

Hanna, Leanne

From: Jim Pruse
 Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2011 7:41 AM
 To: Barton Maher
 Subject: RE: Modelling of 75% in Wivenhoe with the releases of up to 400m³/s between EL64 and EL67

Hi Leanne

Ok, My apologies once again for the reactive nature of all this. We are also speaking to terry about trying to link the outputs of your models to the Brisbane river models. I have asked them to talk to you for your input and help but not to lead this project.

From: Barton Maher
 Sent: Wednesday, 16 February 2011 12:56 PM
 To: Jim Pruse
 Subject: Modelling of 75% in Wivenhoe with the releases of up to 400m³/s between EL64 and EL67

Hi Jim

Results are provided

Flood Event Event description	Option 0 - Existing Rules (Storage Level 100%)		Storage Level 75% (Option 3)		Storage Level 75% (Option 3 plus release below EL67)**		Storage Level 50%			
	Maximum Inflow	Flood Volume	Maximum Outflow	Maximum Lake Level	Maximum Outflow	Flow Reduction	Maximum Outflow	Flow Reduction	Maximum Outflow	Flow Reduction
	(m ³ /s)	(ML)	(m ³ /s)	(m AHD)	(m ³ /s)	%	(m ³ /s)	%	(m ³ /s)	%
36 hours 1 in 200 design*	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.43	2,356	39%	1,935	50%	1,134	71%
36 hours 1 in 500 design	10,455	1,624,119	5,125	72.22	3,693	28%	2,417	53%	2,213	57%
36 hours 1 in 1000 design	12,031	1,772,752	6,049	72.8	4,705	22%	4,479	26%	3,329	45%
48 hours 1 in 5000 design	14,278	2,562,553	9,083	74.71	8,339	8%	8,204	10%	7,397	19%
72 hours 1 in 5000 design	13,181	2,880,602	8,204	74.16	7,689	6%	7,599	7%	7,071	14%
96 hours 1 in 5000 design	11,870	2,948,032	7,550	73.75	7,017	7%	6,906	9%	6,404	15%
120 hours 1 in 5000 design	12,727	3,005,136	7,265	73.57	6,702	8%	6,628	9%	6,360	12%
January 2011 historic	10,470	2,650,000	7,528	74.98	5,748	24%	4,810	36%	4,209	44%

310137011

Unknown

From: Jim Pruss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 February 2011 10:57 AM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: another modelling run

Barton

Peter wants another model run, additional to the scenarios we have done ie. We have done (1) 75/100, (2) 75/75 (3) 75/whatever our draw down number is 430cumecs if we keep that going all the way back to 100% regardless of inflows? Wants to see what if any difference that makes. Ie. Not go let it go back to 100% in the early part of a flood event but just keep releasing at 430 and then kick manual in at appropriate level. Not sure how this is really different to what we have already done as we would be releasing at 430 either until we get to 75, while we were getting inflow between 75 and 100 either going up or down. We just haven't modelled the scenario I don't think

Can you have a look please or call if that doesn't make sense

Jim Pruss
Executive General Manager, Water Delivery
QID Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as SeqWater



[REDACTED]
Level 4 240 Margaret Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000 Australia
PO Box 16146, City East QLD 4002
Website | www.seqwater.com.au



Unknown

From: Jim Pruss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2011 5:56 PM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: Re: Time required to get to 75%

Thanks barton

Got it

From: Barton Maher
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 05:52 PM
To: Jim Pruss
Subject: Time required to get to 75%

Hi Jim,

Assuming we have no inflows to the dam and no flows downstream of the dam, the time to draw down the storage to 75% would be at least 8 days.

Burton's Bridge Flow Rate	
m3/s	ML/day
430	37,152

Volume to release to get to 75%
288,706

Time	Time (days)	Release	Total Volume Released (ML)	Volume Remaining (ML)
0 - 12 hours	0.5	14,860.80	14,860.80	273,845.20
24 hours	1	37,152	52,013	236,693.20
48 hours	1	37,152	89,165	199,541.20
72 hours	1	37,152	126,317	162,389.20
96 hours	1	37,152	163,469	125,237.20
120 hours	1	37,152	200,621	88,085.20
144 hours	1	37,152	237,773	50,933.20
168 hours	1	37,152	274,925	13,781.20
12 hours	0.5	14860.8	289,786	-
Total	8 days			

Ramp up over 12 hours giv

Realistically more like 9 to 10 days

Regards,
 Barton Maher
 Principal Engineer, Operations
 QLD Bulk Water Supply Authority

From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 3:36 PM
To: Barton Maher; Jim Pruss
Subject: RE: Impact Revised FSL - v3 .docx
Attachments: Impact Revised FSL - v3a .docx

Hi,

If not too late, I have include some additional linking text to provide results for all options considered, and have provided a simpler table. I am nervous about the level of detail and suggest that we should keep to as high a level as possible.

You probably do not need both the table and the figure, so one could be deleted – my preference would be to retain the figure as it is more imprecise and smooths out the effect of the differences due to specific design storm assumptions.

Happy to discuss,

Rory



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From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 4:05 PM
To: Jim Pruss
Cc: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Subject: Impact Revised FSL - v3 .docx

Hi Jim,

Please find attached a simple report and graph with the table as requested.

Regards,
Barton

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Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges

1 Introduction

This **note** provides a summary of a preliminary assessment into the impact of reducing the initial storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on the downstream discharges for major flood events. Information is provided on the impacts of reducing the Wivenhoe Dam initial storage level to 95%, 90%, 75% and 50% of the normal full supply level.

It should be stressed that the information presented here is based on approximate analyses to help inform discussion. More accurate estimates would require a detailed investigation and analysis of the whole river system utilising multiple flood events and a combination of hydrologic, hydraulic, and routing models. This review should thus be seen as providing an order of magnitude assessment of impacts and the results should not be utilised beyond that purpose.

2 Methodology

The analysis was undertaken using a computer model to simulate the gate opening sequence as provided in the Flood Manual during a “loss of communications” situation. During a loss of communications between the dam operators and the Flood Control Centre, operators would use predefined gate openings based solely on the Lake Level information available to them at the dams. It should be noted that in practice gate operations would normally seek to take advantage of additional information related to rainfall forecasts and tributary flows to ensure that flood peaks are reduced as far as possible without causing coincident flooding with downstream tributaries. Thus, while using the “loss of communications” flood operation rules provides a consistent means of comparing the efficacy of different mitigation options, the actual degree of flood reduction achievable is dependent on the characteristics of the specific event.

Flood inflows to the model were derived from an analysis of past historic events (1974, 1999, and 2011), in combination with “design hydrographs” developed previously for design and planning purposes (Wivenhoe Alliance, 2005¹). These “design hydrographs” are obtained from models of both the rainfall and flood generation process, whereby floods of a given magnitude are assigned a specified probability of exceedance (eg a “1 in 200” event).

¹Wivenhoe Alliance, “Design Discharges and Downstream Impacts of the Wivenhoe Dam Upgrade”, 08/09/1 September 2009.

3 Options Considered

Five options are explored in this paper, as summarised in the table below.

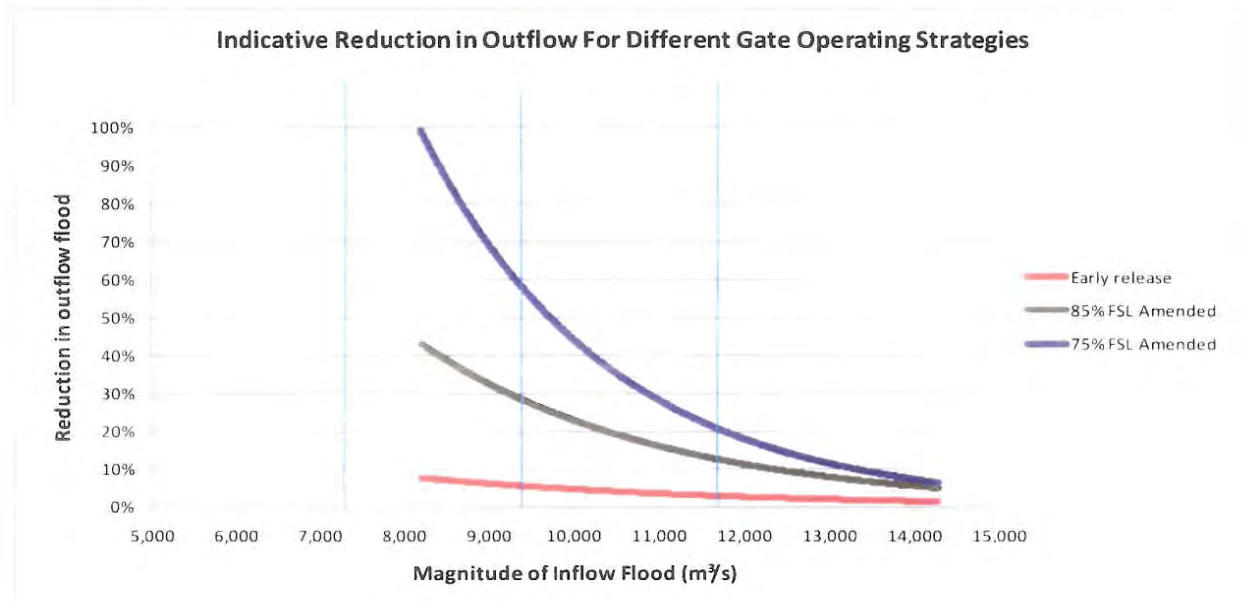
There are five options considered going forward.

Option	Description	Comments
0 "Do nothing"	Continue with the current approved flood operation rules – that is, maintain the status quo and continue to utilise the dam as originally designed.	This option has the least risks associated with it as the Strategies have been implemented and refined over several flood events and the manual was developed by a comprehensive study.
1 "Early release"	Change the flood operating rules to ignore the early strategies designed to minimise disruption to the rural communities	Increase the release from the dam up to 1600 m ³ /s as soon as practicable after gate operations commence; it is assumed that no attempt would be made to maintain bridge access downstream of the dam other than Mt Crosby Weir Bridge and the Brisbane Valley Highway Bridge.
2 "Pre-release"	Implementing a significant release of water once the notification of a major rainfall event has been received.	At present accurate Bureau of Meteorology forecasts are such that they do not allow the reservoir to be drawn down in a timely manner without causing appreciable "artificial" flooding downstream.
3 "75% FSL"	Lower the storage level in Wivenhoe Dam to 75% of the current full supply level, and operate the dam under the current operating rules.	To safely lower the storage it is proposed that this option would be implemented by "Sunny Day" releases at a rate low enough to minimise disruption to the rural areas. This would be difficult to implement during a wet year where the risk of major flooding is greater. Once the storage level reached EL67 gate operations would commence as per the current flood manual.
4 "85% FSL amended"	Lower the storage level in Wivenhoe Dam to 85% of the current full supply level and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL65.5	The amended flood operating rules would retain the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.
5 "75% FSL amended"	Lower the storage level in Wivenhoe Dam to 75% of the current full supply level and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL65.5	Same comment as for Option 4.

4 Results

Analysis of the 1974 and 2011 historic events under Option 3, namely lowering the storage level in Wivenhoe Dam to 75% of the current full supply level and operating the dam under the current operating rules, achieve reductions in the magnitude of the outflow flood of 3.3% and 15%, respectively. Analysis of the rates at which the reservoir can be safely drawn down within a 2 to 3 day period indicate that the benefits are substantially less than that achievable with temporarily reducing the storage level down to 75% (Option 2).

Given the reasonably modest reductions achievable with Options 2 and 3, attention was focused on exploring the benefits of the other options. The results for these are illustrated in the figure below, and selected results are summarised in the following table.



Event description	Maximum Inflow (m³/s)	Maximum outflow under current operating rules (Option 0) (m³/s)	Flow Reduction under Option 1	Flow Reduction for Option 4	Flow Reduction for Option 5
36 hour 1 in 200 design	8,210	3,860	6%	32%	49%
36 hours 1 in 500 design	10,460	5,130	4%	21%	33%
36 hours 1 in 1000 design	12,030	6,050	3%	17%	26%
48 hours 1 in 5000 design	14,280	9,080	1%	6%	10%
January 2011 historic	10,480	7,530	1%	24%	40%
1974 historic	5,950	3,280	4%	16%	24%
1999 historic	6,360	2,310	3%	22%	32%

5 Conclusions

Reductions in outflow flood can be achieved by the adoption of different storage levels and release strategies. However, due to the large volumes of water associated with major flood events, it is necessary to consider large changes to the full supply level to achieve appreciable reductions in flood magnitude. The impact of different initial storage levels reduces as the magnitude of the event increases.

From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 2:51 PM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: some draft text
Attachments: Impact Revised FSL - v3 .docx



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Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges

1 Introduction

This memo provides a summary of a preliminary assessment into the impact of reducing the initial storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on the downstream discharges for major flood events. Information is provided on the impacts of reducing the Wivenhoe Dam initial storage level to 95%, 90%, 75% and 50% of the normal full supply level.

It should be stressed that the information presented here is based on approximate analyses to help inform discussion. More accurate estimates would require a detailed investigation and analysis of the whole river system utilising multiple flood events and a combination of hydrologic, hydraulic, and routing models. This review should thus be seen as providing an order of magnitude assessment of impacts and the results should not be utilised beyond that purpose.

2 Methodology

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3 Options Considered

Five options are explored in this paper, as summarised in the following table:

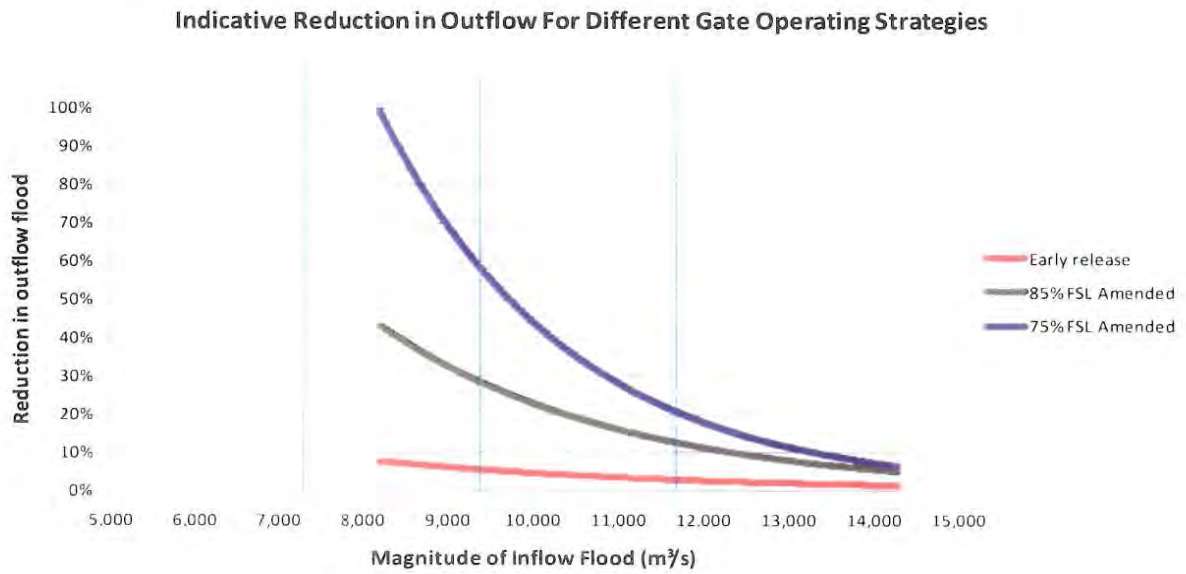
There are five options considered going forward.

Option	Description	Comments
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4 Results

The results of this analysis is summarised in the following plot.

Further text here ...



5 Conclusions

Reductions in outflow flood can be achieved by the adoption of different storage levels and release strategies. However, due to the large volumes of water associated with major flood events, it is necessary to consider large changes to the full supply level to achieve appreciable reductions in flood magnitude. The impact of different initial storage levels reduces as the magnitude of the event increases.

From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 1:55 PM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: see yellow highlighted cells in summary tab
Attachments: Flood peak assessment.xlsx



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Year	inflow	Outflow
2011	1,410,000	1,410,000
2012	1,080,000	470,000
2013	690,000	660,000
2014	870,000	820,000
2015	1,120,000	900,000
2016	35,000	0
2017	190,000	0
2018	630,000	630,000
2019	360,000	330,000
2020	500,000	460,000
2021	550,000	2,650,000

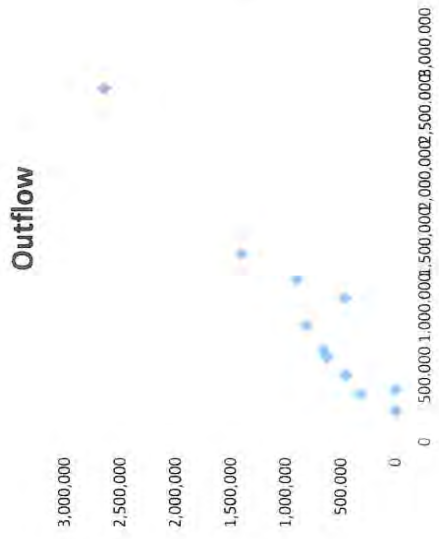
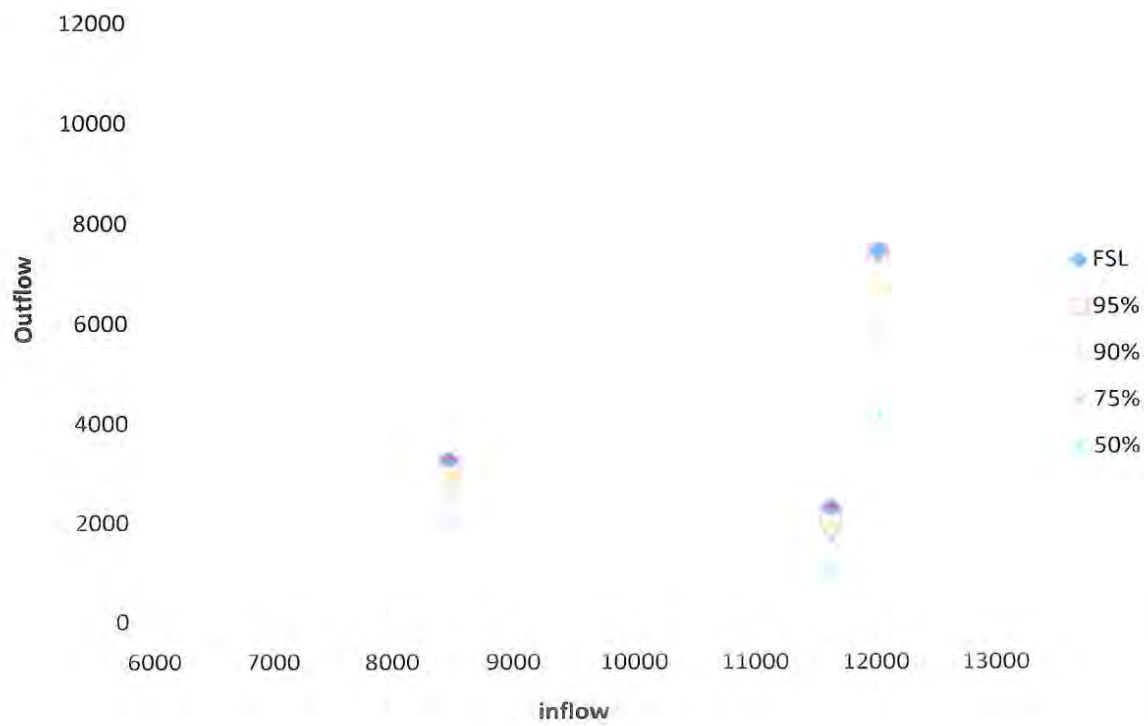


