

Tamar Lake would reduce the damaging flood effects on the wet side of the Launceston levee.

The recent one in forty year flood event in Launceston demonstrated the effectiveness of the recently completed flood levee system in almost eliminating any damage on the dry side of the levee.

However, commercial and residential premises on the wet side of the levee were not so fortunate, suffering both physical damage and loss of trade.

Some of those affected include Hallams Restaurant, Tamar River Cruises, Seaport Fish Restaurant, Tamar Rowing Club, and the residents of the low lying Newstead/Hobblers bridge area. The Boardwalk and Royal Park flats were also covered.

The flood level in Launceston is exacerbated by the simultaneous flow of flood waters down the North and South Esk Rivers, and the pressure upstream back into Launceston from the incoming tidal flows from the estuary.

Flood modelling done for the Tamar Lake project by BMT WBM shows that the damaging effects of floods on the wet side of the levee may be significantly reduced by reducing the level of the lake to mid tide level prior to the arrival of the flood waters down the Esk Rivers and by the blocking of any incoming tidal effects by the barrage gates located at the South end of Long Reach.

With the ability to lower the level of the lake to mid tide level within 4 hours of the next ebb tide, not only is there no incoming tidal flows, but the lake provides a 45,000 ML buffer against the flood flows before normal high tide level is reached.

Robin Frith

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