

Meander Resource Management Group

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Meander Community welcome Meander Dam & Huntsman Lake Official Opening.

Today's official opening of the Meander Dam and Huntsman Lake by the Premier is a very special day for Meander Resource Management Group (MRMG) members. It is the final step in a very long journey of unrelenting support and encouragement to now arrive at this point in time for this vitally important investment.

The possibility of the Meander Dam project becoming a reality has always been a long term goal of MRMG. Members saw the enormous benefits that now flow from the Coal River Valleys Craighourne Dam and wanted to have the same benefits flow throughout the Meander Valley.

The official naming of Huntsman Lake for the body of water created by the dam is also highly valued by the local community. It was MRMG that first proposed the name and provided the case for its official acceptance.

"This is a great day for our community in finally seeing the Meander Dam and Huntsman Lake, reach this important stage, we have reached our Everest, and having the Premier officiate just adds to the valued importance of the day for us all", Rodney Stagg president Meander Resource Management Group said today.

"The Meander Dam is going to provide great social, economic and environmental benefits not just for our local farming community, but the benefits will be felt way beyond our local district. Having secured water resources is so important today, it is money in the bank."

"Our community is also highly delighted with the official acceptance of the name Huntsman Lake. It is a great tribute to the Payne family who developed and farmed the land that is now home to the body of water created by the dam. Lou and Jenny Payne's farm was always known as "the farm up the Huntsman". Jenny is very proud of the naming but along with Jenny our only disappointment is Lou Payne (who passed away in 2004) will not be with us to celebrate this great day, one he worked so hard to achieve."

"The other socially important reason behind the choice of the name Huntsman Lake is it will cover the old Huntsman saw mill site that generated employment and wealth for the Meander community for the best part of 50 years till its close in 1964."

"The Huntsman region has always been a valued provider of wood and timber to our local community and will continue to be in the future, now with the added benefit of providing a secure water resource."

"The Huntsman has always been a vital part of the social fabric that ties our Meander community together and we are very proud that its importance will now continue for all time with today's opening." Mr Stagg concluded.

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