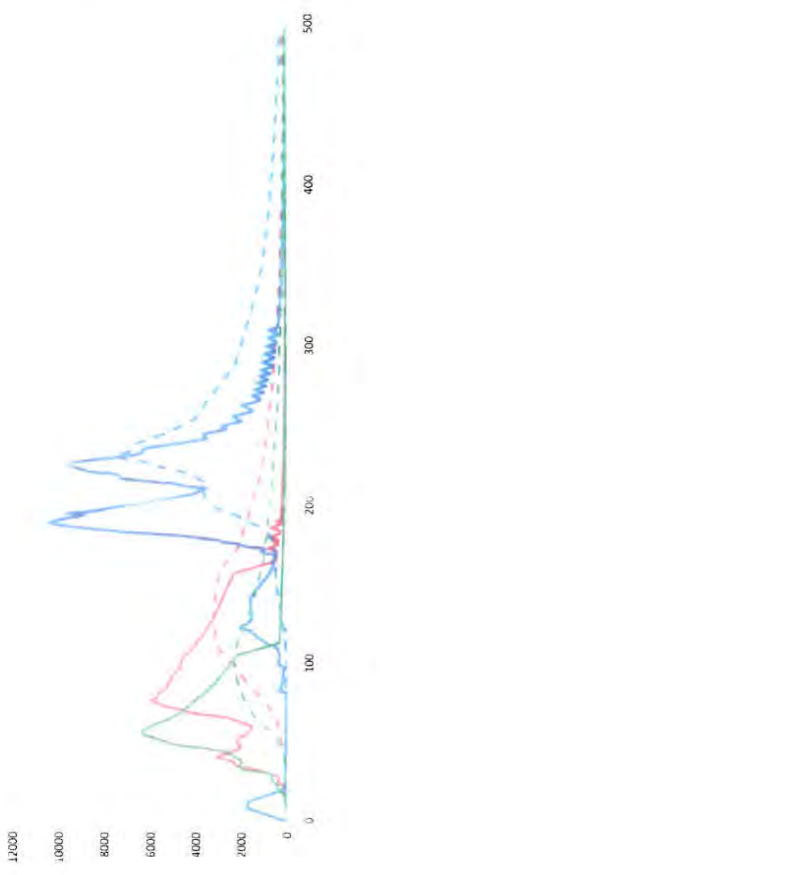
Table 2

historic events

Year	Inflow	outflows				
		FSL	95%	90%	75%	50%
1974	8482	3275	3,153	2,974	2,618	2,067
1999	11641	2312	2,132	2,003	1,687	1,007
2011	12045	7468	7,453	6,756	5,748	4,209



Area	Year	1999 event	2011 event	1999 event
		11 Inflow	11 Outflow	99 Inflow
1	1	0.00	150.0	0.0
1	2	0.00	346.9	0.0
1	3	0.00	543.8	0.0
1	4	0.00	740.6	0.0
1	5	0.00	937.0	0.0
1	6	0.00	1132.7	0.0
1	7	0.00	1327.7	0.0
1	8	0.00	1521.7	0.0
1	9	0.00	1714.4	0.0
1	10	0.00	1706.8	0.0
1	11	0.00	1695.2	0.0
1	12	0.00	1691.7	0.0
1	13	0.00	1684.2	0.0
1	14	0.00	1480.1	0.0
1	15	0.00	1277.6	0.0
1	16	0.00	1076.5	0.0
1	17	0.00	876.6	0.0
1	18	0.00	677.8	0.0
1	19	0.00	479.7	0.0
1	20	0.00	282.2	0.0
1	21	0.00	85.0	0.0
1	22	0.00	82.6	0.0
1	23	0.00	80.3	0.0
1	24	0.00	78.1	0.0
1	25	0.00	75.9	0.0
1	26	0.00	73.7	0.0
1	27	0.00	71.7	0.0
1	28	0.00	69.7	0.0
1	29	0.00	67.7	0.0
1	30	0.00	65.8	0.0
1	31	0.00	64.0	0.0
1	32	0.00	62.4	0.0
1	33	0.00	61.0	0.0
1	34	0.00	59.3	0.0
1	35	0.00	57.7	0.0
1	36	0.00	56.2	0.0
1	37	0.00	55.0	0.0
1	38	0.00	50.29	0.0
1	39	0.00	50.47	0.0
1	40	0.00	50.67	0.0
1	41	0.00	50.81	0.0
1	42	0.00	50.94	0.0
1	43	0.00	51.06	0.0
1	44	0.00	51.17	0.0
1	45	0.00	51.27	0.0
1	46	0.00	51.36	0.0
1	47	0.00	51.44	0.0
1	48	0.00	51.51	0.0
1	49	0.00	51.57	0.0
1	50	0.00	51.62	0.0
1	51	0.00	51.66	0.0
1	52	0.00	51.69	0.0
1	53	0.00	51.71	0.0
1	54	0.00	51.72	0.0
1	55	0.00	51.73	0.0
1	56	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	57	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	58	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	59	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	60	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	61	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	62	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	63	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	64	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	65	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	66	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	67	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	68	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	69	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	70	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	71	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	72	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	73	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	74	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	75	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	76	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	77	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	78	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	79	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	80	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	81	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	82	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	83	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	84	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	85	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	86	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	87	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	88	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	89	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	90	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	91	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	92	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	93	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	94	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	95	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	96	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	97	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	98	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	99	0.00	51.74	0.0
1	100	0.00	51.74	0.0



61	2137	416.82	29.4	0.0	5420	1189
64	2352	473.60	28.5	0.0	5251	1252
65	2618	474.76	27.6	0.0	5094	1313
66	3027	524.69	26.8	0.0	4953	1374
67	3618	526.52	26.0	0.0	4830	1431
68	4235	583.41	25.2	0.0	4722	1494
69	4407	586.15	24.5	0.0	4627	1498
70	4515	644.12	23.8	0.0	4540	1561
71	4901	702.50	23.1	0.0	4458	1622
74	5301	761.63	22.4	0.0	4376	1684
75	5516	821.34	21.7	0.0	4293	1688
76	5664	881.71	21.1	0.0	4210	1749
78	6171	943.08	20.5	0.0	4128	1810
80	6953	948.21	19.9	0.0	4045	1814
81	6840	1010.40	19.3	0.0	3961	1873
86	5719	1126.20	18.7	0.0	3879	1877
79	5701	1190.94	18.3	0.0	3796	1937
80	5667	1254.03	19.3	0.0	3715	1940
81	5986	1315.75	22.3	0.0	3635	2000
82	5467	1377.73	23.6	0.0	3556	2003
83	5380	1493.28	385.1	0.0	3478	2064
84	5312	1556.77	24.1	0.0	3403	2066
85	4244	1619.49	22.0	0.0	3329	2069
86	5236	1625.09	198.9	0.0	3258	2127
87	5220	1686.15	18.7	0.0	3188	2129
88	5179	1750.39	179.8	0.0	3121	2131
89	6102	1812.77	173.3	0.0	3057	2189
90	5069	1874.21	173.0	0.0	2996	2190
91	5037	1935.81	163.4	0.0	2935	2192
92	5026	1998.65	157.1	0.0	2876	2193
93	4989	2004.05	151.0	0.0	2817	2195
94	4895	2067.02	145.2	0.0	2759	2196
95	4797	2127.87	139.9	0.0	2701	2251
96	4724	2186.72	135.1	0.0	2645	2252
97	4681	2193.52	131.2	0.0	2589	2253
98	4680	2252.59	209.5	0.0	2535	2254
99	4653	2314.68	327.5	0.0	2483	2254
100	4630	2376.81	350.0	0.0	2432	2312
101	4638	2492.62	354.9	0.0	2383	2312
102	4618	2553.88	322.4	0.0	2335	2312
103	4614	2615.20	311.9	0.0	2290	2312
104	4554	2675.52	310.1	0.0	2246	2312
105	4456	2679.68	310.0	51.3	2204	2312
106	4376	2739.76	317.7	51.3	1948	2312
107	4301	2854.18	335.7	51.3	1698	2254
108	4231	2968.46	367.5	51.3	1454	2253
109	4162	2971.55	417.2	51.4	1215	2251
110	4099	2974.48	488.4	51.4	981	2195
111	4040	3032.14	586.6	51.4	752	2193
112	3985	3034.67	822.7	51.5	527	2190
113	3933	3037.05	901.3	51.5	306	2131
114	3883	3039.30	1001.9	51.6	302	2127
115	3834	3041.42	1119.2	51.7	299	2068
116	3786	3153.66	1224.6	51.7	295	2065
117	3738	3155.30	1324.7	103.7	291	2004
118	3691	3156.80	1354.6	103.9	288	2001
119	3643	3168.18	1494.5	104.1	284	1998
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121	3549	3160.55	1593.6	104.5	277	1935
122	3504	3161.55	1993.4	104.7	274	1876
123	3469	3162.43	2070.4	157.1	271	1873
124	3416	3163.19	1924.4	157.5	268	1814
125	3374	3274.52	1739.7	157.9	264	1812
126	3333	3274.77	1662.2	158.2	261	1809
127	3294	3274.91	1601.9	210.2	258	1750
128	3255	3274.95	1555.8	210.6	255	1747
129	3219	3274.88	1541.9	211.0	252	1688

130	3185	3274.72	1519.8	211.3	249	1686
131	3147	3274.45	1513.6	211.7	246	1684
132	3113	3163.43	1517.1	212.1	243	1624
133	3080	3163.29	1526.9	263.7	240	1622
134	3047	3163.06	1539.7	264.2	237	1620
135	3014	3162.75	1553.5	264.6	236	1561
136	2982	3162.35	1567.1	265.0	235	1559
137	2951	3161.87	1579.4	316.0	234	1557
138	2919	3161.31	1589.0	316.5	232	1497
139	2888	3160.67	1594.0	317.1	231	1495
140	2857	3159.94	1592.2	317.6	228	1493
141	2826	3159.14	1581.7	367.8	226	1434
142	2796	3158.26	1561.1	368.4	224	1432
143	2765	3157.30	1530.7	369.0	221	1430
144	2734	3156.26	1489.5	369.5	218	1377
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146	2671	3153.95	1384.5	425.0	213	1373
147	2640	3042.45	1324.4	425.5	211	1316
148	2608	3041.42	1261.5	425.9	208	1314
149	2576	3040.31	1199.6	426.4	206	1313
150	2544	3039.13	1174.4	426.8	203	1255
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153	2447	3035.09	960.2	482.5	196	1251
154	2415	3033.56	904.2	482.7	194	1192
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156	2350	2975.62	804.6	483.2	189	1190
157	2318	2974.05	765.9	483.3	187	1131
158	2286	2972.40	729.0	483.5	185	1130
159	2254	2970.13	690.8	483.6	182	1129
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163	2125	2679.15	587.5	484.0	174	1069
164	2093	2619.16	573.1	484.0	172	1068
165	2061	2614.81	639.1	484.1	170	1011
166	2029	2496.59	570.9	484.2	168	1010
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168	1965	2376.93	552.0	484.3	164	1008
169	1933	2315.56	562.5	484.3	162	1007
170	1901	2311.77	982.8	534.1	160	1006
171	1869	2250.77	1148.6	534.4	159	1005
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173	1805	2189.99	986.3	535.1	155	947
174	1773	2131.49	1720.3	535.6	153	946
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177	1677	2066.41	2861.5	594.4	148	943
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183	1485	1935.37	6909.7	836.3	138	882
184	1453	1876.44	7814.1	899.0	137	882
185	1421	1873.75	8619.8	1021.3	135	825
186	1389	1871.41	9249.1	1143.7	134	824
187	1357	1813.59	9718.5	1269.8	132	824
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189	1293	1808.82	10469.8	1518.4	129	822
190	1261	1749.56	10175.6	1706.3	128	822
191	1229	1747.48	9966.9	1834.4	126	821
192	1197	1688.53	9608.0	1961.3	125	820
193	1165	1686.26	9138.3	2090.8	124	764
194	1133	1683.98	8878.3	2216.6	122	764
195	1101	1624.37	9688.4	2401.3	121	763
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398	236	1560.86	7933.9	3006.4	118	761
399	232	1558.87	75266	3073.7	116	761
400	228	1556.86	6999.4	3196.4	115	760
401	225	1497.07	6525.1	3318.2	114	704
402	222	1495.21	6120.9	3382.3	112	704
403	218	1493.35	5856.0	3501.5	111	703
404	215	1433.90	5383.7	3507.6	110	703
405	212	1432.16	4985.2	3624.9	109	702
406	209	1430.45	4597.0	3628.5	108	702
407	206	1376.57	4185.1	3631.0	106	701
408	203	1374.97	4002.2	3632.3	105	701
409	200	1373.37	3839.0	3633.1	104	700
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411	194	1314.08	3535.0	3633.4	101	644
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413	189	1256.11	4736.1	3692.9	99	644
414	186	1253.76	5183.8	3696.2	98	643
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416	181	1251.04	6736.0	3821.6	95	642
417	179	1192.24	7372.9	3943.9	94	642
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437	137	945.41	5736.0	6810.5	76	525
438	135	944.57	5258.6	6804.0	75	525
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447	121	881.07	2990.9	5157.2	69	474
448	119	824.49	2650.0	4973.2	68	474
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451	115	822.52	2553.3	4546.0	66	473
452	114	821.86	2241.1	4368.0	66	473
453	113	821.19	1939.4	4247.0	65	419
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456	109	763.77	2380.2	3944.7	63	418
457	107	763.19	2087.4	3939.8	63	418
458	106	762.61	1803.4	3821.4	62	418
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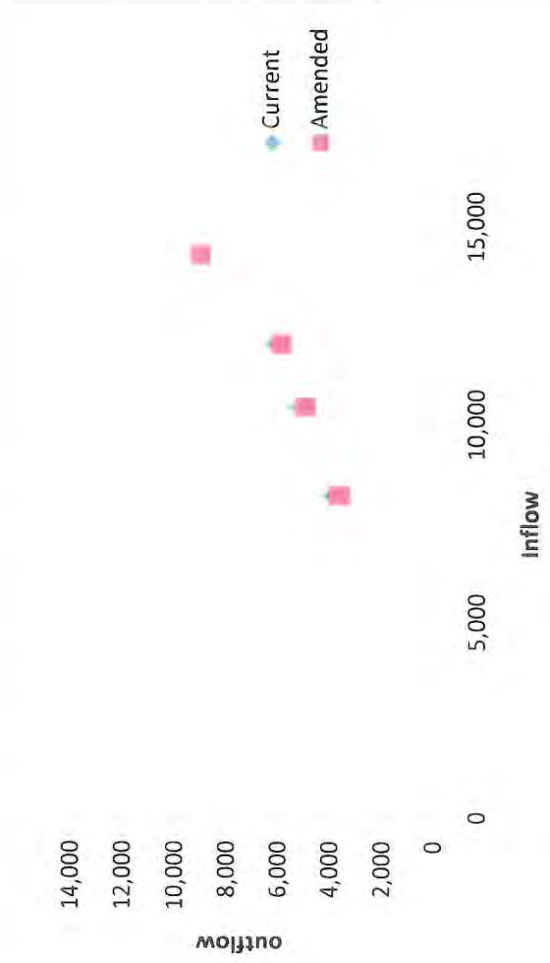
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315	48	471.95	334.9	1637.6	37	259
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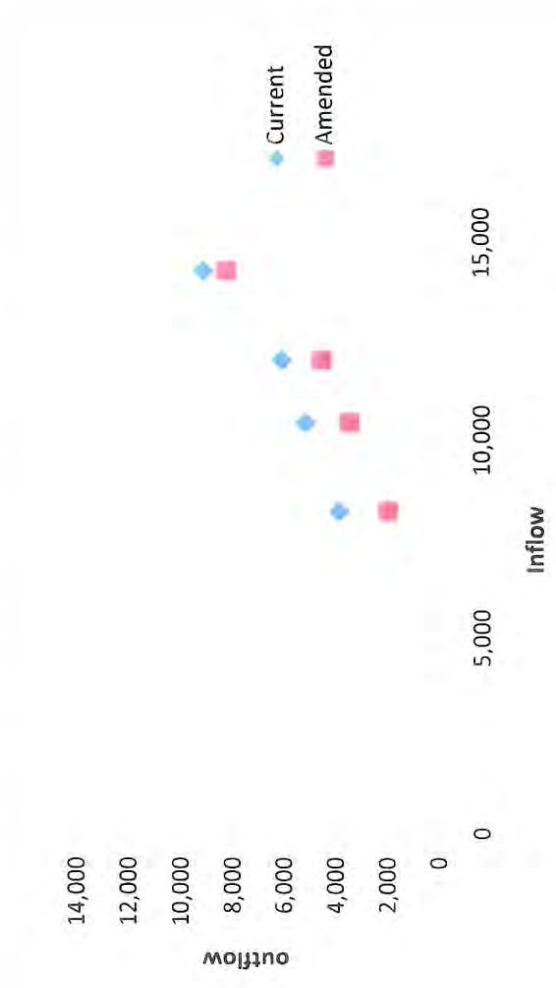
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421	25	206.34	92.9	642.2	18	154
422	25	206.29	92.0	641.8	18	154
423	25	206.23	91.0	641.4	18	154
424	25	206.18	90.1	641.0	18	154
425	25	206.13	89.2	640.6	18	154
426	25	206.07	88.4	640.2	18	154
427	24	206.02	87.5	639.8	18	154
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431	24	155.26	84.1	638.2	17	103
432	24	155.23	83.3	637.8	17	103
433	24	155.20	82.5	637.4	17	103
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436	23	155.11	80.1	636.2	17	103
437	23	155.09	79.3	635.8	17	103
438	23	155.06	78.6	635.4	16	103
439	23	155.03	77.8	635.0	16	103
440	22	155.00	77.1	634.6	16	103
441	22	154.97	76.3	634.2	16	103
442	22	154.94	75.6	633.8	16	103
443	22	154.91	74.9	633.4	16	103
444	22	154.88	74.2	633.0	16	103
445	22	154.85	73.5	632.6	16	102
446	22	154.82	72.8	632.2	16	102
447	22	154.79	72.1	631.8	16	102
448	21	154.76	71.5	631.4	16	102
449	21	154.73	70.8	631.0	15	102
450	21	154.70	70.1	630.6	15	102
451	21	154.67	69.5	630.2	15	102
452	21	154.65	68.8	629.8	15	102
453	21	154.62	68.2	629.4	15	102
454	21	154.59	67.6	629.0	15	102
455	20	154.56	67.0	628.6	15	102
456	20	154.53	66.4	628.2	15	102
457	20	154.50	65.8	627.8	15	102
458	20	154.47	65.2	627.4	15	102
459	20	154.44	64.6	627.0	15	102
460	20	154.41	64.0	626.6	15	102
461	20	154.38	63.4	626.2	14	102
462	20	154.35	62.9	625.8	14	102
463	19	154.32	62.3	625.4	14	102
464	19	154.29	61.7	625.0	14	102

465	19	154.26	61.2	365.6	14	102
466	19	154.23	60.7	365.5	14	102
467	19	154.20	60.1	365.3	14	102
468	19	154.17	59.6	365.2	14	102
469	19	154.14	59.1	365.0	14	102
470	19	154.11	58.5	364.9	14	102
471	19	154.08	58.0	364.7	14	102
472	18	154.05	57.5	364.6	14	102
473	18	154.02	57.0	315.2	14	102
474	18	153.99	56.5	315.1	13	102
475	18	204.09	56.1	315.0	13	102
476	18	204.05	55.6	314.9	13	102
477	18	203.98	55.1	314.8	13	102
478	16	203.92	54.6	314.7	13	102
479	18	203.86	54.2	314.6	13	102
480	18	203.81	53.7	314.5	13	102
481	18	203.75	53.3	314.4	13	102
482	17	203.70	52.9	314.2	13	102
483	17	203.64	52.5	314.1	13	102
484	17	203.58	52.1	314.0	13	102
485	17	203.55	51.7	313.9	13	102
486	17	203.47	51.3	313.8	13	102
487	17	203.41	50.9	313.7	13	102
488	17	203.36	50.6	313.6	13	102
489	17	203.30	50.2	313.5	12	102
490	17	203.24	49.8	313.4	12	102
491	17	203.18	49.5	313.2	12	102
492	16	203.13	49.1	263.1	12	102
493	16	203.07	48.7	263.1	12	102
494	16	203.01	48.4	263.0	12	102
495	16	202.96	48.0	262.9	12	102
496	16	202.90	47.7	262.8	12	102
497	16	202.84	47.4	262.8	12	102

ARI	inflow	Current	Amended
200	8,214	3,861	3,613
500	10,455	5,125	4,915
1000	12,031	6,049	5,854
5000	14,278	9,083	8,994

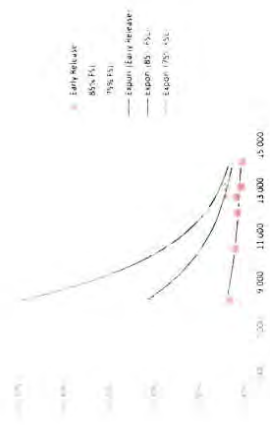


ARI	inflow	Current	Amended
200	8,214	3,861	1,971
500	10,455	5,125	3,446
1000	12,031	6,049	4,504
5000	14,278	9,083	8,217

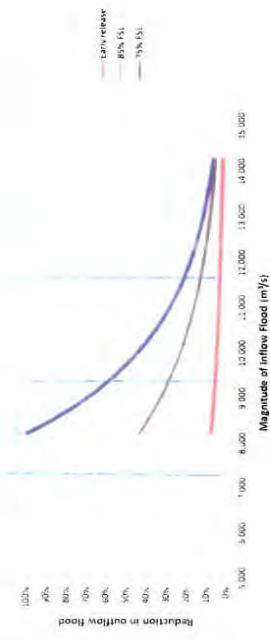


Minor
Moderate
Major
extreme

Flow (m³/s)	Early Release	85% FSL	75% FSL
8,245	38.4%	33.6%	34.3%
10,465	39.8%	34.7%	35.6%
12,685	41.2%	35.8%	36.9%
14,905	42.6%	36.9%	38.2%
17,125	44.0%	38.0%	39.5%
19,345	45.4%	39.1%	40.8%
21,565	46.8%	40.2%	42.1%
23,785	48.2%	41.3%	43.4%
26,005	49.6%	42.4%	44.7%



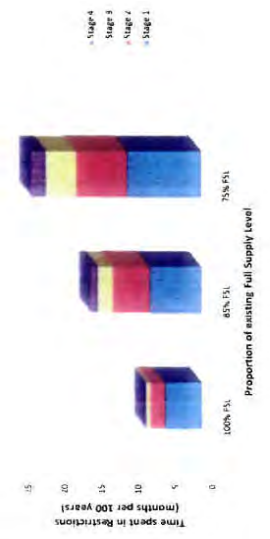
indicative Reduction in Outflow For Different Gati: Operating Strategies



unit: days!!

