walkabout Creek Café

Please confirm your attendance and advise of any dietary requirements by **Wednesday 15 October 2025**.

[CONFIRM MY ATTENDANCE](#)

Best wishes

Emma Thomas

Chief Executive Officer

Seqwater

Seqwater acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the waters and surrounding lands on which we live, work and play. We recognise their continued connection to land, water and community; and pay respect to them, their culture and to elders past, present and emerging.



Seqwater's Enoggera Dam Heritage Marker unveiling

Order of Proceedings

12.45pm – 3pm Wednesday 22 October 2025

Walkabout Creek Cafe, Enoggera

Time	Segment	Person
12.45 PM	Guests arrive	Walkabout Creek Cafe
1.00 PM	Bus to signage site	All
1.10 PM	Welcome Acknowledgement of Country Safety	Fiore Zulli
1.15 PM	Acknowledgement of the Heritage Committee and Engineers Australia (2 min)	Andrew Reid, Qld President Engineers Australia
1.17 PM	Engineers Australia Heritage Program (5 min)	Andrew Barnes, Chair Engineering Heritage Qld, Engineers Australia
1.22 PM	Engineers Australia's recognition of Enoggera Dam's historical significance (5 mins).	Paul Coghlan, Member, Engineering Heritage Qld, Engineers Australia
1.27 PM	Engineers Australia + Seqwater –for official unveiling	Darren (GM Qld EA), Andrew and Paul Emma and Fiore
1.30 PM	Seqwater to speak and invite guests for a site tour of Enoggera Dam	Emma Thomas, Seqwater
	Official proceedings over	
1.35 PM	Board mini bus for tour Historical info Q&A	Brian Hester Katie Jones
2.05 PM	Minibus back to Walkabout Creek Cafe	
2.10 PM	Afternoon Tea	
3.00 PM	Guests depart, event ends	

3. Presentations

Talk prepared by Paul Coghlan Wednesday 22nd October, 2025.

ENOGGERA DAM

Enoggera Dam was the second largest dam built in Australia in 1866. The first was the Yan Yean Dam in Victoria.

Brisbane's earliest water supply was a small dam on a creek flowing through the city. It was polluted and inadequate.

Engineer Thomas Oldham who selected the Victorian Dam site recommended constructing a dam on Enoggera Creek in the D'Aguilar Ranges, 11 kilometers from the city from which water could be gravity fed to a service reservoir on Wickham Terrace – the highest point of the city at the time.

The Water Board, a State Government body, engaged Engineer Joseph Brady who worked on the Victorian Dam to design and build the Enoggera Dam. It is a conventional nineteenth century clay filled dam with a puddled clay core to prevent seepage through the dam. Rock protected the outer layer, gravel the inner layer.

342 Metres Long

4½ Metres High

95,600 Cubic Metres of fill

Daily Water supply of 1.1 Million Litres

There was an old gravel bed below the surface. To prevent water seeping through it, the puddled clay core was extended 4 metres below ground level in a dug trench.

Remarkably the dam was built in only eighteen months with pick and shovel hand labour and horse drawn carts.

Three 30 cm diameter cast iron pipes were laid in a rock trench under the dam's north wall, two to supply water to the city, the third to maintain creek flow during construction and later to drain vegetation polluted water from the lower level of water storage.

The first water main to the city was a cast iron pipe 20.3cms for the first 8 kilometres and 22.9cms for the last 3.6 kilometres. It was completed in 1868 to standpipes at Wickham Terrace and later in 1871 to a Wickham Terrace service reservoir.

A feature of the water main was the two tunnels excavated through mountain ridges 171 metres and 337 metres long, large enough to accommodate two water mains and two men working.

In 1976, for flood mitigation the Brisbane City Council raised the dam by 7 metres with rockfill and concrete inner face. It did not increase the dam capacity. It also built a concrete spillway with the unusual feature of two outlets at reservoir level for creek flow and minor floods.

It is of interest that Brady's original plan for a spillway was to be carved out of the mountain at the northern end of the dam. This idea for the spillway was abandoned when the rock proved so hard when

digging the trench for the pipelines. A spillway was provided over the rock face of the dam which always gave trouble in floods.

Its use in the water supply system ceased in 2011. Seqweb Water retains it as an emergency supply.

It is one of the remaining nineteenth century reservoir dams in existence.
A tribute to our early engineers.

4. Media Items

No media or newspaper articles

5. Acknowledgements

Engineers Australia acknowledges the support, contribution, and agreement with Seqwater for recognising the engineering heritage value of Enoggera Dam and for the erection of the Interpretation Panel and Marker.

Engineers Australia wishes to acknowledge the work of Paul Coghlan (of EHQ) who undertook the research and drafted the Proposal, the successful Nomination and the design of the Interpretation Panel and Hinu Komene EA Qld for the organising of the ceremony and liaison with Seqwater.

Engineers Australia also acknowledges the important contribution and support from Seqwater staff for the ceremony.

6. Photographs



Invited guests listen intently to the presentations adjacent to the dam.



Fiore Zulli (Seqwater)
Welcomes guests with
Acknowledgement of Country
and Safety



Andrew Reid, Queensland
President, Engineers Australia
outlined Engineers Australia and
its role in recognizing
engineering heritage.



EHQ Chair Andrew Barnes outlines the Engineering Heritage Recognition Program of Engineers Australia and the importance of such events as the award for Enoggera Dam.



Paul Coghlan outlines the engineering aspects of Enoggera Dam and the challenges in the construction of the dam giving Brisbane its first major water supply in the late 19th century.



Emma Thomas Chief Executive Officer Seqwater outline the important role Enoggera Dam plays in the water supply network and the value in recognising the efforts of past generations in providing such infrastructure.

The



Interpretation Panel and Marker
with L to R

Fiore Zulli
Andrew Barnes
Paul Coghlan
Emma Thomas
Andrew Reid
Darren Beattie



Members of Engineers Australia,
Queensland happy to see the
heritage recognition of Enoggera
Dam.



Emma congratulates Paul on his
work done in recognising the
heritage significance of
Enoggera Dam.



The Coghlan Family

THE END

Change Control

Version 5/12/25 Final