

SCOTTS PEAK DAM

Location: At the southern end of Lake Pedder in the South West.

Owner: Hydro Tasmania.

Plaque location to be advised.

The dam

Scotts Peak Dam is 43 m high and 1067 m long. It spans the main Huon River valley and two adjacent saddles. Its 4 m high concrete crest wall is designed to withstand attack by large waves.

Engineers

The dam was designed and constructed by the Hydro-Electric Commission except for the bituminous concrete face which was done under contract.

The principal designer was Bruce Cole reporting to Jack Fidler, Bill Mitchell and John Wilkins. Construction was carried out under Gordon Gregory and Maurice Rimes reporting to Ted Hofto and Guy Ward.

Gordon River Power Development

The water from Lake Pedder flows through McParlans Pass Canal to Lake Gordon. The underground power station contains three 150 MW turbines.

Heritage Dams Project

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



Scotts Peak Dam and Lake Pedder

HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

Scotts Peak Dam

Completed in 1973, this dam diverts the flow in the upper Huon River to the Gordon Power Station for power generation. The rockfill dam has an upstream face of bituminous concrete. One of only two such dams in Australia, its large storage (Lake Pedder) provides valuable security against power system failure during protracted dry periods. The campaign to save the original Lake Pedder from flooding remains a landmark in Australian conservation history.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia 2001

South West Tasmania

The Scotts Peak Road provides excellent access for bushwalkers exploring the south west wilderness.

World Heritage Convention

Scotts Peak Dam is one of three dams which together formed the new Lake Pedder. The flooding of the existing small natural lake was keenly opposed by the fledgling conservation movement. There were both state and federal committees of inquiry. The State Government decided to proceed.

After construction the Commonwealth Government ratified the World Heritage Convention, and used its powers to stop construction of the Lower Gordon Power Development in 1983.