FSL	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
100% FSL	5	2	0.5	0.01
85% FSL	7	5	2	1
75% FSL	10	7	4	2

Increase in Restrictions for Different Storage Levels (LINK: DATA)



From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 12:40 PM
To: Barton Maher
Cc: Jim Pruss; Rob Drury; Alex Fisher; Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Subject: RE: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V2 070211.docx
Attachments: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V2 070211.docx; ATT299688.txt

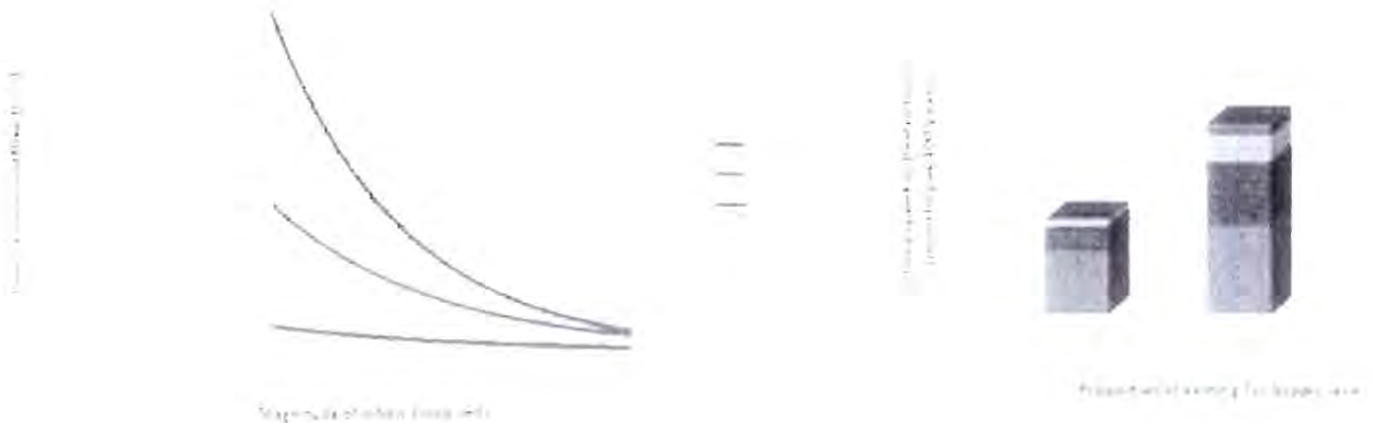
Hi Barton,

I have looked through the new version, and my comments and suggested (minor) changes are provided in track changes mode in the attached document. In short, I agree with the main messages, but I am a little concerned that the numbers for the design events (in Tables 4, 5 and 6) are not in total agreement where they need to be – either this reflects some typos, or possibly the hydrographs are not all scaled exactly the same way when entered into the readsheets. I do think these need to be checked again, for any meaningful differences will undermine confidence by the wider audience reading this.

I imagine the timelines for gold-plating this are probably too tight, but given the focus this will get it would be good to pre-empt some questions around the impact. As I indicated on Friday we could consider including a couple of plots along the lines of the following:

Indicative Reduction in Outflow for Different Gate Operating Strategies

Increase in Restrictions for Different Storage Levels



where the left hand panel provides a high level summary (only to make it easier for the reader) and the right hand panel presents information (if it can be made available) that highlights the implications to water supply security that may not be evident. Very happy if you decide not to include the above, I am just checking that my earlier suggestion didn't get lost in the email traffic.

I am now tied up till 1:30 (your time) at another meeting – but if you need to discuss urgently then please text me on my mobile and I will ring you ASAP.

Regards

Rory



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 12:06 PM
To: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Cc: Jim Pruss; Rob Drury; Alex Fisher
Subject: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V2 070211.docx

Hi Rory,

As discussed, I have updated the report to reflect your comments from Friday. The inconsistency in the discharges was from my error in transferring the numbers from the spreadsheet. I have checked them and updated the table to reflect the real data as sent to you. I have also added in the additional information as requested.

The only thing I am short of is the 1 in 100 AEP design event as the Alliance started with the 1 in 200 event.

I have also added background data to assist in understanding the source of the flood events and provide some context on the design of the spillway.

If you have any questions please give me a call on my mobile.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



www.seqwater.com.au

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Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges

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2 Introduction

Seqwater staff have been asked to investigate the impact of reducing the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on the downstream discharges for major flood events. This memo details the investigations carried out and provides a preliminary assessment of the reduction in flood flows that could be achieved by reducing the Wivenhoe Dam storage level to 95%, 90%, 75% and 50% of the normal water supply volume.

The comments in this report are provided to give an indication of the impacts of a reduced storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on discharges during major flood events. It must be noted that it is very preliminary, as to get accurate results a full investigation and analysis of the whole river system utilising multiple flood events and a combination of hydrologic, hydraulic, and routing models would be required. This review was requested to provide an order of magnitude assessment of impacts and the results should not be utilised beyond that purpose.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this report the following definitions have been adopted as per the Wivenhoe – Somerset Flood manual:

Fresh	This causes only very low-level bridges to be submerged.
Minor Flooding	This causes inconvenience such as closing minor roads and the submergence of low-level bridges. Some urban properties are affected.
Moderate Flooding	This causes inundation of low-lying areas and may require the evacuation of some houses and/or business premises. Traffic bridges may be closed.
Major Flooding	This causes flooding of appreciable urban areas. Properties may become isolated. Major disruption occurs to traffic. Evacuation of many houses and business premises may be required.
Extreme Flooding	This causes flooding well in excess of floods in living memory and general evacuation of whole areas are likely to be required.
"m ³ /s"	Means an instantaneous flow rate expressed as cubic meters of water per second.
"AEP"	Means annual exceedance probability, the probability of a specified event being exceeded in any year;
"AHD"	Means Australian Height Datum;
"EL"	Means elevation in metres from Australian Height Datum;
"ML"	Means a million litres of water

4 Background

4.1 Previous Flood Studies

The original design of Wivenhoe Dam was to provide both water supply for South East Queensland and flood mitigation for the city of Brisbane. There have been several flood studies prepared for the dam as discussed below.

Wivenhoe Dam has a catchment area of about 7,048 km². The spillway capacity of Wivenhoe Dam based on a P = 100 M (100 Year Flood (F100)) inflow of 15,090 m³/s

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was ~~estimated~~ by the Queensland Water Resource Commission (WRC) in 1977 (Hausler and Porter, 1977). This estimate was based on a 48-hour duration probable maximum precipitation (PMP) estimate of 480 mm and synthetic unit graphs using the Clarke Johnson method.

WRC revised the design flood estimates in 1983 when the dam was in its final phase of construction. This revision was brought about because the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) had revised their estimate of the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) for the Wivenhoe catchment.

In addition, better rainfall-runoff-routing techniques were available at that time to derive design flows. The ~~revised PMF estimate was revised inflow estimated~~ in 1983 to be 48,000 m³/s, which is some 220% above the 1977 estimate. The increase was mainly attributed to the changes in the PMP, which increased to 1,000 mm for the 48-hour duration storm.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (formally WRC) revised the design flows again as part of a comprehensive safety review of the dam undertaken between 1990 and 1994. Rainfall-runoff-routing models of the catchment were developed together with a dam flood routing model used to derive outflows from Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams taking into account the flood operating procedures used at that time. Somerset Dam, which has a catchment area of 1,331 km² drains into Wivenhoe Dam.

As part of the review, the BOM was requested to update the PMP estimates for the catchment (BOM, 1991). The revised PMP estimates were used in the 1994 analysis to estimate ~~the~~ PMF. DNR estimated the PMF inflow to be 39,880 m³/s, which is lower than the 1983 estimate but still substantially higher than the 1977 estimate. The lower PMF estimate were mainly attributed (again) to changes in the PMP, which was revised down to 870 mm for the 48-hour duration storm. The development and calibration of the rainfall runoff routing model was also much more comprehensive than previous studies. Flood operating procedures were also incorporated into the models to estimate design outflows.

A detailed review of the previous studies is provided in Report No. 8a of the DNR flood study reports (1994).

The BOM updated the PMP estimates in 2002/2003 for the Wivenhoe catchment using the revised Generalised Tropical Storm Method (BOM, 2003). This report also provides the latest information on temporal patterns and spatial rainfall weightings to be used with the new PMP data. The 2003 PMP estimates are some 20% higher than PMP estimates used by DNR in the 1994 study. As a result, the new PMF estimate for the catchment using this data is significantly higher than the 1994 estimate. The new estimate was used for the upgrade of the dam in 2004/2005 by the Wivenhoe Alliance. The DNR models (1994) were used to estimate design flows for Wivenhoe Alliance.

For the purposes of this ~~study~~ investigation design hydrographs from the Wivenhoe Alliance have been used along with recorded data from three historic flood events.

4.2 Flood Mitigation

The Design Report for Wivenhoe Dam (DPI 1994) provides a summary on the design of the flood mitigation component of the dam. The report indicates that *the estimated PMF was used to assess the safety of the dam against overtopping. In addition, inflow hydrographs from various historical*

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floods (eg the 1893 and the 1974 floods) and for floods synthesised from storm frequency data were developed in order to provide data for the benefit – cost analysis for the flood mitigation component of the dam.

For the flood mitigation benefit – costs studies, the historic and synthesised floods were routed through the dam and the outflow routed down the Brisbane River. The objectives were to limit outflow below a damaging level for Brisbane with the available storage and to empty the dam within a reasonable time, say 5 or 6 days, after the reservoir had reached the maximum level.

The results of the flood routing for the economic studies are summarised in a report by Grigg. The 1974 flood, which reached 5.45m on the Brisbane City Gauge, would have been lowered by 2.6m if Wivenhoe Dam had then been in existence. The damage caused by the 1974 flood was estimated at \$178M, and the savings produced by the lowering the flood level would have been \$140M.

The flood mitigation studies indicated that all major historical floods could be controlled with outflows not exceeding 3,200m³/s. If no other inflows occur below the dam, prolonged outflow of this magnitude would cause little or no damage to Brisbane. The dam would then be able to be emptied in a reasonable time frame after a major flood such as the 1893 flood.

An extract of the design report detailing the design of the spillway is presented as Attachment 2.

5 Assessment of the Impact of Lowering the Full Supply Level

Lowering the full supply level was assessed to determine the impact on the peak flood levels and discharges.

5.1 Analysis Methodology

The analysis was undertaken using a ~~model to simulate operations developed to model~~ the gate opening sequence as provided in the Flood Manual during a "loss of communications" situation. During a loss of communications between the dam operators and the Flood Control Centre, operators would use predefined gate openings based solely on the Lake Level information available to them at the dams. It should be stressed that in practice gate operations would normally seek to take advantage of additional information related to rainfall forecasts and tributary flows to ensure that flood peaks are reduced as far as possible without causing coincident flooding with downstream tributaries. Thus, while using the "loss of communications" flood operation rules provides a consistent means of comparing the efficacy of different mitigation options, the actual degree of flood reduction achievable is dependent on the characteristics of the specific event.

A history of floods in the Brisbane River is presented in Table 1.

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Table 1 - Summary of Significant Flood Events of the Sydenham River

Event	Somerset Dam			Wivenhoe Dam		
	Peak Elevation	Inflow Volume	Outflow Volume	Peak Elevation	Total Inflow Flood Volume	Outflow Flood Volume
	m AHD	ML	ML	m AHD	ML	ML
Jan 1974 [#]	106.57	620,000	450,000	73.31	1,410,000	1,410,000
Jun 1983	101.58	260,000	280,000	69.49	1,080,000	470,000
Mar 1989	102.59	370,000	380,000	69.78	690,000	660,000
Apr 1989	102.69	340,000	350,000	71.45	870,000	820,000
Feb 1999	102.96	450,000	280,000	70.45	1,220,000	900,000
May 2009	99.62	110,000	110,000	62.19	235,000	0
Mar 2010	99.41	210,000	200,000	66.43	390,000	0
Oct 2010	101.37	250,000	270,000	69.61	630,000	630,000
Mid Dec 2010	100.42	150,000	140,000	67.50	360,000	330,000
Late Dec 2010	99.98	120,000	130,000	69.35	500,000	460,000
Jan 2011	105.11	825,000	820,000	74.97	2,650,000	2,650,000

[#] Presence of Wivenhoe Dam simulated

The assessment has investigated the impacts of the lowered storage level on the three largest historic events for which suitable records are available – the 1974 flood, the 1999 flood and the 2011 flood.

Plots of the inflow and estimated outflow for these events (assuming the storage was initially at full supply level) are presented in Figure 1.

Comment [RJN1]: I think this is correct?

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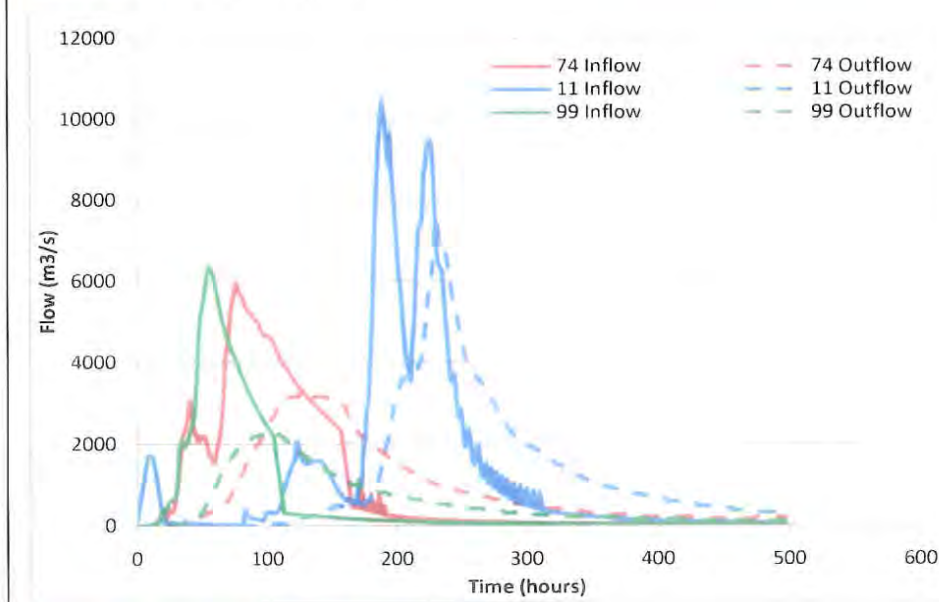


Figure 1 - Plots of Historic Events with Simulated Outflows

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5.2 Analysis Results

A summary of the results of the modelling is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 – Reduction in flood peak due to adoption of different initial storage levels

Storage Level at Start	% of Full Supply Volume	Wivenhoe Dam		Somerset Dam		Lockyer Creek Peak Flow (m ³ /s)	Lowood Peak Flow (m ³ /s)	Bremer River Peak Flow (m ³ /s)	Moggill Peak Flow ¹ (m ³ /s)	Reduction at Moggill %
		Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)					
1974 Flood										
67.0	100	5,953	3,275	5,019	3,548	3,260	5,110	4,241	7,948	
66.5	95	5,953	3,153	5,019	3,480	3,260	4,799	4,241	7,910	0.5%
65.8	90	5,953	2,974	5,019	3,419	3,260	4,524	4,241	7,897	0.6%
64.0	75	5,953	2,618	5,019	3,302	3,260	4,117	4,241	7,683	3.3%
60.0	50	5,953	2,067	5,019	3,040	3,260	3,342	4,241	7,423	6.6%
1999 Flood										
67.0	100	6,358	2,312	7,540	3,837	663	2,556	308	2,593	
66.5	95	6,358	2,132	7,540	3,662	663	2,434	308	2,479	4.4%
65.8	90	6,358	2,003	7,540	3,470	663	2,284	308	2,319	10.6%
64.0	75	6,358	1,687	7,540	3,214	663	1,906	308	1,936	25.3%
60.0	50	6,358	1,007	7,540	2,798	663	1,186	308	1,214	53.2%
2011 Flood										
67.0	100	10,470	7,528	3,824	2,814	3,040	10,495	2,793	13,104	
66.5	95	10,470	7,453	3,824	2,798	3,040	10,445	2,793	13,004	0.8%
65.8	90	10,470	6,756	3,824	2,815	3,040	9,791	2,793	12,302	6.1%
64.0	75	10,470	5,748	3,824	2,680	3,040	8,788	2,793	11,110	15.2%
60.0	50	10,470	4,209	3,824	1,595	3,040	7,249	2,793	9,582	26.9%

The preliminary work done by Seqwater before Christmas 2010 showed that for the October 2010 event, reducing the level of Wivenhoe by small amounts would have had minimal impact on the flood releases. From the [Table 2](#) the following comments are applicable:

- Similarly to work completed previously, reducing levels by small amounts prior to the January 2011 event (if it was feasible) would have had little impact on the peak level in Wivenhoe Dam as shown in the Table 2. The reason for this is that the total event inflow volume of 2,600,000 ML is well in excess of the useable flood storage combined with the available water supply storages shown in the table. Large reductions to the storage level of the dam (25 to 50%) would be required if significant impacts on flooding are to be achieved.
- For the 1999 flood, where most of the flooding occurred upstream of the Wivenhoe Dam, there is a dramatic reduction in the peak outflow if the storage is lowered. However, this is of little

¹ Note the flows quoted for Moggill are based on the addition of outflows from the dam and the measured flows at Lockyer Creek and the Bremer River. They do not have any allowance for routing of the flows through the river system and the subsequent reduction in flows that were observed during the flood events.

benefit as the flood would not have resulted in damaging flows downstream of the dam even if the storage was full.

- The 1974 flood simulation is based on the recorded flows being routed through the both Somerset and Wivenhoe. The presence of Wivenhoe would have reduced the flooding damage in Brisbane during the 1974 event, however there is very little change to the flood mitigation benefits by varying the storage level in Wivenhoe. As most of the flood flows in 1974 were downstream of the dam and the flood in the Brisbane River was relatively small compared to the downstream flooding the event is insensitive to the starting level in Wivenhoe.
- It should be noted that the increasing early releases from Wivenhoe was investigated during the Brisbane Valley Flood Damages Study as part of a review of the operation of the dam. Releasing more water earlier on from Wivenhoe dam was shown to lessen the flood mitigation benefits compared with the existing flood manual release strategies.

The key point being that each flood event is unique and presents varying opportunities to mitigate flows through Brisbane.

5.3 Downstream Water Level Changes

The evaluation of the specific impact on the Lower Brisbane River of these reduced dam outflows from lowering the initial storage level requires the use of a complex hydraulic model. The results of this such modelling would still contain a degree of uncertainty as illustrated by the difficulties in estimating the final flood peak in Brisbane during the event. The uncertainty was partly due to the rapid closure of the Wivenhoe gates after the peak inflow of the flood and the attenuation achieved in the downstream river system. It is extremely difficult to model accurately.

Given the timeframe of this report it is not possible to generate any provide a reliable estimate of the changes to the water level at the Port Office Gauge due to a number of confounding factors, namely: tidal influences, the need to interpolate between previously modelled results that vary markedly between differing events, the availability of verified data, and the uncertainty surrounding the timing of peak flows for the differing scenarios.

However, an approximate estimate of the impact on flood levels at the Brisbane Port gauge can be made at this time. Table 3 shows a comparison of the peak water level for each of the various starting levels for the 2011 flood event. It should be noted that each scenario results in the storage level exceeding EL74 requiring the gates to be opened until the storage rise is stopped. These estimates of flood levels at the Port Office are based on the interpolation and scaling of previously modelled results – it needs to be stressed that these estimates need should they be regarded as indicative only and more detailed analyses can be undertaken.

Table 3 - Preliminary Estimate of Brisbane Levels Changes due to Lowering Wivenhoe for the 2011 flood

Wivenhoe Dam				Approximate reduction in level Brisbane Port Gauge
Starting Level		Peak Height	Capacity at Peak Height	
%	m AHD	m AHD	%	m
100	67.0	74.98	191.1	0
95	66.5	74.93	190.6	0 to 0.1
90	65.8	74.88	189.9	0.1 to 0.3

Comment [RJN2]: I am not clear about this – are you pointing out the uncertainty associated with the 2011 event in particular or in general? I think text needs clarification.

