

Cotter Dam Discovery Trail



Precast boardwalk specified for durability and low maintenance

A concrete boardwalk manufactured by Rocla has provided a durable and attractive solution for a steeply graded section of a discovery trail at a new dam project in the ACT.

The Cotter Dam is being increased in capacity to secure the ACT's water supply. A new dam downstream of the existing one will increase the Cotter reservoir capacity from 4 gigalitres to around 78 gigalitres, almost 20 times its current size. ACTEW Corporation, working with ActewAGL, formed the Bulk Water Alliance with GHD, Abigroup and John Holland to design and construct the enlarged dam, as well as other water infrastructure projects to secure future water supplies and address drought, climate change and climate variability.

Precast Manufacturer

Rocla

Project Owner

Bulk Water Alliance (GHD, Abigroup, John Holland, ACTEW Corporation, ACTEW AGL)

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Following community feedback, a discovery trail was designed and installed to allow access by the public to get a better and safer viewing location of the construction process at the new dam wall. The boardwalk system was used to connect the elevated viewing platform to the river trail below via gently graded accessible sections, with stepped ‘short cuts’.

“The platform is situated approximately 350 meters southeast of the new dam, so visitors are close enough to see construction teams working on the eighty meter high dam wall,” ACTEW Managing Director, Mark Sullivan said. “It’s not often that a dam of this scale and size is built, particularly in such a picturesque setting so close to a major city.”

Around 400 metres of boardwalk connects the walkway track beside the river up to a viewing platform, then down a steep gully on the other side to rejoin the access track. The boardwalk is supported on precast stumps and 375mm diameter steel-reinforced concrete pipes, both also manufactured by Rocla, with galvanised handrails and wheelchair rails. The system was specified by the Bulk Water Alliance landscape architect for its durability and low maintenance.

The 2m wide walking trail and 16m wide viewing platform allow the public to enjoy the Cotter River environment and watch construction of the dam wall.