



## Gladstone Area Water Board

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Lake Awoonga to open in time for Easter

Seventy truckloads of debris later and the Lake Awoonga Recreational areas are open to the public just in time for the Easter long weekend.

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) this afternoon announced that the Lake Awoonga Recreational Areas and Boynedale Bush Camp would both reopen on Thursday 13 April, but advised visitors to be very aware of floating and submerged hazards.

GAWB Operations and Maintenance Manager, Ms Sarah Lunau, said it was a fantastic outcome to be open in time for Easter.

“We know how important Lake Awoonga is to our community; unfortunately, we’ve been closed for most of the school holidays but our crews have worked tirelessly to open in time for Easter,” Ms Lunau said.

“We’ve removed some 70 truckloads of organic debris, logs, bark and water weeds from the water’s edge and visible floating hazards from the swimming areas, but visitors need to be aware that there are still floating and submerged hazards and snags in the water and will be for some time.

“We’re not prohibiting swimming or water activities, but do advise caution is required and that visitors carefully consider the risks before undertaking any water activities; the water is not as clear as it usually is.

“Some parts of the recreational area will still be cordoned off and we ask visitors to abide by any signage”.

During the ex-tropical cyclone rain event in late March, inflows to Lake Awoonga were in the vicinity of 5,000 cubic meters per second, which saw tonnes of organic debris washed down through the Boyne Valley and into the lake.

Awoonga Dam reach 2m over the spillway, leaving the Lake Awoonga Boat Hire, toilet block, playground and some car parks under water.

When the water receded and the debris was removed, the focus moved to cleaning away the mud that was left behind, reconnecting services like power and sewage and undertaking safety assessments.

Awoonga Dam is currently spilling by approximately 25cm and it will be several weeks until it recedes to the 40m dam wall height.

Ends.

**For more information, please contact:**

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