Comment [RJN3]: In Table 1 this level is quoted as 74.97

Field Code Changed

75	64.0	74.63	186.5	0.2 to 0.6
50	60.0	74.11	179.6	0.4 to 0.9

It is seen that appreciable reductions could only have been achieved when the storage is drawn down towards the lowest levels considered.

It should also be noted that to accurately calculate the impacts of reducing the storage levels of Wivenhoe Dam at the start of a major flood event requires considerable study as rainfall events of different intensity, duration, peak, location and spread will give very different outcomes. In addition, there is the need to do detailed hydraulic analysis of the river system for each scenario to more accurately determine impacts.

5.4 Summary

Due to the large volumes of water associated with major flood events in the Brisbane River (that is with events with annual exceedance probabilities rarer than 1 in 100), to effectively reduce flood peak discharges significantly would require the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam to be lowered by at least 25 to 50%.

6 Contingency Options

There is the possibility of further flood events in the South East Queensland during the 2010/2011 wet season. To reduce the risk of flooding in Brisbane should a major rainfall event be predicted it has been requested that lowering of the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam be investigated to determine if this is a feasible option to further mitigate flood flows.

The assessment carried out by Seqwater has indicated that to have any significant impact on releases downstream of Wivenhoe Dam during a major flood event it would be necessary to lower the storage level by 25 to 50%.

There are five options considered going forward:

- "Option 0" - Continue with the current approved flood manual strategies
- "Option 1" - Commence drawing down the storage at a safe rate to bring it down to say 75%.
- "Option 2" - Pre-release water from the dam following the prediction of a major rainfall event
- "Option 3" - Change the flood manual strategies to ignore the early strategies designed to minimise disruption to the rural communities.
- "Option 4" - Temporarily reduce the full supply of Wivenhoe Dam and amend the flood releases to commence flood operations from the lowered full supply level.

6.1 Do Nothing Option – Continue with the Current Flood Manual

This option maintains the status quo and continues to utilise the dam as originally designed. This option has the least risks associated with it as the Strategies have been implemented and refined over several flood events and the manual was developed by a comprehensive study. The strategies in the flood manual have proved adequate for more frequent flood events.

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6.2 Option 1 – Vary the early strategies for the Flood Manual

It has been proposed that increasing the releases from the dam up to 1,600m³/s as soon as practicable after gate operations commence may deliver reduced peak flood levels. This has been investigated to assess the impact of attempting to release more water at the very start of an event.

This option has been assessed using a range of design events from the Wivenhoe Alliance Design hydrology. To model the impacts of increasing releases up to 1,600 m³/s as soon as practicable a range of design flood events from the Wivenhoe Alliance were compared using the program FLROUTE. It was assumed that no attempt would be made to maintain bridge access downstream of the dam other than Mt Crosby Weir Bridge and the Brisbane Valley Highway Bridge.

The results for the model runs are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 – Comparison of Release Strategies

Flood Event			Existing Rules		Amended Rules		Flow Reduction %
	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hour 1 in 200 design*	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.43	3,613	71.27	6%
36 hours 1 in 500 design	10,455	1,624,119	5,125	72.22	4,915	72.09	4%
36 hours 1 in 1000 design	12,031	1,772,752	6,049	72.73	5,854	72.68	3%
48 hours 1 in 5000 design	14,278	2,562,553	9,083	74.71	8,994	74.66	1%
72 hours 1 in 5000 design	13,181	2,880,602	8,204	74.16	8,101	74.10	1%
96 hours 1 in 5000 design	11,870	2,948,032	7,550	73.75	7,426	73.67	2%
120 hours 1 in 5000 design	12,727	3,005,136	7,265	73.57	6,986	73.39	4%
January 2011 historic	10,470	2,650,000	7,528	74.98	7,452	74.95	1%
1974 historic	5,953	1,410,000	3,275	73.31	3,159	73.26	4%
1999 historic	6,358	1,220,000	2,312	72.23	2,251	72.504	3%

Comment [RJN4]: Is there a note attached to this asterisk?

Comment [RJN5]: In Table 1 the max level quoted was 70.45 – did it start below FSL in 99 or different rules used?

Comment [RJN6]: Why is the peak level higher here when the peak outflow is lower?

It should be noted that predicted flood levels greater than EL 74 require the gates to be opened until the water level stabilises. This is fundamental to the dam's safety. In addition, any reduction in starting level, which does not achieve a peak lower than EL 74, is unlikely to have any impact upon peak release rate.

It can be clearly seen from Table 4 that changes to the early releases adopted for the flood manual strategies have minimal impact on the maximum outflow for the dam. The influence of reduced initial starting level decreases with increasing flood magnitude. For the major flood events investigated the reduction in peak outflow for the dam is negligible. Note that this analysis does not consider the downstream flooding in the Lockyer and Bremer Rivers.

However, it should be noted that there is the real risk that the release of additional water from the dam early in the flood event may make local flooding impacts in Brisbane worse. Due to the travel time of releases, uncertainty in forecast rainfall, and the low lying local catchment areas between Wivenhoe Dam and the urban areas of Brisbane, it is likely that for some events the increased early

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releases will exacerbate local flooding in Brisbane. This is potentially a significant risk as this flooding is directly attributable to the dam releases and could be avoided if the dam was operated according to the current strategy.

The flood strategies for Wivenhoe and Somerset are based on holding back flood waters until the rain has occurred and downstream flooding has peaked. Releasing early in an event compromises some of the flood mitigation capacity for the intermediate flood events.

6.3 Option 2 - Pre-release water when a major event is forecast

This option involves implementing a significant release of water once the notification of a major rainfall event has been received. This option is reliant on the accuracy of forecasts and having predefined approval processes in place.

The Bureau of Meteorology was approached by the SEQWater Corporation in 2006 to discuss the ability of the provision of short term forecasts of large rainfall events. Their response is included in Attachment A. The summary of their advice from the meeting was:

"In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on the subject and maybe able to assist with some service that would assist."

There are also physical constraints on the amount of water that can be released. To reduce Wivenhoe to 75% in 48 hours requires water to be released at a rate that would close all of the road crossings over the Brisbane River between the dam and the Jindalee Bridge (peak flow of over 1,900 m³/s) and result in a final volume in Wivenhoe of around 66.8% during the third day if the gates were closed down using the established closure sequence after the 48 hours. If the high rainfall did occur, then the gates would no doubt remain open.

It is not possible to lower Wivenhoe to 50% within 3 days due to the incremental opening of the gates required for safety, the reduction in discharge through the gates with the dropping dam level, and the need to limit discharges below damaging flows through Brisbane.

In light of the above comment, pre-releases (i.e. releasing water prior to an event based on predicted rainfall) has significant risks associated with the strategy in terms of:

- The difficulty in actually releasing significant volumes of water,
- The potential impacts downstream if rainfall doesn't eventuate (disrupting the downstream community, causing minor damage to low lying areas, creating a "sunny day" flood event totally attributable to the dam, someone could be injured or washed away in such a release).
- The risk of exacerbating flooding by making releases that then add to flood levels downstream occurring after the pre-release. (i.e. the predicted rainfall occurs downstream of the dam while the river level is elevated due to the pre-release's from the dam combining to create a damaging flood)

- Predicting rainfall 2 days before an event is highly variable even according to the Bureau of Meteorology and 3 days is problematic.

6.4 Option 5 – Lower the Storage Level by Sunny Day Releases to 75% and operate under the current flood manual

This option involves effectively lowering the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe Dam to increase the flood mitigation storage at the commencement of a flood event. As discussed previously, the storage would need to be lowered by 25 to 50% to provide a significant reduction in peak flows for a major flood event. Once the storage level reached EL67 gate operations would commence as per the current flood manual.

To safely lower the storage it is proposed that this option would be implemented by “Sunny Day” releases at a rate low enough to minimise disruption to the rural areas. This would be difficult to implement during a wet year where the risk of major flooding is greater.

In the 25 days leading up to the January 2011 Flood event, three flood events impacting on Wivenhoe Dam were experienced, with gate releases being made on all but five of those days. The total outflow from these events was around 790,000 ML.

During these events, multiple requests were received from Councils and residents impacted by bridge closures downstream of the dam to curtail releases as soon and as quickly as possible. Additionally, the 2 January end date of the flood event prior to the January 2011 Flood event meant that significant draw down of the dam prior to the onset of the January 2011 Flood event that commenced on 6 January 2011, was not possible without major bridge inundation downstream of the dam and without exceeding minor flood levels in the lower Brisbane River.

Additionally, a flood event was also experienced in October 2010 that resulted in a release of 640,000 ML from the dam. Accordingly, to draw down the dam below full supply level prior to the start of the first December event would not have been possible without significant bridge inundation and without exceeding minor flood levels (as defined by BOM and BCC) in the lower Brisbane River.

In other words, preceding rainfall events to the January 2011 major flood event had created flooding that would have maintained the storage at the current FSL and prevent drawdown of the storage if such a strategy was proposed.

Risks to this strategy are:

- Compromising water security for South East Queensland by lowering the storage at the end of the each event. The impact on yield needs to be quantified.
- Having preceding rainfall events fill up the dam and prevent it from being lowered before a major flood event. Effectively compromising any effectiveness associated with this strategy.
- The limited discharges that can be utilised during sunny day flows in the river system. To reduce levels prior to summer would take some time without inundating any bridges and without any further inflows. To reduce from 100% to 50% and only impact on Twin Bridges and Savages Crossings and keep Colleges Crossing open could take some 5 to 6 weeks. Even if levels are reduced in Wivenhoe prior to

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summer, as occurred this summer, multiple rain events can fill the dam and would require significant releases to keep the storage level down.

6.5 Option 4 - Temporarily Lower the Full Supply Level to 85% and Amend the Flood Operations Manual

It was requested that the option of temporarily lowering the storage to 85% of the current storage capacity (for this option make EL65.25 the FSL, down from EL67) and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL65.5. The amended manual would retain the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.

This amended change would result in flow reductions similar to that obtained from Option 3.

Table 5 - Impact of temporarily lowering FSL to 85%

Flood Event			Existing Rules		Temporarily Reducing FSL		Flow Reduction %
	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hour 1 in 200 design*	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.4	2,639	70.66	32%
36 hours 1 in 500 design	10,455	1,624,119	5,943	72.2	4,028	71.53	33%
36 hours 1 in 1000 design	12,031	1,772,752	6,010	72.78	5,031	72.16	16%
48 hours 1 in 5000 design	14,278	2,562,553	9,068	74.7	8,535	74.37	6%
72 hours 1 in 5000 design	13,181	2,880,602	8,254	74.15	7,821	73.92	5%
96 hours 1 in 5000 design	11,870	2,948,032	7,834	73.74	7,135	73.49	5%
120 hours 1 in 5000 design	12,727	3,005,136	7,227	73.55	6,751	73.25	7%
January 2011 historic	10,470	2,650,000	7,528	74.98	5,746	74.62	24%
1974 historic	5,953	1,410,000	3,275	73.3	2,737	72.91	16%
1999 historic	6,358	1,220,000	2,312	72.23	1,814	71.89	22%

* Design event characteristics obtained from WA (2005)

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Comment [RJN7]: Max outflows for rows 2 to 7 of this table differ markedly from those reported in table 4

Comment [RJN8]: 0.01 different to values cited in table 4 – suggest making identical

6.6 Option 5 - Temporarily Lower the Full Supply Level to 75% and Amend the Flood Operations Manual

It was requested that the option of temporarily lowering the storage to 75% of the current storage capacity (for this option make EL64 the FSL, down from EL67) and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL64. The amended manual would retain the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.

As can be seen in Table 6 lowering the FSL to EL64 (75% of the current FSL) and commencing flood operations at this level has a profound impact on the discharges for the shorter duration flood

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events with smaller flood volumes. However, once the flood volume exceeds ~~the~~ 2,000,000 ML ~~the~~ the effectiveness of this change in the operating level is diminished resulting in only a 10% reduction in the peak outflows for the dam.

Given the January 2011 Event had a volume of over 2,500,000 ML, the benefits from lowering the storage level would not have resulted in any major change to the extent of flood inundation. It would however have reduced the depth of inundation with a corresponding reduction in the number of house and commercial properties flooded.

Table 5: Impact of temporarily lowering FSL to 75%

Flood Event	Existing Rules			Temporarily Reducing FSL			
	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Flow Reduction (%)
36 hour 1 in 200 design*	8,214	1,544,119	3141	71.4	1,971	70.24	94%
36 hours 1 in 500 design	10,455	1,624,119	5983	72.2	3,446	71.17	42%
36 hours 1 in 1000 design	12,031	1,772,752	6010	72.78	4,504	71.83	25%
48 hours 1 in 5000 design	14,278	2,562,553	9066	74.7	8,217	74.17	9%
72 hours 1 in 5000 design	13,181	2,880,602	8190	74.15	7,609	73.79	7%
96 hours 1 in 5000 design	11,870	2,948,032	7534	73.74	6,916	73.35	8%
120 hours 1 in 5000 design	12,727	3,005,136	7227	73.55	6,635	73.17	8%
January 2011 historic	10,470	2,650,000	7,528	74.98	4,512	74.25	40%
1974 historic	5,953	1,410,000	3,275	73.3	2,493	72.71	24%
1999 historic	6,358	1,220,000	2,312	72.23	1,561	71.48	33%

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Comment [RJN9]: Again, these differ significantly from previous table

Formatted Table

* Design event characteristics obtained from WA (2005)

It can be seen from the comparison of Table 5 and Table 6 that the reduction of the storage level to 75% can provide a significant reduction on the outflows from the dam when combined with an amended release strategy, but again this impact reduces as the magnitude of the event increases. This is consistent with the previous observations that reductions of at least 25% of the storage volume are required to significantly alter the outflows from the dam.

It is also important to note that even with the reduction of the storage level to 75% and the amended flood operation rules, the storage level still exceeds EL74 for the January 2011 Flood Event. The changes would result in reduced flood levels downstream but would not prevent damaging flows through Brisbane.

7 References

DPI (1995) Department of Primary Industries Qld, Water Commercial, "Wivenhoe Dam Design Report – Volume 1 – Text", WS094, September 1995

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- WA (2005) Wivenhoe Alliance, "Design Discharges and Downstream Impacts of the Wivenhoe Dam Upgrade, Q1091, September 2005
- WRM (2006) WRM Water and Environment, "Brisbane Valley Flood Damage Minimisation Study – Brisbane City Flood Damage Assessment, Brisbane City Council City Design, October 2006

8 Attachment A

Rainfall Forecasting for the Wivenhoe Dam Catchment

Background

1. On 6 July, Chris Russell, of Connell Wagner, met with Mike Bergin and Peter Baddiley seeking advice regarding the predictability of significant rain events over the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. Connell Wagner has been engaged by SEQWCo to provide advice on the feasibility of maintaining the water level in the Wivenhoe storage at one metre above Full Supply Level. As a part of the dam operations under that scenario, it would be required that the additional storage above FSL be released ahead of a major inflow into Wivenhoe Dam. This would require some 24 to 48 hour advance prediction of catchment average rainfalls in the order of 300mm in 24 hours; 375mm in 36 hours and/or 430mm in 48 hours.

2. Wivenhoe Dam catchment is located to the north-west of Brisbane and has an area of about 7,000 square kilometres. For meteorological forecasting, the catchment is broadly about 100 km in the north-south direction, and 70 kilometres wide (east-west); bounded in the west by the Dividing Range with its eastern boundary varying from about 40 to 80 kilometres inland from the coast. The distribution of rainfall over the catchment is significantly influenced by the topography in major events.

Discussion

3. As discussed at the meeting, the experience of Meteorologists and Hydrologists in the Brisbane office of the Bureau is that the short to medium term (0 to 48 hour) prediction of rainfall for the purpose of objective use in flood forecasting models is a difficult task. Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) are available from the Australian and international Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models and have been used subjectively in the Brisbane office for many years. Whilst the NWP models have shown improvement in the accuracy of QPF over the past decade or so, there is still at times considerable error or uncertainty, in the prediction of the location, amount and timing of rainfall events at the catchment scale.

4. The improved skill of NWP models in recent years has particularly been in forecasting the development and movement of broad-scale synoptic features that would be likely to produce the threshold rainfall amounts in question. These large-scale features include decaying tropical cyclones, east coast low pressure systems and significant upper level troughs. However while these systems maybe well forecast on a time scale of 2 to 3 days the very heavy rainfall concentrations are dependent on finer scale (mesoscale) and convective features. Whilst there is often the ability to forecast the potential for a significant rain event to occur in the southeast Qld-northern NSW region, it is difficult (if not impossible) to predict the actual location of the heaviest rain, even with only a few hours notice.

5. Examples of high rainfall events that have occurred in the past 10 to 15 years in this region, some of which had little to no advance prediction of the "precise" location and/or magnitude of resulting rainfall, include Feb 1991, Dec 1991, Feb 1992, May 1996, Feb 1999, Mar 2001 and June 2005.

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Several of these events were not produced by large-scale features but by slow moving convergence zones which the current modelling capability cannot adequately predict. The two most recent events in 2001 and 2005 were relatively short-lived events and occurred at different times of the day – 2001 in the afternoon and 2005 overnight. While one could reasonably expect that most really significant rainfall events are most likely through the warmer months, winter extreme events are by no means rare.

6. Considerable effort is being applied to derive improved deterministic and probabilistic QPFs from NWP models. In the near future, the Bureau will be providing a publicly available rainfall forecasting service via a website. The rainfall predictions will be generated automatically by combining the outlooks from a suite of Australian and international. Forecast rainfall amounts for 24 hour periods will be given for 4 days ahead, together with the chance of exceeding various amounts from 1mm to 50mm. The latter is a “pseudo” measure of probability based on the consistency in the forecast rain amounts given by up to eight NWP models used in deriving the rainfall forecast. Whilst it is not considered that this will provide a sufficiently accurate method for objective decision making for pre-releases from Wivenhoe Dam, the probabilistic rain forecasts may provide a basis for a risk management approach. There may need to be further studies on risk quantification for prediction of high to extreme rainfall events to support this approach. Given that there are large levels of uncertainty in rainfall forecasts, the forecasting of hydrological response may require an ensemble of future rain scenarios to be considered for the Wivenhoe Dam application.

7. As for a potential service provided by the Bureau an alert type product would seem to be the best alternative where the potential for an extreme rainfall event in the following 2 to 3 days across southeast Queensland was given a rating on say a 3 level scale. If that rating was high then a second phase could be activated which could provide more detailed forecast of expected rainfall amounts and location. However I emphasise that this type of service can be expected to not provide the required 2 days advice of an event on some occasions and may fail to provide anything more than a few hours notice, such is the nature of the predictability of the mesoscale components of these events.

8. Currently the Bureau provides a QPF service for the dams in Southeast Queensland. This twice-daily service predicts the average rainfall across the catchments in the following 24-hour period. We have not undertaken any verification of the service. However it is likely that verification would show reasonable skill in identifying rainfall events but quite poor skill in predicting extreme events. This service is to be reviewed in the next few months and we may commence charging for the product as it is essentially not a basic service and should not be publicly funded. We have yet to commence discussions with the client so these comments should be kept confidential. This issue is raised because any future customized product provided in support of dam operations will certainly be on a fee for service basis. There is also the issue of whether the Bureau would have the capacity to provide such a service at all and that would have to be part of any future discussions.

Summary

9. In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is

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limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on the subject and maybe able to assist with some service that would assist.

Mike Bergin
Manager Weather Services,
Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland.

Peter Baddiley
Supervising Engineer Hydrology
Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland

24 July 2006

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9 Attachment 2 – Extracts from the Wivenhoe Design Report

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ATT299688

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From: Terry Malone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 2:05 PM
To: Rob Drury
Cc: Barton Maher
Subject: Brisbane URBS Model

Gents

I worked on the Brisbane URBS model over the weekend to improve its ability to reproduce the flood levels in the lower Brisbane River in significant events from March 1955 to Jan 2011.

I'm reasonably confident it could be used to assess the impact of modified out hydrographs from Wivenhoe on flood levels from Moggill to the City.

Let me know if you're interested.

Cheers

Terry Malone
Principal Hydrologist

Division of Water Resources, Queensland Department of Natural Resources



Level 3, 340 Margaret St, Brisbane City QLD 4000

PO Box 16145, City East QLD 4000

p [REDACTED]

From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 1:13 PM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: Tel call

Hi Barton,

I left a voicemail, but I understand that you are revising the report to a more concise form – under tight time pressure! – do let me know if you need assistance in preparation of this document, or when it is ready for review.

Perhaps best to text me so that I can quickly respond.

