

## **Lake Monduran Advisory Management Committee Newsletter**

March 2011

Any correspondence arising from this newsletter should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Lake Monduran Advisory Management Committee at P O Box 1143 Bundaberg Qld 4670.

**LMAMC Mission Statement:** To provide Bundaberg Regional Council and Fisheries Queensland with timely, pertinent and informed management advice on matters that will enhance the sustainable use and growth of Lake Monduran and its regional businesses.

### **LMAMC Terms of Reference:**

1. To provide a forum for discussion on matters relevant to the sustainable management of Lake Monduran's resources and associated activities. This includes, but not limited to, the ecological, social and economic use of this popular national tourist destination.
2. To keep informed of relevant local Bundaberg Regional Council and Fisheries Queensland issues and local community views and concerns.
3. To provide a channel of communication between users of Lake Monduran, management agencies and interest groups to work towards identifying and resolving issues at a local level. Such issues may include, but not restricted to, industry development, future planning, operational issues, tourism, fisheries resource management and enforcement.
4. To provide an equitable forum in which to allow all committee members to express the views and opinions of their representative groups. The LMAMC is a forum for open discussion, sharing innovative and best practice ideas, respect each members points of view and members will not discuss the proceedings /outcomes of any meetings with the media or parties that have a vested interest in the potential outcomes.
5. Any media releases will be via the Chair of the LMAMC or through Bundaberg Regional Council or Fisheries Queensland.
6. LMAMC recommendations will assist Bundaberg Regional Council and Fisheries Queensland in developing policies and strategies for the sustainable augmentation of Lake Monduran and its associated resources.

### **Topics Raised and Management Advice Received:**

**LMAMC Secretary contacted and invited the regional Manager for Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to the next LMAMC meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011.**

- MSQ is currently amending it's **no boating areas** legislation to reflect where SunWater and other dam owners have placed their buoys in front of the dam walls and spillways. These **no go areas** will apply to all freshwater impoundments throughout Queensland. The SunWater LMAMC representative also stated that SunWater had signage in place that also prohibited anglers from fishing on and around

their dam walls, spillways or any other parts of their infrastructure, as these are extremely dangerous places and should be avoided.

- Speed reduction areas in impoundments are primarily focused on safety issues and before any new areas can be introduced, applicants need to justify their requests to MSQ which is then followed by a consultation process.
- There is a 6 knot maximum speed limit within a 30 metre radius of any people swimming, boat ramps, anchored or stationary vessels including house boats and kayaks.
- There is a 40 knot maximum speed limit permitted on freshwater impoundments in Queensland.
- Fishing charter guides must have current MSQ commercial qualifications and boat survey requirements before they can legally operate on freshwater impoundments.
- LMAMC members discussed a current safety concern about kayaks and canoes not displaying any lighting on their vessel while fishing and travelling around the dam after dark. Under current legislation, kayaks/canoes are not required to display navigation or anchor lights while on the water after dark.

**LMAMC Secretary contacted and invited Dept Environment and Resource Management Ranger to the next LMAMC meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011.**

- The Monduran National Park is approx 7,500 hectares in area and currently allows (via permit) commercial timber extraction, apiary activities and trail rides.
- The Monduran National Park also has some operational issues caused by unauthorized persons carrying out activities that are not permitted in National Parks. These unauthorized activities include: hunting by vehicle and boats, camping and lighting fires, destruction of iconic bird habitats and four wheel drive impacting on sensitive ecosystems.
- Qld Parks and Wildlife Ranger provided contacts for reporting unauthorized activities in Monduran National Park and activities that damage or hurt protected native fauna and flora. These contacts are Bruce Thompson (Officer in Charge) 0741 519513 or 0427 136 859 or State-wide wildlife Hotline 1300368326.
- LMAMC Committee members and Invited Guests received advice about lease rights with SunWater in relation to trespassing by hunters and fishers camping on SunWater leasehold land. The regional manager of SunWater told LMAMC members that under SunWater's lease conditions, property owners have the legal authority to evict those trespassers from their leasehold property or they may wish to involve the police to assist them with the eviction off their properties. SunWater's leases with adjacent property owners around the Lake Monduran, covers the area of land between full supply and low supply levels. The property owners have control over the leased areas. **No one should access these areas of Lake Monduran unless you have prior permission from the appropriate land owner and or SunWater leasee.**

- These trespassers leave their rubbish behind at their camp sites, they have caused fires on surrounding land, set their tents on fire and they pose a real public insurance risk issue to the property owners and lease holders.

**LMAMC members received advice from SunWater , Maritime Safety Queensland and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (DEEDI) about Event Notification Processes that have previously been required and still are required.**

- Until further notice, all fishing competitions and other organized aquatic events held on Lake Monduran need to register and forward a photocopy of their insurance coverage to the SunWater office in Bundaberg.
- Any upcoming racing or skiing events organized for Lake Monduran, the organizers are required to also apply to Maritime Safety Queensland for an Aquatic Event Permit before the event can proceed.
- Qld Boating and Fisheries Patrol stated that all anglers fishing Lake Monduran need to have a current Stocked Impoundment Permit prior to any fishing activities on the dam.

**Discussion on potential impacts from overtopping and loss of barramundi from Lake Monduran.**

- LMAMC Fisheries Queensland representative gave a brief summary of some preliminary results obtained from research work being undertaken in the Cairns region by Fisheries Queensland staff. The preliminary results about dams over-topping and stocked fish losses indicates that mostly fish in the half of the impoundment closest to the dam wall seem to migrate with the flood waters. Not all fish want to migrate downstream and fish found in the top section of the impoundment often show little sign of wanting to move downstream in subsequent over-toppings. Gulf strain barramundi appear to be more prone to moving downstream when dams are over-topping. Most barramundi that do migrate are usually between 50 cm and 1+ metres.