



What's happening at Watermill Dam?

As you drive down to Kingston this weekend you may notice the activity at Watermill Dam. With the onset of the hot weather, many complaints have been received about the unpleasant smell coming from the dam and the dark colour of the water as a result of too much organic matter. So, the dam and surrounds are undergoing a much-needed cleanup, with the removal of as much of the water hyacinth weed as possible and some clearing of the drainage lines entering the dam. This is long overdue.

Over the past few weeks, water levels have been lowered to allow machinery access to the upper side of the dam. On Tuesday, a small excavator began the clean out operation that will hopefully be completed over the next few weeks. The material taken out of the dam will be allowed to dry out and then be placed in the adjacent fenced area, to be used at a later date for regeneration of the Reserve.

Watermill Dam has not had any maintenance in at least two years and as a result, water quality and the area's aesthetic values are being affected. Under the Plan of Management for Kingston Common Reserve, the Dam represents an important silt trap for waters entering Emily Bay and is to be maintained on a regular basis.

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