Best wishes,

Rory

Rory Nathan | Senior Manager Technology @ Procter & Gamble
PO Box 11, Frimley, Wokingham, RG20 7AP, UK | Tel: +44 (0)1356 522000



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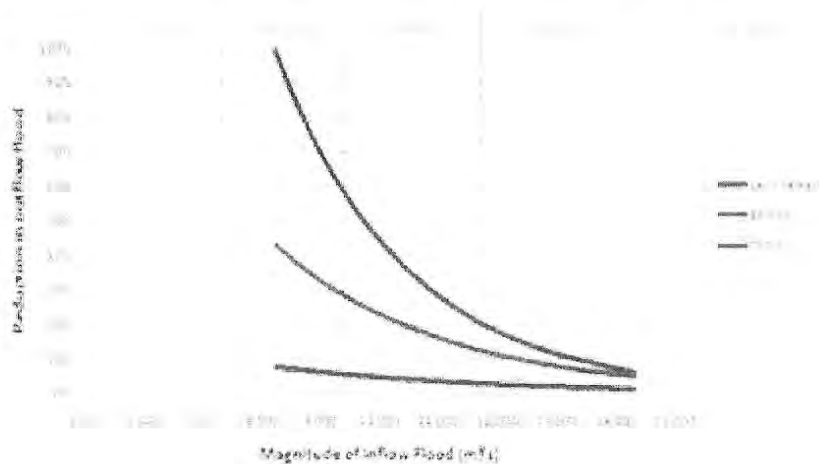
From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 1:40 PM
To: 'Barton Maher'
Cc: Jim Pruss; Rob Drury; Alex Fisher; Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Subject: RE: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V2 070211.docx

Hi Barton,

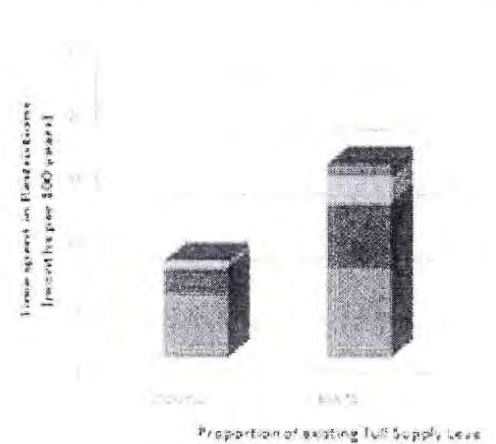
I have looked through the new version, and my comments and suggested (minor) changes are provided in track changes mode in the attached document. In short, I agree with the main messages, but I am a little concerned that the numbers for the design events (in Tables 4, 5 and 6) are not in total agreement where they need to be – either this reflects some typos, or possibly the hydrographs are not all scaled exactly the same way when entered into the spreadsheets. I do think these need to be checked again, for any meaningful differences will undermine confidence by the wider audience reading this.

I imagine the timelines for gold-plating this are probably too tight, but given the focus this will get it would be good to pre-empt some questions around the impact. As I indicated on Friday we could consider including a couple of plots along the lines of the following:

Indicative Reduction in Outflow For Different Gate Operating Strategies



Increase in Restrictions for Different Storage Levels



here the left hand panel provides a high level summary (only to make it easier for the reader) and the right hand panel presents information (if it can be made available) that highlights the implications to water supply security that may not be evident. Very happy if you decide not to include the above, I am just checking that my earlier suggestion didn't get lost in the email traffic.

I am now tied up till 1:30 (your time) at another meeting – but if you need to discuss urgently then please text me on my mobile and I will ring you ASAP.

Regards,

Rory

Dr Rory Nathan | General Manager Technology & Practice | Sivilaw Flight Marts
 PO Box 112 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3008 Australia | Email: r.nathan@flinders.com.au | Phone: 03 9601 1111
 Tel: [REDACTED]

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From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 12:06 PM
To: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Cc: Jim Pruss; Rob Drury; Alex Fisher
Subject: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V2 070211.docx

Hi Rory,

As discussed, I have updated the report to reflect your comments from Friday. The inconsistency in the discharges was from my error in transferring the numbers from the spreadsheet. I have checked them and updated the table to reflect the real data as sent to you. I have also added in the additional information as requested.

The only thing I am short of is the 1 in 100 AEP design event as the Alliance started with the 1 in 200 event

I have also added background data (assumed) on underpinning the resources of the flood event (and) previous events in context on the design of the spillway.

If you have any questions please give me a call on my mobile

Regards,

Barton Maher
Principal Dams & Weirs Planning
QLD Bulk Water Supply Authority *trading as* Seqwater



PH: [REDACTED]
Karaeie Office, 68 Junction Rd Karaeie QLD 4306 Australia
PO Box 2437 North Ipswich QLD 4305
Website | www.seqwater.com.au

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From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 February 2011 5:30 PM
To: Barton Maher
Cc: Nixon, Pat W (SKM); Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Subject: RE: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx
Attachments: Flood peak assessment.xlsx; ATT252511.txt

Hi Barton,

I have attached a spreadsheet that illustrates how a summary might be presented on the tension between reduced flood peaks and some index of supply reliability – the former is obtained from an exponential fit to your modelled results, and the latter is fictional data for illustration purposes only. I haven't bothered to line up the flood categories with the specific flood limits, but if you want that feature in you can adjust as required.

The key plot is as presented below, but this is for ideas only and perhaps we can discuss on Monday morning.



Have a good weekend!

Best regards,

Rory

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From: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Sent: Friday, 4 February 2011 10:18 AM
To: Barton Maher
Cc: Nixon, Pat W (SKM); Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Subject: RE: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx

Hi Barton

We have provided comments in the attached document along with some suggested text changes

I will ring and discuss shortly as I am a little uncomfortable about some of the apparent inconsistencies in the numbers – pointers to this are in the attached doc.

The spreadsheet just provides some graphical sanity checking which highlights some of the difficulties we are having with the numbers.

Let's talk soon,

Rory



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 6:19 PM
To: Nathan, Rory J (SKM); Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Cc: Nixon, Pat W (SKM)
Subject: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx

Hi Gents,

Latest draft - I was asked to include differing options for the CEO. I am working on the plots as suggested but I need to get home to see the family and will send them through later tonight.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



www.seqwater.com.au

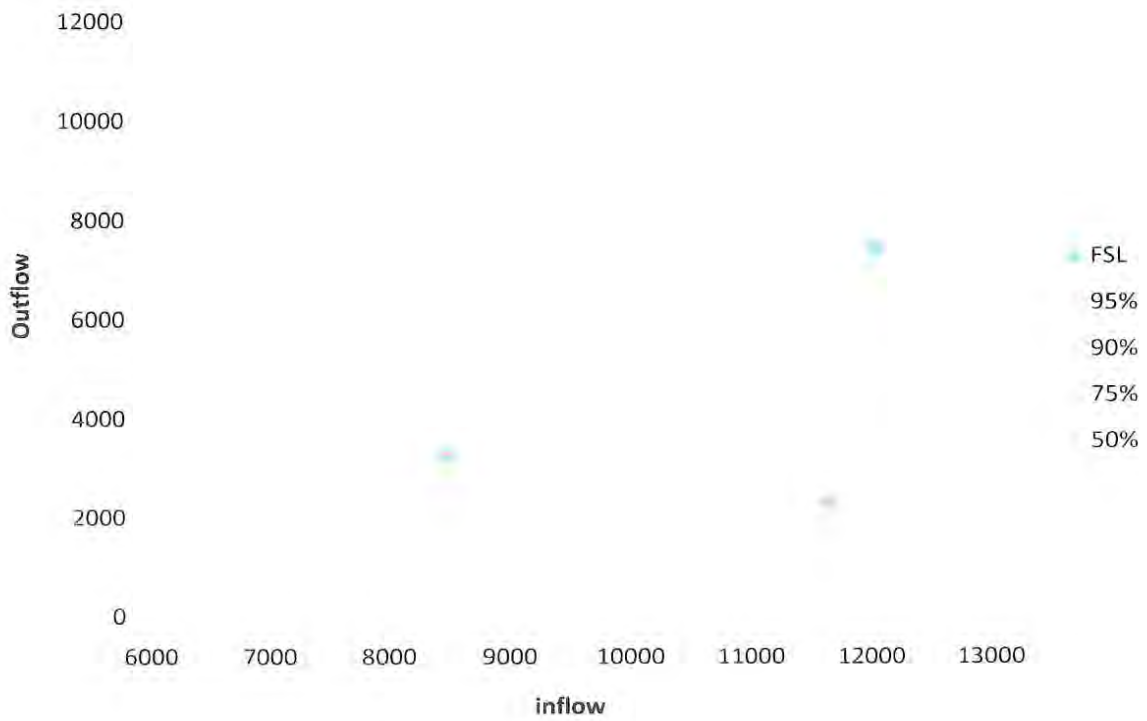
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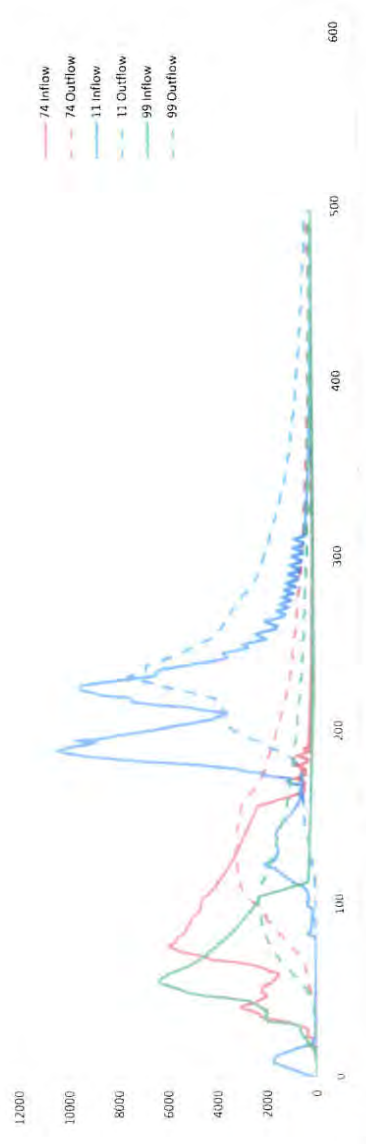
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Table 2

Year	Inflow	outflows				
		FSL	95%	90%	75%	50%
1974	8482	3275	3,153	2,974	2,618	2,067
1999	11641	2312	2,132	2,003	1,687	1,007
2011	12045	7468	7,453	6,756	5,748	4,209



Year	5/75	10/470	7/528	6/361	2/312
1999 event	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011 event	0.00	346.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
74 Inflow	0.00	543.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
74 Outflow	0.00	740.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
11 Inflow	0.00	937.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11 Outflow	0.00	1132.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
99 Inflow	0.00	1327.70	0.00	1.00	0.00
99 Outflow	0.00	1521.70	0.00	2.00	0.00
1999 event	0.00	1706.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011 event	0.00	1699.20	0.00	36.00	0.00
74 Inflow	0.00	1691.70	0.00	40.00	0.00
74 Outflow	0.00	1684.20	0.00	52.00	0.00
11 Inflow	0.00	1480.10	0.00	53.00	0.00
11 Outflow	0.00	1277.60	0.00	64.00	0.00
99 Inflow	0.00	1076.50	0.00	63.00	0.00
99 Outflow	0.00	876.60	0.00	94.00	0.00
1999 event	0.00	677.80	0.00	118.00	0.00
2011 event	0.00	479.70	0.00	292.00	0.00
74 Inflow	0.00	282.20	0.00	344.00	0.00
74 Outflow	0.00	85.00	0.00	341.00	0.00
11 Inflow	0.00	82.60	0.00	374.00	0.00
11 Outflow	0.00	80.30	0.00	402.00	0.00
99 Inflow	0.00	78.10	0.00	479.00	0.00
99 Outflow	0.00	75.90	0.00	552.00	0.00
1999 event	0.00	73.70	0.00	588.00	0.00
2011 event	0.00	71.70	0.00	621.00	0.00
74 Inflow	0.00	69.70	0.00	647.00	0.00
74 Outflow	0.00	67.70	0.00	660.00	0.00
11 Inflow	0.00	65.80	0.00	665.00	0.00
11 Outflow	0.00	64.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
99 Inflow	0.00	62.40	0.00	1202.00	0.00
99 Outflow	0.00	61.00	0.00	1912.00	0.00
1999 event	0.00	59.30	0.00	1990.00	0.00
2011 event	0.00	57.70	0.00	2103.00	0.00
74 Inflow	0.00	55.00	0.00	1998.00	50.00
74 Outflow	0.00	50.29	120.70	1950.00	51.00
11 Inflow	0.00	50.47	76.60	2047.00	51.00
11 Outflow	0.00	64.90	0.00	2083.00	102.00
99 Inflow	0.00	61.90	0.00	2230.00	102.00
99 Outflow	0.00	59.30	0.00	2311.00	102.00
1999 event	0.00	57.00	0.00	2440.00	103.00
2011 event	0.00	55.00	0.00	2561.00	154.00
74 Inflow	0.00	53.10	0.00	2673.00	155.00
74 Outflow	0.00	51.40	0.00	3312.00	155.00
11 Inflow	0.00	49.70	0.00	3651.00	207.00
11 Outflow	0.00	48.20	0.00	4466.00	206.00
99 Inflow	0.00	46.70	0.00	4873.00	259.00
99 Outflow	0.00	45.30	0.00	5192.00	311.00
1999 event	0.00	43.90	0.00	5353.00	361.00
2011 event	0.00	42.50	0.00	5552.00	416.00
74 Inflow	0.00	41.20	0.00	5770.00	474.00
74 Outflow	0.00	38.80	0.00	5964.00	526.00
11 Inflow	0.00	37.60	0.00	6361.00	644.00
11 Outflow	0.00	36.40	0.00	6353.00	704.00
99 Inflow	0.00	35.30	0.00	6274.00	764.00
99 Outflow	0.00	35.30	0.00	6274.00	764.00



58	1546	361.97	34.3	0.0	6191	825
59	1553	362.55	33.2	0.0	6080	886
60	1538	416.58	32.2	0.0	5940	947
61	1816	417.22	31.2	0.0	5773	1009
62	1980	417.98	30.3	0.0	5597	1071
63	2137	418.82	29.4	0.0	5420	1189
64	2352	473.60	28.5	0.0	5251	1252
65	2616	474.76	27.6	0.0	5094	1313
66	3027	524.69	26.8	0.0	4953	1374
67	3618	526.52	26.0	0.0	4830	1431
68	4235	583.41	25.2	0.0	4722	1494
69	4407	586.15	24.5	0.0	4627	1498
70	4515	644.12	23.8	0.0	4540	1561
71	4921	702.50	23.1	0.0	4458	1622
72	5301	761.63	22.4	0.0	4376	1684
73	5516	821.34	21.7	0.0	4293	1688
74	5664	881.71	21.1	0.0	4210	1749
75	5871	943.08	20.5	0.0	4128	1810
76	5963	948.21	19.9	0.0	4045	1814
77	5840	1070.40	19.3	0.0	3961	1873
78	5719	1128.20	18.7	0.0	3879	1877
79	5701	1190.94	18.3	0.0	3796	1937
80	5657	1254.03	19.3	0.0	3715	1940
81	5589	1315.75	22.3	0.0	3635	2000
82	5467	1377.73	234.6	0.0	3556	2003
83	5363	1493.28	385.1	0.0	3478	2064
84	5332	1556.77	247.1	0.0	3403	2066
85	5244	1619.49	220.2	0.0	3329	2069
86	5206	1625.09	198.9	0.0	3258	2127
87	5220	1688.15	187.7	0.0	3188	2129
88	5179	1750.39	179.8	0.0	3121	2131
89	5102	1812.77	173.3	0.0	3057	2189
90	5089	1874.21	173.0	0.0	2996	2190
91	5037	1935.81	163.4	0.0	2935	2192
92	5026	1986.65	157.1	0.0	2876	2193
93	4985	2004.05	151.0	0.0	2817	2195
94	4895	2067.02	145.2	0.0	2759	2196
95	4797	2127.87	139.9	0.0	2701	2251
96	4724	2186.72	135.1	0.0	2645	2252
97	4683	2193.52	131.2	0.0	2589	2253
98	4680	2252.59	209.5	0.0	2535	2284
99	4653	2314.68	327.5	0.0	2483	2284
100	4630	2376.81	350.0	0.0	2432	2312
101	4638	2492.62	354.9	0.0	2383	2312
102	4615	2553.88	322.4	0.0	2335	2312
103	4614	2615.20	311.9	0.0	2290	2312
104	4564	2675.52	310.1	0.0	2246	2312
105	4455	2679.68	310.0	51.3	2204	2312
106	4376	2738.76	317.7	51.3	1948	2312
107	4301	2854.18	335.7	51.3	1698	2254
108	4231	2968.46	367.5	51.3	1454	2253
109	4162	2971.55	417.2	51.4	1215	2251
110	4099	2974.48	488.4	51.4	981	2195
111	4040	3032.14	586.6	51.4	752	2193
112	3985	3034.67	822.7	51.5	527	2190
113	3933	3037.05	901.3	51.5	306	2131
114	3883	3039.30	1001.9	51.6	302	2127
115	3834	3041.42	1119.2	51.7	299	2068
116	3786	3153.66	1224.6	51.7	295	2065
117	3738	3155.90	1324.7	103.7	291	2004
118	3691	3156.80	1354.6	103.9	288	2001
119	3643	3158.18	1494.5	104.1	284	1998

120	3596	3159.43	1577.8	104.3	281	1938
121	3549	3160.55	1595.6	104.5	277	1935
122	3504	3161.55	1993.4	104.7	274	1876
123	3459	3162.43	2070.4	157.1	271	1873
124	3416	3163.19	1924.2	157.5	268	1814
125	3374	3274.52	1739.7	157.9	264	1812
126	3333	3274.77	1662.2	158.2	261	1809
127	3294	3274.91	1601.9	210.2	258	1750
128	3255	3274.95	1555.8	210.6	255	1747
129	3219	3274.88	1541.9	211.0	252	1688
130	3183	3274.72	1519.8	211.3	249	1686
131	3147	3274.45	1513.6	211.7	246	1684
132	3113	3163.43	1517.1	212.1	243	1624
133	3080	3163.29	1526.9	263.7	240	1622
134	3047	3163.06	1539.7	264.2	237	1620
135	3014	3162.75	1553.5	264.6	236	1561
136	2982	3162.35	1567.1	265.0	235	1559
137	2951	3161.87	1579.4	316.0	234	1557
138	2919	3161.31	1589.0	316.5	232	1497
139	2888	3160.67	1594.0	317.1	231	1495
140	2857	3159.94	1592.2	317.6	228	1493
141	2826	3159.14	1581.7	367.8	226	1434
142	2796	3158.26	1561.1	368.4	224	1432
143	2765	3157.30	1530.2	369.0	221	1430
144	2734	3156.26	1489.5	369.5	218	1377
145	2703	3155.15	1440.4	424.4	216	1375
146	2671	3153.95	1384.5	425.0	213	1373
147	2640	3042.45	1324.4	425.5	211	1316
148	2608	3041.42	1261.5	425.9	208	1314
149	2576	3040.31	1199.6	426.4	206	1313
150	2544	3039.13	1174.4	426.8	203	1255
151	2512	3037.86	1082.6	481.8	201	1254
152	2480	3036.51	1019.7	482.2	198	1252
153	2447	3035.09	960.2	482.5	196	1251
154	2415	3033.58	904.2	482.7	194	1192
155	2383	2977.11	851.8	483.0	191	1191
156	2350	2975.62	804.6	483.2	189	1190
157	2318	2974.05	765.9	483.3	187	1131
158	2089	2972.40	729.0	483.5	185	1130
159	1825	2970.13	690.8	483.6	182	1129
160	1585	2967.25	657.0	483.7	180	1128
161	1350	2853.09	627.9	483.8	178	1071
162	1120	2736.95	603.3	483.9	176	1070
163	893	2679.15	587.5	484.0	174	1069
164	670	2619.16	573.1	484.0	172	1068
165	449	2614.61	639.1	484.1	170	1011
166	447	2496.59	570.9	484.2	168	1010
167	444	2436.59	559.7	484.2	166	1009
168	440	2376.93	552.0	484.3	164	1008
169	436	2315.56	562.5	484.3	162	1007
170	429	2311.77	982.8	534.1	160	1006
171	423	2250.77	1148.6	534.4	159	1005
172	531	2192.98	966.2	534.8	157	947
173	536	2189.99	966.3	535.1	155	947
174	607	2131.49	1720.3	535.6	153	946
175	382	2128.62	2063.8	536.5	151	945
176	376	2125.33	2204.2	593.0	150	944
177	584	2066.41	2881.5	594.4	148	943
178	360	2063.68	2959.5	596.0	146	886
179	588	2002.98	3538.5	653.8	145	885
180	773	2000.39	4151.4	712.1	143	885
181	546	1998.17	4752.3	715.1	141	884

