

GORDON DAM

NATIONAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

Location: On the Gordon River in south-west Tasmania beyond Strathgordon.

Owner: Hydro Tasmania

The plaques are located on the dam parapet.

The dam

The deep narrow gorge was ideally suited to an arch dam.

Using the Commission's arch dam stress analysis program, Hydro engineers progressively refined the shape until it met all the structural requirements with a minimum volume of concrete.

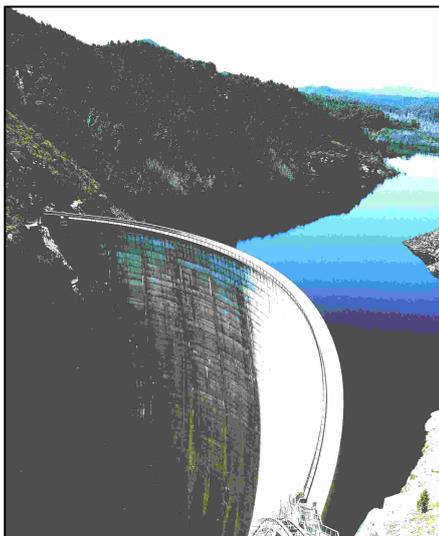
The dam is a spectacular and popular tourist destination.

Engineers

The dam has a direct association with an eminent dam building authority. The principal design engineer Sergio Giudici reported to Mike Fitzpatrick, Bill Mitchell and John Wilkins. The dam construction engineer was Alan Varty reporting to Ted Hofto and Guy Ward.

Access

The dam site is in a very remote location. Site investigations for the dam were carried out using Bombardier and helicopter access until the 80 km long Gordon River Road was completed.



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Completed in 1974 this 140 m high concrete arch dam was built by the Hydro-Electric Commission. It is the highest arch dam and Lake Gordon is the largest storage in Australia (12.4 million ML). The use of double-curvature enabled the dam's concrete volume, and therefore the cost, to be significantly reduced. The dam and power station are associated with the construction of the first road into south-west Tasmania, and with the controversy over the flooding of Lake Pedder.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia 2001

Heritage Dams Project

Gordon Dam is one of the 25 dams selected in a national survey to find those with the highest heritage values.

Gordon Power Development

The headwaters of the Huon and Serpentine rivers are captured in Lake Pedder and diverted into Lake Gordon via McPartlans Pass Canal.

The Gordon Power Station is located underground below the lake and discharges back into the river via a 3 km long tailrace tunnel. The station contains three 150 MW Francis turbines with space for two more. Twin transmission lines carry the output to Hobart and the State grid.

The scheme is a major component of the State's electricity generating system.