182	323	1936.21	5856.3	775.0	140	883
183	317	1935.37	6909.7	836.3	138	882
184	312	1876.44	7814.1	899.0	137	882
185	321	1873.75	8619.8	1021.3	135	825
186	326	1871.41	9249.1	1143.7	134	824
187	301	1813.59	9718.5	1269.8	132	824
188	279	1811.39	10184.3	1394.7	131	823
189	275	1808.82	10469.8	1518.4	129	822
190	483	1749.56	10175.6	1706.3	128	822
191	263	1747.48	9966.9	1834.4	126	821
192	269	1688.53	9608.0	1961.3	125	820
193	294	1686.26	9138.3	2090.8	124	764
194	251	1683.98	8878.3	2216.6	122	764
195	247	1624.37	9688.4	2401.3	121	763
196	243	1622.24	8788.1	2585.4	120	763
197	239	1620.09	8262.5	2769.4	119	762
198	236	1560.86	7933.9	3006.4	118	761
199	232	1558.87	7526.6	3073.7	116	761
200	228	1556.88	6999.4	3196.4	115	760
201	225	1497.07	6525.1	3318.2	114	704
202	222	1495.21	6120.9	3382.3	112	704
203	218	1493.35	5856.0	3501.5	111	703
204	215	1433.90	5383.7	3507.6	110	703
205	212	1432.18	4985.2	3624.9	109	702
206	209	1430.45	4597.0	3628.5	108	702
207	206	1376.57	4185.1	3631.0	106	701
208	203	1374.97	4002.2	3632.3	105	701
209	200	1373.37	3839.0	3633.1	104	700
210	197	1315.55	3673.1	3633.5	102	645
211	194	1314.08	3535.0	3633.4	101	644
212	192	1312.60	4370.1	3634.2	100	644
213	189	1255.11	4736.1	3692.9	99	644
214	186	1253.76	5183.8	3696.2	98	643
215	184	1252.40	6110.1	3701.4	96	643
216	181	1251.04	6736.0	3821.6	95	642
217	179	1192.24	7372.9	3943.9	94	642
218	176	1191.00	7360.1	4011.2	93	641
219	174	1189.76	7403.9	4021.9	92	586
220	171	1131.26	7662.9	4260.7	91	586
221	169	1130.13	8736.3	4559.5	90	585
222	167	1129.00	8831.9	4863.0	89	585
223	164	1127.87	9172.3	5171.3	88	585
224	162	1070.44	9440.3	5485.9	87	584
225	160	1069.43	9473.8	5807.2	86	584
226	158	1068.41	9468.7	6135.8	86	584
227	156	1067.38	9376.3	6151.0	85	583
228	154	1010.29	8800.4	6553.8	84	583
229	152	1009.37	8214.5	6965.8	83	582
230	150	1008.44	7633.5	7387.4	82	528
231	148	1007.52	7067.1	7528.4	81	527
232	146	1006.59	6519.5	7524.5	80	527
233	144	1005.66	6435.3	7098.4	79	527
234	142	947.89	6359.9	6889.6	79	526
235	140	947.07	6292.4	6817.9	78	526
236	139	946.24	6232.1	6814.4	77	526
237	137	945.41	5736.0	6810.5	76	525
238	135	944.57	5258.6	6804.0	75	525
239	133	943.73	4799.7	6597.5	75	525
240	132	942.89	4359.4	6392.1	74	525
241	130	885.55	3837.3	6189.6	73	476
242	129	884.81	3533.0	5990.0	72	475
243	127	884.07	3587.6	5791.8	72	475

144	105	883.32	3648.5	5599.4	71	475
145	124	862.58	3715.1	5409.9	70	475
146	122	881.82	3345.6	5224.3	70	474
147	121	881.07	2990.9	5157.2	69	474
148	119	824.49	2650.0	4973.2	68	474
149	118	823.84	2762.4	4790.0	68	474
150	117	823.16	2876.9	4609.8	67	473
151	116	822.52	2553.3	4546.0	66	473
152	114	821.86	2241.1	4368.0	66	473
153	113	821.19	1939.4	4247.0	65	419
154	111	820.53	2086.7	4089.5	64	419
155	110	764.35	2283.8	4006.7	64	419
156	109	763.77	2380.2	3944.7	63	418
157	107	763.19	2087.4	3939.8	63	418
158	106	762.61	1803.4	3821.4	62	418
159	105	762.03	1577.7	3615.3	61	418
160	104	761.45	1478.5	3696.2	61	418
161	103	760.86	1650.7	3689.8	60	417
162	101	760.28	1820.8	3627.9	60	417
163	100	704.37	1988.5	3622.7	59	417
164	99	703.87	1717.2	3618.0	59	417
165	98	703.36	1453.2	3500.6	58	417
166	97	702.86	1195.8	3494.9	58	416
167	96	702.35	1162.6	3376.9	57	363
168	95	701.84	1348.8	3370.9	56	363
169	94	701.33	1531.9	3309.9	56	362
170	93	700.81	1276.8	3303.2	55	362
171	92	700.30	1027.8	3188.0	55	362
172	91	644.79	1219.1	3182.4	54	362
173	90	644.36	1407.1	3066.1	54	362
174	89	643.92	1157.7	3062.0	53	362
175	88	643.49	913.9	3001.7	53	362
176	87	643.05	1109.1	2996.6	53	361
177	86	642.61	1300.8	2880.0	52	361
178	85	642.17	1055.9	2876.3	52	361
179	84	641.73	816.3	2760.4	51	361
180	83	641.29	1014.5	2699.5	51	361
181	82	585.95	1209.0	2639.3	50	361
182	81	585.58	967.9	2578.8	50	360
183	81	585.21	731.8	2518.2	49	312
184	80	584.84	932.2	2514.4	49	312
185	78	584.47	1129.1	2455.0	49	311
186	78	584.10	891.1	2396.2	48	311
187	77	583.73	657.9	2335.3	48	311
188	76	583.36	644.7	2332.0	47	311
189	76	582.98	847.3	2270.9	47	311
190	75	582.61	1046.3	2213.3	46	311
191	74	527.67	811.4	2211.1	46	311
192	73	527.36	581.2	2208.5	46	311
193	73	527.05	570.2	2149.0	45	311
194	72	526.74	774.4	2146.1	45	310
195	71	526.44	975.0	2087.3	45	310
196	71	526.12	742.8	2085.3	44	310
197	70	525.81	515.0	2082.9	44	310
198	69	525.50	505.7	2021.9	43	310
199	68	525.19	711.1	2019.2	43	310
200	68	524.88	913.0	2016.9	43	310
201	67	524.57	683.1	1957.0	42	260
202	66	475.74	457.3	1954.8	42	260
203	66	475.49	449.5	1952.3	42	260
204	65	475.24	655.8	1893.0	41	260
205	65	474.99	858.7	1891.0	41	260

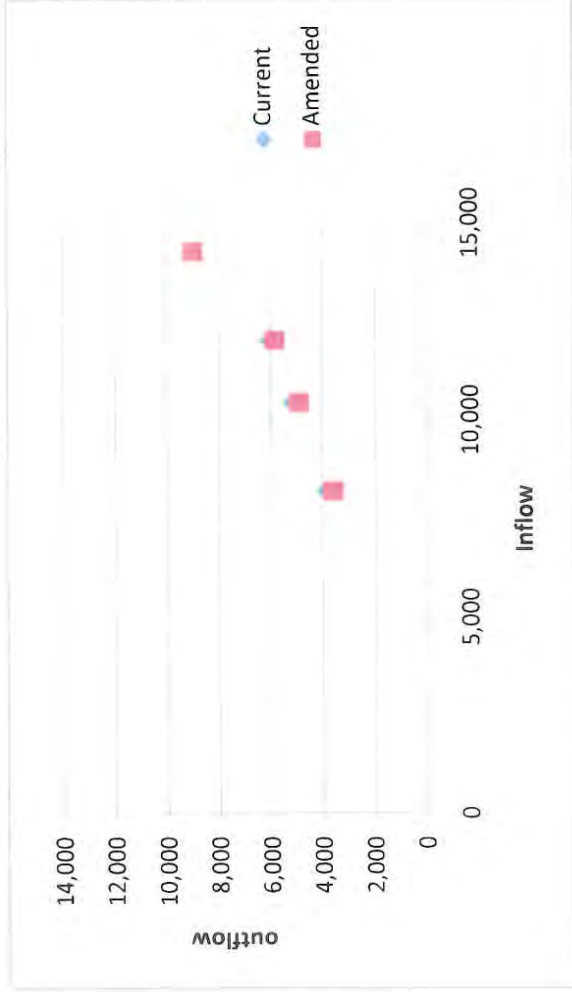
306	54	474.73	630.7	1889.2	41	260
307	53	474.48	406.8	1887.1	40	260
308	63	474.23	400.1	1828.2	40	260
309	52	473.97	607.1	1825.9	40	260
310	61	473.72	810.8	1766.6	39	260
311	61	473.46	584.5	1765.1	39	259
312	60	473.21	362.1	1763.2	39	259
313	60	472.95	356.4	1760.9	38	259
314	59	478.95	350.9	1701.7	38	259
315	59	478.75	345.4	1699.6	38	259
316	59	478.55	340.1	1699.6	38	259
317	58	478.35	334.9	1637.6	37	259
318	57	478.15	329.8	1635.6	37	259
319	57	477.95	324.8	1576.0	37	259
320	56	477.75	320.0	1574.1	36	259
321	56	477.55	315.2	1572.3	36	259
322	55	477.34	310.5	1512.0	36	259
323	55	477.14	305.9	1510.3	36	208
324	54	476.94	301.4	1508.6	35	208
325	54	476.73	297.0	1506.9	35	208
326	53	476.52	292.7	1447.0	35	208
327	53	476.32	288.5	1445.4	34	208
328	52	476.12	284.3	1443.8	34	208
329	52	475.92	280.2	1389.5	34	208
330	51	475.72	276.2	1388.0	34	208
331	51	475.52	272.3	1386.5	33	208
332	50	475.32	268.5	1328.2	33	208
333	50	475.12	264.7	1326.9	33	208
334	49	474.92	261.0	1325.5	33	208
335	49	474.72	257.4	1324.1	32	208
336	49	474.52	253.8	1266.2	32	208
337	48	474.32	250.3	1264.9	32	208
338	48	474.12	246.9	1263.7	32	208
339	47	473.92	243.5	1204.4	31	208
340	47	473.72	240.2	1203.2	31	207
341	47	473.52	236.9	1202.1	31	207
342	46	473.32	233.7	1200.9	31	207
343	46	473.12	230.6	1142.0	31	207
344	45	472.92	227.5	1140.9	30	207
345	45	472.72	224.5	1139.9	30	207
346	45	472.52	221.5	1138.8	30	207
347	44	472.32	218.6	1080.9	30	207
348	44	472.12	215.7	1080.0	29	207
349	44	471.92	212.9	1079.0	29	207
350	43	471.72	210.1	1078.1	29	207
351	43	471.52	207.4	1020.5	29	207
352	43	471.32	204.7	1019.6	29	207
353	42	471.12	202.0	1018.8	28	207
354	42	470.92	199.4	1017.9	28	207
355	41	470.72	196.9	1017.0	28	207
356	41	470.52	194.4	1016.2	28	207
357	41	470.32	191.9	1015.3	28	207
358	40	470.12	189.5	957.1	27	207
359	40	469.92	187.1	956.3	27	206
360	40	469.72	184.8	955.5	27	206
361	40	469.52	182.5	954.7	27	206
362	39	469.32	180.2	954.0	27	206
363	39	469.12	178.0	953.2	26	206
364	39	468.92	175.8	952.4	26	206
365	38	468.72	173.6	894.6	26	206
366	38	468.52	171.5	893.9	26	206
367	38	468.32	169.4	893.2	26	206

368	37	259.71	167.3	892.5	26	206
369	37	259.63	165.3	891.8	25	155
370	37	259.55	163.3	891.1	25	155
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374	36	259.22	155.6	832.0	25	155
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384	33	208.26	138.4	770.1	23	155
385	33	208.21	136.9	769.5	23	155
386	33	208.16	135.3	769.0	23	155
387	32	208.11	133.8	768.4	23	155
388	32	208.06	132.3	767.9	22	155
389	32	208.01	130.8	711.5	22	155
390	32	207.96	129.3	711.0	22	155
391	31	207.91	127.9	710.5	22	155
392	31	207.85	126.5	710.0	22	155
393	31	207.80	125.1	709.6	22	155
394	31	207.75	123.7	709.1	22	155
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411	27	206.87	103.0	591.1	19	154
412	27	206.82	101.9	590.7	19	154
413	27	206.76	100.9	590.4	19	154
414	27	206.71	99.8	590.0	19	154
415	27	206.66	98.8	589.6	19	154
416	26	206.60	97.8	589.3	19	154
417	26	206.55	96.8	588.9	19	154
418	26	206.50	95.8	533.5	19	154
419	26	206.45	94.8	533.2	18	154
420	26	206.39	93.9	532.9	18	154
421	25	206.34	92.9	532.6	18	154
422	25	206.29	92.0	532.3	18	154
423	25	206.23	91.0	532.0	18	154
424	25	206.18	90.1	531.7	18	154
425	25	206.13	89.2	531.4	18	154
426	25	206.07	88.4	531.1	18	154
427	24	206.02	87.5	530.8	18	154
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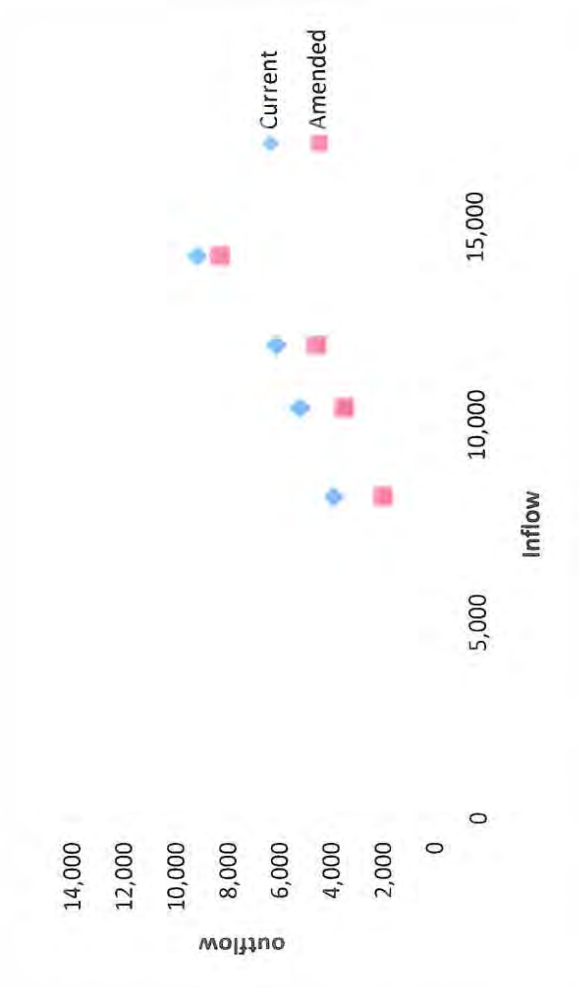
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480 18 203 81 537 314 5 13 102
481 18 203 75 533 314 4 13 102
482 17 203 70 529 314 2 13 102
483 17 203 64 525 314 1 13 102
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492	1E	203 13	49.1	263.1	12	102
493	1e	203 07	48.7	263.1	12	102
494	1E	203 01	48.4	263.0	12	102
495	1E	202 96	48.0	262.9	12	102
496	1E	202 90	47.7	262.8	12	102
497	1E	202 84	47.4	262.8	12	102

ARI	inflow	Current	Amended
200	8,214	3,861	3,613
500	10,455	5,125	4,915
1000	12,031	6,049	5,854
5000	14,278	9,083	8,994



ARI	inflow	Current	Amended
200	8,214	3,861	1,971
500	10,455	5,125	3,446
1000	12,031	6,049	4,504
5000	14,278	9,083	8,217

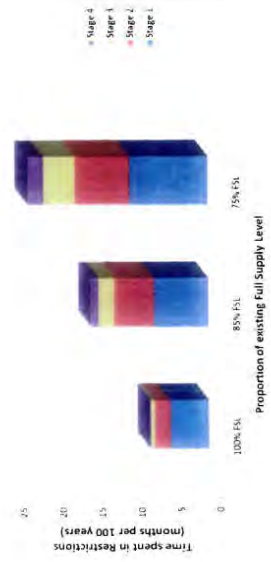


junk data!!!

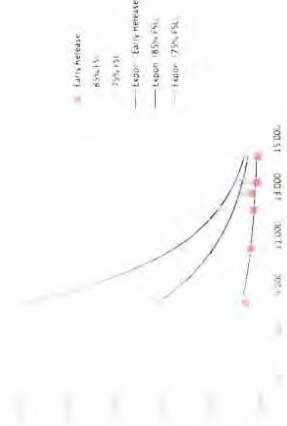
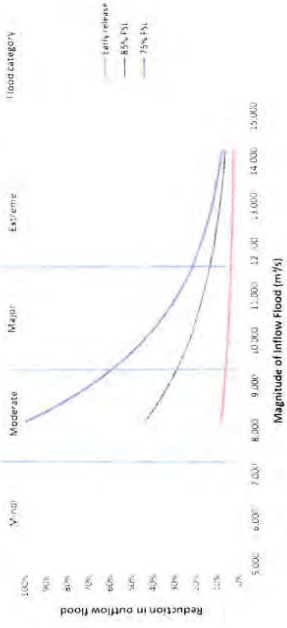
SL	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
100% FSL	5	2	0.5	0.01
85% FSL	7	5	1	1
75% FSL	10	7	4	1

SL	100% FSL	85% FSL	75% FSL
100%	33.33	6.40%	11.60%
90%	39.81	4.10%	17.00%
80%	46.28	3.20%	16.30%
70%	52.75	1.80%	6.60%
60%	59.22	1.40%	4.50%
50%	65.69	1.00%	3.90%

Increase in Restrictions for Different Storage Levels (LINK ZIMATI)



Indicative Reduction in Outflow For Different Gate Operating Strategies



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From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 5:19 PM
To: Rory Nathan [REDACTED]
Cc: PAT NIXON [REDACTED]
Subject: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx
Attachments: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx

Hi Gents,

Latest draft - I was asked to include differing options for the CEO. I am working on the plots as suggested but I need to get home to see the family and will send them through later tonight.

Regards,

Barton Maher
Principal Dams & Water Planning
QLD Bulk Water Supply Authority (07)37043800@seqwater



[REDACTED]
Parent Office: 60 Johnston Road, North Ipswich QLD 4705
PO Box 5437, North Ipswich QLD 4705
Website: www.seqwater.com.au

Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges

Introduction

Seqwater staff have been asked to investigate the impact of reducing the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on the downstream discharges for major flood events. This memo details the investigations carried out and provides a preliminary assessment of the reduction in flood flows that could be achieved by reducing the Wivenhoe Dam storage level to 5%, 10%, 25% and 50% of the normal water supply volume.

The comments in this report are provided to give an indication of the impacts of a reduced storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on discharges during major flood events. It must be noted that it is very preliminary, as to get accurate results a full investigation and analysis of the whole river system utilising multiple flood events and models would be required. This review was requested to provide an order of magnitude assessment of impacts and the results should not be utilised beyond that purpose.

Definitions

For the purposes of this report the following definitions have been adopted as per the Wivenhoe – Somerset Flood manual:

Fresh	This causes only very low-level bridges to be submerged.
Minor Flooding	This causes inconvenience such as closing minor roads and the submergence of low-level bridges. Some urban properties are affected.
Moderate Flooding	This causes inundation of low-lying areas and may require the evacuation of some houses and/or business premises. Traffic bridges may be closed.
Major Flooding	This causes flooding of appreciable urban areas. Properties may become isolated. Major disruption occurs to traffic. Evacuation of many houses and business premises may be required.
Extreme Flooding	This causes flooding well in excess of floods in living memory and general evacuation of whole areas are likely to be required.
"m ³ /s"	Means an instantaneous flow rate expressed as cubic meters of water per second.
"AEP"	means annual exceedance probability, the probability of a specified event being exceeded in any year;
"AHD"	means Australian Height Datum;
"EL"	means elevation in metres from Australian Height Datum;
"ML"	Means a million litres of water

Analysis Methodology

The analysis was undertaken using a spreadsheet developed to model the gate opening sequence as provided in the Flood Manual during a loss of communications situation. During a loss of communications between the dam operators and the Flood Control Centre, operators would use predefined gate openings based solely on the Lake Level information available to them at the dams. Utilising this spreadsheet takes out the role of weather predictions with openings based on dam levels and allows a consistent methodology to compare various flood events.

A history of floods in the Brisbane River is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 - Summary of Significant Flood Events in the Brisbane River

Event	Somerset Dam			Wivenhoe Dam		
	Peak Elevation	Inflow	Outflow	Peak Elevation	Total Flood Volume	Outflow Flood Volume
	m AHD	ML	ML	m AHD	ML	ML
Jan 1974#	106.57	620,000	450,000	na	1,410,000	1,410,000
Jun 1983	101.58	260,000	280,000		1,080,000	470,000
Mar 1989	102.59	370,000	380,000	69.78	690,000	660,000
Apr 1989	102.69	340,000	350,000	71.45	870,000	820,000
Feb 1999	102.96	450,000	280,000	70.45	1,220,000	900,000
May 2009	99.62	110,000	110,000	62.19	235,000	0
Mar 2010	99.41	210,000	200,000	66.43	390,000	0
Oct 2010	101.37	250,000	270,000	69.61	630,000	630,000
Mid Dec 2010	100.42	150,000	140,000	67.50	360,000	330,000
Late Dec 2010	99.98	120,000	130,000	69.35	500,000	460,000
Jan 2011	105.11	825,000	820,000	74.97	2,650,000	2,650,000

No Wivenhoe Dam

* Upper Brisbane R only

The assessment has investigated the impacts of the lowered storage level on the three largest events – the 1974 flood, the 1999 flood and the 2011 flood.

Analysis Results

A summary of the results of the modelling is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 - Results of the Analysis

Storage Level at Start	% of FS Volume	Wivenhoe Dam		Somerset Dam		Lockyer Creek	Lowood	Bremer River	Moggill	Reduction at Moggill
		Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)					
1974 Flood										
67	100	8,482	3,275	5,019	3,548	3,260	5,110	4,241	7,948	
66.5	95	8,482	3,153	5,019	3,480	3,260	4,799	4,241	7,910	0.5%
65.8	90	8,482	2,974	5,019	3,419	3,260	4,524	4,241	7,897	0.6%
64	75	8,482	2,618	5,019	3,302	3,260	4,117	4,241	7,683	3.3%
60	50	8,482	2,067	5,019	3,040	3,260	3,342	4,241	7,423	6.6%
1999 Flood										
67	100	11,641	2,312	7,540	3,837	663	2,556	308	2,593	
66.5	95	11,641	2,132	7,540	3,662	663	2,434	308	2,479	4.4%
65.8	90	11,641	2,003	7,540	3,470	663	2,284	308	2,319	10.6%
64	75	11,641	1,687	7,540	3,214	663	1,906	308	1,936	25.3%
60	50	11,641	1,007	7,540	2,798	663	1,186	308	1,214	53.2%
2011 Flood										
67	100	12,045	7,468	3,824	2,814	3,040	10,495	2,793	13,104	
66.5	95	12,045	7,453	3,824	2,798	3,040	10,445	2,793	13,004	0.8%
65.8	90	12,045	6,756	3,824	2,815	3,040	9,791	2,793	12,302	6.1%
64	75	12,045	5,748	3,824	2,680	3,040	8,788	2,793	11,110	15.2%
60	50	12,045	4,209	3,824	1,595	3,040	7,249	2,793	9,582	26.9%

The preliminary work done by Seqwater before Christmas 2010 showed that for the October 2010 event, reducing the level of Wivenhoe by small amounts would have had minimal impact on the flood releases. From the

Table 2 the following comments are applicable:

¹ Note the flows quoted for Moggill are based on the addition of outflows from the dam and the measured flows at Lockyer Creek and the Bremer River. They do not have any allowance for routing of the flows through the river system and the subsequent reduction in flows that were observed during the flood events.

- Similarly to work completed previously, reducing levels by small amounts prior to the January 2011 Event (if it was feasible) would have had little impact on the peak level in Wivenhoe Dam as shown in the Table 2. The reason for this is that the total event inflow volume of 2,600,000 ML is well in excess of the useable flood storage combined with the available water supply storages shown in the table. Large reductions to the storage level of the dam (25 to 50%) would be required if significant impacts on flooding are to be achieved.
- For the 1999 flood, where most of the flooding occurred upstream of the Wivenhoe Dam, there is a dramatic reduction in the peak outflow if the storage is lowered. However, this is of little benefit as the flood would not have resulted in damaging flows downstream of the dam even if the storage was full.
- The 1974 flood simulation is based on the recorded flows being routed through the both Somerset and Wivenhoe. The presence of Wivenhoe would have reduced the flooding damage in Brisbane during the 1974 event, however there is very little change to the flood mitigation benefits by varying the storage level in Wivenhoe. As most of the flood flows in 1974 were downstream of the dam and the flood in the Brisbane River was relatively small compared to the downstream flooding the event is insensitive to the starting level in Wivenhoe.
- It should be noted that the increasing early releases from Wivenhoe was investigated during the Brisbane Valley Flood Damages Study as part of a review of the operation of the dam. Releasing more water earlier on from Wivenhoe dam was shown to lessen the flood mitigation benefits compared with the existing flood manual release strategies.

The key point being that each flood event is unique and presents varying opportunities to mitigate flows through Brisbane.

Downstream Water Level Changes

To evaluate the specific impact on the Lower Brisbane River of these reduced dam outflows from lowering the storage requires the use of a complex hydraulic model. The results of this modelling would still contain a degree of uncertainty as illustrated by the difficulties in estimating the final flood peak in Brisbane during the event. The uncertainty was partly due to the rapid closure of the Wivenhoe gates after the peak inflow of the flood and the attenuation achieved in the downstream river system. It is extremely difficult to model accurately.

Given the timeframe of this report it is not possible to generate any reliable estimate of the changes to the water level at the Port Office Gauge due to tidal influences, the need to interpolate between previously modelled results that vary markedly between differing events, the availability of verified data, and the uncertainty surrounding the timing of peak flows for the differing scenarios.

Table 3 shows a comparison of the peak water level for each of the various starting levels for the 2011 Flood Event. It should be noted that each scenario results in the storage level exceeding EL74 requiring the gates to be opened until the storage rise is stopped.

Table 3: Preliminary 2011 Peak 19 Brisbane Level Changes due to lowering Wivenhoe

Starting Level	Wivenhoe	
	Peak Height	Capacity at Peak Height
m AHD	m AHD	(%)
100	74.98	100

95	66.5	74.93	190.6
90	65.8	74.88	189.9
75	64.0	74.63	186.5
50	60.0	74.11	179.6

Again it should be noted that minor changes to the storage level of Wivenhoe would have negligible impacts on the flooding in Brisbane.

It should be noted that to accurately calculate the impacts of reducing the storage levels of Wivenhoe Dam at the start of a major flood event requires considerable study as rainfall events of different intensity, duration, peak, location and spread will give very different outcomes. In addition, there is the need to do detailed hydraulic analysis of the river system for each scenario to more accurately determine impacts.

Summary

Due to the large volumes of water associated with major flood events (with an AEP of 1:100 or less) in the Brisbane River, to effectively reduce flood peak discharges significantly (such as for the January 2011 flood) would require the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam to be lowered by at least 25 to 50%.

Contingency Options

There is the possibility of further flood events in the South East Queensland during the 2010/2011 wet season. To reduce the risk of flooding in Brisbane should a major rainfall event be predicted it has been requested that lowering of the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam be investigated to determine if this is a feasible option to further mitigate flood flows.

The assessment carried out by Seqwater has indicated that to have any significant impact on releases downstream of Wivenhoe Dam during a major flood event it would be necessary to lower the storage level by 25 to 50%.

There are five options considered going forward:

1. Continue with the current approved flood manual strategies
2. Commence drawing down the storage at a safe rate to bring it down to say 75%.
3. Pre-release water from the dam following the prediction of a major rainfall event
4. Change the flood manual strategies to ignore the early strategies designed to minimise disruption to the rural communities.
5. Temporarily reduce the full supply of Wivenhoe Dam and amend the flood releases to commence flood operations from the lowered full supply level.

Do Nothing Option - Continue with the Current Flood Manual

This option maintains the status quo and continues to utilise the dam at originally designed. This option may be the least risky associated with it as the strategies have been implemented and utilised.

over several flood events and the manual was developed by a comprehensive study. The strategies in the flood manual have proved adequate for more frequent flood events.

Option 1 – Vary the early strategies for the Flood Manual

It has been proposed that increasing the releases from the dam up to 1,600cumecs as soon as practicable after gate operations commence may deliver reduced peak flood levels. This has been investigated to assess the impact of attempting to release more water at the very start of an event.

This option has been assessed using a range of design events from the Wivenhoe Alliance Design hydrology. To model the impacts of increasing releases up to 1,600cumecs as soon as practicable a range of design flood events from the Wivenhoe Alliance were compared using the program FLROUTE. . It was assumed that no attempt would be made to maintain bridge access downstream of the dam other than Mt Crosby Weir Bridge and the Brisbane Valley Highway Bridge.

The results for the model runs are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 - Comparison of Release Strategies

Flood Event				Existing Rules		Amended Rules		Flow Reduction %
Duration (hours)	Annual Exceedance Probability	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hours	1 in 200	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.43	3,613	71.27	6.4%
36 hours	1 in 500	10,455	1,624,119	5,125	72.22	4,915	72.09	4.1%
36 hours	1 in 1000	12,031	1,772,752	6,049	72.8	5,854	72.68	3.2%
48 hours	1 in 5000	14,278	2,562,553	9,083	74.71	8,994	74.66	1.0%
72 hours	1 in 5000	13,181	2,880,602	8,204	74.16	8,101	74.10	1.3%
96 hours	1 in 5000	11,870	2,948,032	7,550	73.75	7,426	73.67	1.6%
120 hours	1 in 5000	12,727	3,005,136	7,265	73.57	6,986	73.39	3.8%

It should be noted that predicted flood levels greater than EL 74 require the gates to be opened until the water level stabilises. This is fundamental to the dam’s safety. In addition, any reduction in starting level, which does not achieve a peak lower than EL 74, is unlikely to have any impact upon peak release rate.

It should also be noted that that design flows used from the Alliance bear no resemblance to actual recorded flood events. This is demonstrated by the Jan 2011 flood which had dual peak inflows of about 10,000 and 12,000 m³/s with a flood volume of 2,650,000ML, placing it in the 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 5,000 AEP according to Table 1

It can be clearly seen from Table 4 that changes to the early releases adopted for the flood manual strategies have minimal impact on the maximum outflow for the dam. The greatest benefit is for the 1 in 200 AEP events. For the flood events investigate the reduction in peak outflow for the dam is negligible. Note that this analysis does not consider the downstream flooding in the Lockyer and Bremer Rivers.

However, it should be noted that there is the real risk that the release of additional water from the dam early in the flood event may make local flooding impacts in Brisbane worse. Due to the travel time of releases, uncertainty in forecast rainfall, and the low lying local catchment areas between Wivenhoe Dam and the urban areas of Brisbane, it is likely that for some events the increased early releases will exacerbate local flooding in Brisbane. This is potentially a significant risk as this flooding is directly attributable to the dam releases and could be avoided if the dam was operated according to the current strategy.

The flood strategies for Wivenhoe and Somerset are based on holding back flood waters until the rain has occurred and downstream flooding has peaked. Releasing early in an event compromises some of the flood mitigation capacity for the intermediate flood events.

Option 2 – Pre-release water when a major event is forecast

This option involves implementing a significant release of water once the notification of a major rainfall event has been received. This option is reliant on the accuracy of forecasts and having predefined approval processes in place.

The Bureau of Meteorology was approached by the SEQWater Corporation to discuss the ability of the provision of short term forecasts of large rainfall events. Their response is included in attachment A. The summary of their advice from the meeting was

“In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on the subject and maybe able to assist with some service that would assist.”

There are also physical constraints on the amount of water that can be released. To reduce Wivenhoe to 75% in 48 hours requires water to be released at a rate that would close all of the road crossings over the Brisbane River between the dam and the Jindalee Bridge (peak flow of over 1,900cu.m/s) and result in a final volume in Wivenhoe of around 66.8% during the third day if the gates were closed down using the established closure sequence after the 48 hours. If the high rainfall did occur, then the gates would no doubt remain open.

It is not possible to lower Wivenhoe to 50% within 3 days due to the incremental opening of the gates required for safety, the reduction in discharge through the gates with the dropping dam level, and the need to limit discharges below damaging flows through Brisbane.

In light of the above comment pre-releases (i.e. releasing water prior to the event) may result in variable but significant risk associated with the strategy defined.

- The difficulty in actually releasing significant volumes of water,
- The potential impacts downstream if rainfall doesn't eventuate (disrupting the downstream community, causing minor damage to low lying areas, creating a "sunny day" flood event totally attributable to the dam, someone could be injured or washed away in such a release).
- The risk of exacerbating flooding by making releases that then add to flood levels downstream occurring after the pre-release. (i.e. the predicted rainfall occurs downstream of the dam while the river level is elevated due to the pre-release's from the dam combining to create a damaging flood).
- Predicting rainfall 2 days before an event is highly variable even according to the Bureau of Meteorology and 3 days is problematic.

Option 3 – Lower the Storage Level by Sunny Day Releases to 75% and operate under the current flood manual

This option involves effectively lowering the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe Dam to increase the flood mitigation storage at the commencement of a flood event. As discussed previously, the storage would need to be lowered by 25 to 50% to provide a significant reduction in peak flows for a major flood event. Once the storage level reached EL67 gate operations would commence as per the current flood manual.

To safely lower the storage it is proposed that this option would be implemented by "Sunny Day" releases at a rate low enough to minimise disruption to the rural areas. This would be difficult to implement during a wet year where the risk of major flooding is greater.

In the 25 days leading up to the January 2011 Flood event, three flood events impacting on Wivenhoe Dam were experienced, with gate releases being made on all but five of those days. The total outflow from these events was around 790,000ML.

During these events, multiple requests were received from Councils and residents impacted by bridge closures downstream of the dam to curtail releases as soon and as quickly as possible. Additionally, the 2 January end date of the flood event prior to the January 2011 Flood event meant that significant draw down of the dam prior to the onset of the January 2011 Flood event that commenced on 6 January 2011, was not possible without major bridge inundation downstream of the dam and without exceeding minor flood levels in the lower Brisbane River.

Additionally, a flood event was also experienced in October 2010 that resulted in a release of 640,000ML from the dam. Accordingly, to drain down the dam below full supply level prior to the start of the first December event would not have been possible without significant bridge inundation and without exceeding minor flood levels (as defined by BOM and BCC) in the lower Brisbane River.

In other words, preceding rainfall events to the January 2011 Major Flood event had created flooding that would have maintained the storage at the current FSL and prevent drawdown of the storage if such a strategy was proposed

- Compromising water security for South East Queensland by lowering the storage at the end of the each event. The impact on yield needs to be quantified.
- Having preceding rainfall events fill up the dam and prevent it from being lowered before a major flood event. Effectively compromising any effectiveness associated with this strategy.
- The limited discharges that can be utilised during sunny day flows in the river system. To reduce levels prior to summer would take some time without inundating any bridges and without any further inflows. To reduce from 100% to 50% and only impact on Twin Bridges and Savages Crossings and keep Colleges Crossing open could take some 5 to 6 weeks. Even if levels are reduced in Wivenhoe prior to summer, as occurred this summer, multiple rain events can fill the dam and would require significant releases to keep the storage level down.

Option 4 - Temporarily Lower the Full Supply Level to 85% and Amend the Flood Operations Manual

It was requested that the option of temporarily lowering the storage to 85% of the current storage capacity (for this option make EL65.25 the FSL, down from EL67) and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL65.5. The amended manual would retain the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.

This amended change would result in flow reductions similar to that obtained from Option 3.

Table 9 - Impact of Temporarily Lowering FSL to 85%

Flood Event				Existing Rules		Temporarily Reducing FSL.		Flow Reduction %
Duration (hours)	Annual Exceedance Probability	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hours	1 in 200	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.4	2,639	70.66	31.6%
36 hours	1 in 500	10,455	1,624,119	5,983	72.2	4,028	71.53	32.7%
36 hours	1 in 1000	12,031	1,772,752	6,010	72.78	5,031	72.16	16.3%
48 hours	1 in 5000	14,278	2,562,553	9,066	74.7	8,535	74.37	5.9%
72 hours	1 in 5000	13,181	2,880,602	8,190	74.15	7,821	73.92	4.5%
96 hours	1 in 5000	11,870	2,948,032	7,534	73.74	7,135	73.49	5.3%
120 hours	1 in 5000	12,727	3,005,136	7,227	73.55	6,751	73.25	6.6%
January 2011	-	12,045	2,650,000	7,468	74.98	5,746	74.62	23.1%
1974		8,842	1,410,000	3,275	73.305	2,737	72.91	16.4%
1999		11,641	1,220,000	1,949	72.23	1,814	71.80	20.9%

Option 5 – Temporarily Lower the Full Supply Level to 75% and Amend the Flood Operations Manual

It was requested that the option of temporarily lowering the storage to 75% of the current storage capacity (for this option make EL64 the FSL, down from EL67) and amend the current flood manual to commence releases once the storage level exceeds EL64. The amended manual would retain the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.

As can be seen in Table 6 lowering the FSL to EL64 (75% of the current FSL) and commencing flood operations at this level has a profound impact on the discharges for the shorter duration flood events with smaller flood volumes. However, once the flood volume exceeds the 2,000,000ML mark the effectiveness of this change in the operating level is diminished resulting in only a 10% reduction in the peak outflows for the dam.

Given the January 2011 Event had a volume of over 2,500,000ML the benefits from lowering the storage level would not have resulted in any major change to the extent of flood inundation. It would however have reduced the depth of inundation with a corresponding reduction in the number of house and commercial properties flooded.

Table 6 Comparison of Temporarily Lowering FSL to 75%

Flood Event				Existing Rules		Temporarily Reducing FSL		Flow Reduction %
Duration (hours)	Annual Exceedance Probability	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hours	1 in 200	8,214	1,544,119	38141	71.4	1,971	70.24	94.83%
36 hours	1 in 500	10,455	1,624,119	5983	72.2	3,446	71.17	42.40%
36 hours	1 in 1000	12,031	1,772,752	6010	72.78	4,504	71.83	25.06%
48 hours	1 in 5000	14,278	2,562,553	9066	74.7	8,217	74.17	9.36%
72 hours	1 in 5000	13,181	2,880,602	8190	74.15	7,609	73.79	7.09%
96 hours	1 in 5000	11,870	2,948,032	7534	73.74	6,916	73.35	8.20%
120 hours	1 in 5000	12,727	3,005,136	7227	73.55	6,635	73.17	8.19%
January 2011	-	12,045	2,650,000	7,468	74.98	4,512	74.25	39.6%
1974	-	8,842	1,410,000	3,275	73.305	2,493	72.71	23.9%
1999	-	11,641	1,220,000	1,949	72.23	1,561	71.48	19.9%

It can be seen from the comparison of Table 5 and Table 6 that the reduction of the storage level to 75% has a much more significant reduction on the outflows from the dam. This is consistent with the previous observations that reductions of at least 25% of the storage volume are required to significantly affect the outflows from the dam.

It is also important to note that even with the reduction of the storage level to 75% and the amended flood operation rules, the storage level still exceeds EL74 for the January 2011 Flood Event. The changes would result in reduced flood levels downstream but would not prevent damaging flows through Brisbane.

Attachment A

Rainfall Forecasting for the Wivenhoe Dam Catchment

Background

1. On 6 July, Chris Russell, of Connell Wagner, met with Mike Bergin and Peter Baddiley seeking advice regarding the predictability of significant rain events over the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. Connell Wagner has been engaged by SEQWCo to provide advice on the feasibility of maintaining the water level in the Wivenhoe storage at one metre above Full Supply Level. As a part of the dam operations under that scenario, it would be required that the additional storage above FSL be released ahead of a major inflow into Wivenhoe Dam. This would require some 24 to 48 hour advance prediction of catchment average rainfalls in the order of 300mm in 24 hours; 375mm in 36 hours and/or 430mm in 48 hours.

2. Wivenhoe Dam catchment is located to the north-west of Brisbane and has an area of about 7,000 square kilometres. For meteorological forecasting, the catchment is broadly about 100 km in the north-south direction, and 70 kilometres wide (east-west); bounded in the west by the Dividing Range with its eastern boundary varying from about 40 to 80 kilometres inland from the coast. The distribution of rainfall over the catchment is significantly influenced by the topography in major events.

Discussion

3. As discussed at the meeting, the experience of Meteorologists and Hydrologists in the Brisbane office of the Bureau is that the short to medium term (0 to 48 hour) prediction of rainfall for the purpose of objective use in flood forecasting models is a difficult task. Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) are available from the Australian and international Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models and have been used subjectively in the Brisbane office for many years. Whilst the NWP models have shown improvement in the accuracy of QPF over the past decade or so, there is still at times considerable error or uncertainty, in the prediction of the location, amount and timing of rainfall events at the catchment scale.

4. The improved skill of NWP models in recent years has particularly been in forecasting the development and movement of broad-scale synoptic features that would be likely to produce the threshold rainfall amounts in question. These large-scale features include decaying tropical cyclones, east coast low pressure systems and significant upper level troughs. However while these systems maybe well forecast on a time scale of 2 to 3 days the very heavy rainfall concentrations are dependent on finer scale (mesoscale) and convective features. Whilst there is often the ability to forecast the potential for a significant rain event to occur in the southeast Qld-northern NSW region, it is difficult (if not impossible) to predict the actual location of the heaviest rain, even with only a few hours notice.

5. Examples of high rainfall events that have occurred in the past 10 to 15 years in this region, some of which had little to no advance prediction of the "precise" location and/or magnitude of resulting rainfall include Feb 1998, Dec 1999, Feb 1997, May 1996, Feb 1999, Mar 2001 and June 2001. Several of these events were not produced by large scale features but by slow moving convergences

zones which the current modelling capability cannot adequately predict. The two most recent events in 2001 and 2005 were relatively short-lived events and occurred at different times of the day – 2001 in the afternoon and 2005 overnight. While one could reasonably expect that most really significant rainfall events are most likely through the warmer months, winter extreme events are by no means rare.

6. Considerable effort is being applied to derive improved deterministic and probabilistic QPFs from NWP models. In the near future, the Bureau will be providing a publicly available rainfall forecasting service via a website. The rainfall predictions will be generated automatically by combining the outlooks from a suite of Australian and international. Forecast rainfall amounts for 24 hour periods will be given for 4 days ahead, together with the chance of exceeding various amounts from 1mm to 50mm. The latter is a “pseudo” measure of probability based on the consistency in the forecast rain amounts given by up to eight NWP models used in deriving the rainfall forecast. Whilst it is not considered that this will provide a sufficiently accurate method for objective decision making for pre-releases from Wivenhoe Dam, the probabilistic rain forecasts may provide a basis for a risk management approach. There may need to be further studies on risk quantification for prediction of high to extreme rainfall events to support this approach. Given that there are large levels of uncertainty in rainfall forecasts, the forecasting of hydrological response may require an ensemble of future rain scenarios to be considered for the Wivenhoe Dam application.

7. As for a potential service provided by the Bureau an alert type product would seem to be the best alternative where the potential for an extreme rainfall event in the following 2 to 3 days across southeast Queensland was given a rating on say a 3 level scale. If that rating was high then a second phase could be activated which could provide more detailed forecast of expected rainfall amounts and location. However I emphasise that this type of service can be expected to not provide the required 2 days advice of an event on some occasions and may fail to provide anything more than a few hours notice, such is the nature of the predictability of the mesoscale components of these events.

8. Currently the Bureau provides a QPF service for the dams in Southeast Queensland. This twice-daily service predicts the average rainfall across the catchments in the following 24-hour period. We have not undertaken any verification of the service. However it is likely that verification would show reasonable skill in identifying rainfall events but quite poor skill in predicting extreme events. This service is to be reviewed in the next few months and we may commence charging for the product as it is essentially not a basic service and should not be publicly funded. We have yet to commence discussions with the client so these comments should be kept confidential. This issue is raised because any future customized product provided in support of dam operations will certainly be on a fee for service basis. There is also the issue of whether the Bureau would have the capacity to provide such a service at all and that would have to be part of any future discussions.

Summary

9. In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on this subject and would be able to assist with some services that would assist

Mike Bergin

Manager Weather Services,

Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland.

Peter Baddiley

Supervising Engineer Hydrology

Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland

24 July 2006

From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 10:31 AM
To: Rory Nathan [REDACTED]
Cc: PAT NIXON [REDACTED]
Subject: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx
Attachments: Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges V1.docx

Gents,

I have been addressing your comments – please find attached the report as it stands so far.

Kind Regards,

Barton Maher
Principal Dams & Wells Planning
O Bulk Water Supply Authority barton@seqwater.com.au



[REDACTED]
Invercargill Office: 172 Johnston Street, Invercargill 9100
PO Box 1407, Invercargill 9100
Website | www.seqwater.com.au

Impact of Reducing the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe on Flood Discharges

Introduction

Seqwater staff have been asked to investigate the impact of reducing the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on the downstream discharges for major flood events. This memo details the investigations carried out and provides a preliminary assessment of the reduction in flood flows that could be achieved by reducing the Wivenhoe Dam storage level to 5%, 10%, 25% and 50% of the normal water supply volume.

The comments in this report are provided to give an indication of the impacts of a reduced storage level of Wivenhoe Dam on discharges during major flood events. It must be noted that it is very preliminary, as to get accurate results a full investigation and analysis of the whole river system utilising multiple flood events and models would be required. This review was requested to provide an order of magnitude assessment of impacts and the results should not be utilised beyond that purpose.

Definitions

For the purposes of this report the following definitions have been adopted as per the Wivenhoe – Somerset Flood manual:

Fresh	This causes only very low-level bridges to be submerged.
Minor Flooding	This causes inconvenience such as closing minor roads and the submergence of low-level bridges. Some urban properties are affected.
Moderate Flooding	This causes inundation of low-lying areas and may require the evacuation of some houses and/or business premises. Traffic bridges may be closed.
Major Flooding	This causes flooding of appreciable urban areas. Properties may become isolated. Major disruption occurs to traffic. Evacuation of many houses and business premises may be required.
Extreme Flooding	This causes flooding well in excess of floods in living memory and general evacuation of whole areas are likely to be required.
"m ³ /s"	Means an instantaneous flow rate expressed as cubic meters of water per second.
"AEP"	means annual exceedance probability, the probability of a specified event being exceeded in any year;
"AHD"	means Australian Height Datum;
"EL"	means elevation in metres from Australian Height Datum;
"ML"	Means a million litres of water

Analysis Methodology

The analysis was undertaken using a spreadsheet developed to model the gate opening sequence as provided in the Flood Manual during a loss of communications situation. During a loss of communications between the dam operators and the Flood Control Centre, operators would use predefined gate openings based solely on the Lake Level information available to them at the dams. Utilising this spreadsheet takes out the role of weather predictions with openings based on dam levels and allows a consistent methodology to compare various flood events.

A history of floods in the Brisbane River is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of Significant Flood Events in the Brisbane River

Event	Somerset Dam			Wivenhoe Dam			
	Peak Elevation	Inflow	Outflow	Peak Elevation	Inflow*	Total Volume	Outflow
	m AHD	ML	ML	m AHD	ML	ML	ML
Jan 1974#	106.57	620,000	450,000	na	960,000	1,410,000	1,410,000
Jun 1983	101.58	260,000	280,000		800,000	1,080,000	470,000
Mar 1989	102.59	370,000	380,000	69.78	310,000	690,000	660,000
Apr 1989	102.69	340,000	350,000	71.45	520,000	870,000	820,000
Feb 1999	102.96	450,000	280,000	70.45	940,000	1,220,000	900,000
May 2009	99.62	110,000	110,000	62.19	125,000	235,000	0
Mar 2010	99.41	210,000	200,000	66.43	190,000	390,000	0
Oct 2010	101.37	250,000	270,000	69.61	360,000	630,000	630,000
Mid Dec 2010	100.42	150,000	140,000	67.50	220,000	360,000	330,000
Late Dec 2010	99.98	120,000	130,000	69.35	370,000	500,000	460,000
Jan 2011	105.11	825,000	820,000	74.97	1,830,000	2,650,000	2,650,000

No Wivenhoe Dam

* Upper Brisbane R only

The assessment has investigated the impacts of the lowered storage level on the three largest events – the 1974 flood, the 1999 flood and the 2011 flood.

Analysis Results

A summary of the results of the modelling is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 - Results of the Analysis

Storage Level at Start	% of FS Volume	Wivenhoe Dam		Somerset Dam		Lockyer Creek	Lowood	Bremer River	Moggill	Reduction at Moggill
		Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Inflow (m ³ /s)	Peak Outflow (m ³ /s)					
1974 Flood										
67	100	8,482	3,275	5,019	3,548	3,260	5,110	4,241	7,948	
66.5	95	8,482	3,153	5,019	3,480	3,260	4,799	4,241	7,910	0.5%
65.8	90	8,482	2,974	5,019	3,419	3,260	4,524	4,241	7,897	0.6%
64	75	8,482	2,618	5,019	3,302	3,260	4,117	4,241	7,683	3.3%
60	50	8,482	2,067	5,019	3,040	3,260	3,342	4,241	7,423	6.6%
1999 Flood										
67	100	11,641	2,312	7,540	3,837	663	2,556	308	2,593	
66.5	95	11,641	2,132	7,540	3,662	663	2,434	308	2,479	4.4%
65.8	90	11,641	2,003	7,540	3,470	663	2,284	308	2,319	10.6%
64	75	11,641	1,687	7,540	3,214	663	1,906	308	1,936	25.3%
60	50	11,641	1,007	7,540	2,798	663	1,186	308	1,214	53.2%
2011 Flood										
67	100	12,045	7,468	3,824	2,814	3,040	10,495	2,793	13,104	
66.5	95	12,045	7,453	3,824	2,798	3,040	10,445	2,793	13,004	0.8%
65.8	90	12,045	6,756	3,824	2,815	3,040	9,791	2,793	12,302	6.1%
64	75	12,045	5,748	3,824	2,680	3,040	8,788	2,793	11,110	15.2%
60	50	12,045	4,209	3,824	1,595	3,040	7,249	2,793	9,582	26.9%

The preliminary work done by Seqwater before Christmas 2010 showed that for the October 2010 event, reducing the level of Wivenhoe by small amounts would have had minimal impact on the flood releases. From the

Table 2 the following comments are applicable:

¹ Note the flows quoted for Moggill are based on the addition of outflows from the dam and the measured flows at Lockyer Creek and the Bremer River. They do not have any allowance for routing of the flows through the river system and the subsequent reduction in flows that were observed during the flood events.

- Similarly to work completed previously, reducing levels by small amounts prior to the January 2011 event (if it was feasible) would have had little impact on the peak level in Wivenhoe Dam as shown in the Table 2. The reason for this is that the total event inflow volume of 2,600,000 ML is well in excess of the useable flood storage combined with the available water supply storages shown in the table. Large reductions to the storage level of the dam (25 to 50%) would be required if significant impacts on flooding are to be achieved.
- For the 1999 flood, where most of the flooding occurred upstream of the Wivenhoe Dam, there is a dramatic reduction in the peak outflow if the storage is lowered. However, this is of little benefit as the flood would not have resulted in damaging flows downstream of the dam even if the storage was full.
- The 1974 flood simulation is based on the recorded flows being routed through the both Somerset and Wivenhoe. The presence of Wivenhoe would have reduced the flooding damage in Brisbane during the 1974 event, however there is very little change to the flood mitigation benefits by varying the storage level in Wivenhoe. As most of the flood flows in 1974 were downstream of the dam and the flood in the Brisbane River was relatively small compared to the downstream flooding the event is insensitive to the starting level in Wivenhoe.
- It should be noted that the increasing early releases from Wivenhoe was investigated during the Brisbane Valley Flood Damages Study as part of a review of the operation of the dam. Releasing more water earlier on from Wivenhoe dam was shown to lessen the flood mitigation benefits compared with the existing flood manual release strategies.

The key point being that each flood event is unique and presents varying opportunities to mitigate flows through Brisbane.

Downstream Water Level Changes

To evaluate the specific impact on the Lower Brisbane River of these reduced dam outflows from lowering the storage requires the use of a complex hydraulic model. The results of this modelling would still contain a degree of uncertainty as illustrated by the difficulties in estimating the final flood peak in Brisbane during the event. The uncertainty was partly due to the rapid closure of the Wivenhoe gates after the peak inflow of the flood and the attenuation achieved in the downstream river system. It is extremely difficult to model accurately.

Given the timeframe of this report it is not possible to generate any reliable estimate of the changes to the water level at the Port Office Gauge due to tidal influences, the need to interpolate between previously modelled results that vary markedly between differing events, the availability of verified data, and the uncertainty surrounding the timing of peak flows for the differing scenarios.

Table 3 shows a comparison of the peak water level for each of the various starting levels for the 2011 Flood Event. It should be noted that each scenario results in the storage level exceeding EL74 requiring the gates to be opened until the storage rise is stopped.

Table 3 - Preliminary Estimate of Brisbane Levels Changes due to Lowering Wivenhoe

Starting Level	Wivenhoe	
	Peak Height	Capacity at Peak Height
m AHD	m AHD	M
690	74.98	197.1

95	66.5	74.93	190.6
90	65.8	74.88	189.9
75	64.0	74.63	186.5
50	60.0	74.11	179.6

Again it should be noted that minor changes to the storage level of Wivenhoe would have negligible impacts on the flooding in Brisbane.

It should be noted that to accurately calculate the impacts of reducing the storage levels of Wivenhoe Dam at the start of a major flood event requires considerable study as rainfall events of different intensity, duration, peak, location and spread will give very different outcomes. In addition, there is the need to do detailed hydraulic analysis of the river system for each scenario to more accurately determine impacts.

Summary

Due to the large volumes of water associated with major flood events (with an AEP of 1:100 or less) in the Brisbane River, to effectively reduce flood peak discharges significantly (such as for the January 2011 flood) would require the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam to be lowered by at least 25 to 50%.

Contingency Options

There is the possibility of further flood events in the South East Queensland during the 2010/2011 wet season. To reduce the risk of flooding in Brisbane should a major rainfall event be predicted it has been requested that lowering of the storage level of Wivenhoe Dam be investigated to determine if this is a feasible option to further mitigate flood flows.

The assessment carried out by Seqwater has indicated that to have any significant impact on releases downstream of Wivenhoe Dam during a major flood event it would be necessary to lower the storage level by 25 to 50%.

There are five options considered going forward:

1. Continue with the current approved flood manual strategies
2. Commence drawing down the storage at a safe rate to bring it down to say 75%.
3. Pre-release water from the dam following the prediction of a major rainfall event
4. Change the flood manual strategies to ignore the early strategies designed to minimise disruption to the rural communities.
5. Temporarily reduce the full supply of Wivenhoe Dam and amend the flood releases to commence flood operations from the lowered full supply level.

Option 1 – Continue with the Current Flood Manual

This option maintains the status quo and continues to advise the dam as originally designed. This option has the lowest risk associated with it as the strategies have been implemented and will

over several flood events and the manual was developed by a comprehensive study. The strategies in the flood manual have proved adequate for more frequent flood events.

Option 2 – Lower the Storage Level by Sunny Day Releases

This option involves effectively lowering the Full Supply Level of Wivenhoe Dam to increase the flood mitigation storage. As discussed previously, the storage would need to be lowered by 25 to 50% to provide a significant reduction in peak flows for a major flood event. This would be difficult to implement during a wet year where the risk of major flooding is greater.

In the 25 days leading up to the Major January Flood event, three flood events impacting on Wivenhoe Dam were experienced, with gate releases being made on all but five of those days. The total outflow from these events was around 790,000ML.

During these events, multiple requests were received from Councils and residents impacted by bridge closures downstream of the dam to curtail releases as soon and as quickly as possible. Additionally, the 2 January end date of the flood event prior to the January Major Flood event meant that significant draw down of the dam prior to the onset of the January Major Flood event that commenced on 6 January 2011, was not possible without major bridge inundation downstream of the dam and without exceeding minor flood levels in the lower Brisbane River.

Additionally, a flood event was also experienced in October 2010 that resulted in a release of 640,000ML from the dam. Accordingly, to drain down the dam below full supply level prior to the start of the first December event would not have been possible without significant bridge inundation and without exceeding minor flood levels (as defined by BOM and BCC) in the lower Brisbane River.

In other words, preceding rainfall events to the January 2011 Major Flood event had created flooding that would have maintained the storage at the current FSL and prevent drawdown of the storage if such a strategy was proposed.

Risks to this strategy are:

- Compromising water security for South East Queensland by lowering the storage at the end of the each event. The impact on yield needs to be quantified.
- Having preceding rainfall events fill up the dam and prevent it from being lowered before a major flood event. Effectively compromising any effectiveness associated with this strategy.
- The limited discharges that can be utilised during sunny day flows in the river system. To reduce levels prior to summer would take some time without inundating any bridges and without any further inflows. To reduce from 100% to 50% and only impact on Twin Bridges and Savages Crossings and keep Colleges Crossing open could take some 5 to 6 weeks. Even if levels are reduced in Wivenhoe prior to summer, as occurred this summer, multiple rain events can fill the dam and would require significant releases to keep the storage level down

Option 3 – Pre-release water when a major event is forecast

This option involves implementing a significant release of water once the notification of a major rainfall event has been received. This option is reliant on the accuracy of forecasts and having predefined approval processes in place.

The Bureau of Meteorology was approached by the SEQWater Corporation to discuss the ability of the provision of short term forecasts of large rainfall events. Their response is included in attachment A. The summary of their advice from the meeting was

“In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on the subject and maybe able to assist with some service that would assist.”

There are also physical constraints on the amount of water that can be released. To reduce Wivenhoe to 75% in 48 hours requires water to be released at a rate that would close all of the road crossings over the Brisbane River between the dam and the Jindalee Bridge (peak flow of over 1,900cu.m/s) and result in a final volume in Wivenhoe of around 66.8% during the third day if the gates were closed down using the established closure sequence after the 48 hours. If the high rainfall did occur, then the gates would no doubt remain open.

It is not possible to lower Wivenhoe to 50% within 3 days due to the incremental opening of the gates required for safety, the reduction in discharge through the gates with the dropping dam level, and the need to limit discharges below damaging flows through Brisbane.

In light of the above comment, pre-releases (i.e. releasing water prior to an event based on predicted rainfall) has significant risks associated with the strategy in terms of:

- The difficulty in actually releasing significant volumes of water,
- The potential impacts downstream if rainfall doesn't eventuate (disrupting the downstream community, causing minor damage to low lying areas, creating a “sunny day” flood event totally attributable to the dam, someone could be injured or washed away in such a release).
- The risk of exacerbating flooding by making releases that then add to flood levels downstream occurring after the pre-release. (i.e. the predicted rainfall occurs downstream of the dam while the river level is elevated due to the pre-release's from the dam combining to create a damaging flood).
- Predicting rainfall 2 days before an event is highly variable even according to the Bureau of Meteorology and 3 days is problematic.

Option 4 – Vary the early strategies for the Flood Manual

It has been proposed that increasing the releases from the dam up to 1,600cumecs as soon as practicable after gate operations commence may deliver reduced peak flood levels. This has been investigated to assess the impact of attempting to release more water at the very start of an event.

This option has been assessed using a range of design events from the Wivenhoe Alliance Design hydrology. To model the impacts of increasing releases up to 1,600cumecs as soon as practicable a range of design flood events from the Wivenhoe Alliance were compared using the program FLROUTE. . It was assumed that no attempt would be made to maintain bridge access downstream of the dam other than Mt Crosby Weir Bridge and the Brisbane Valley Highway Bridge.

The results for the model runs are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 - Comparison of Release Strategies

Flood Event				Existing Rules		Fixed Rules		Flow Reduction %
Duration (hours)	Annual Exceedance Probability	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	
36 hours	1 in 200	8,214	1,544,119	3,861	71.43	3,613	71.27	6.4%
36 hours	1 in 500	10,455	1,624,119	5,125	72.22	4,915	72.09	4.1%
36 hours	1 in 1000	12,031	1,772,752	6,049	72.8	5,854	72.68	3.2%
48 hours	1 in 5000	14,278	2,562,553	9,083	74.71	8,994	74.66	1.0%
72 hours	1 in 5000	13,181	2,880,602	8,204	74.16	8,101	74.10	1.3%
96 hours	1 in 5000	11,870	2,948,032	7,550	73.75	7,426	73.67	1.6%
120 hours	1 in 5000	12,727	3,005,136	7,265	73.57	6,986	73.39	3.8%

It should be noted that predicted flood levels greater than EL 74 require the gates to be opened until the water level stabilises. This is fundamental to the dam's safety. In addition, any reduction in starting level, which does not achieve a peak lower than EL 74, is unlikely to have any impact upon peak release rate.

It should also be noted that that design flows used from the Alliance bear no resemblance to actual recorded flood events. This is demonstrated by the Jan 2011 flood which had dual peak inflows of about 10,000 and 12,000 m³/s with a flood volume of 2,650,000ML, placing it in the 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 5,000 AEP according to Table 4.

It can be clearly seen from Table 4 that changes to the early releases adopted for the flood manual strategies have minimal impact on the maximum outflow for the dam. The greatest benefit is for the 1 in 200 AEP events. For the flood events investigate the reduction in peak outflow for the dam is negligible. Note that this analysis does not consider the downstream flooding in the Lockyer and Bremer Rivers.

However, it should be noted that there is the real risk that the release of additional water from the dam early in the flood event may make local flooding impacts in Brisbane worse. Due to the travel time of releases, uncertainty in forecast rainfall, and the low lying local catchment areas between Wivenhoe Dam and the urban areas of Brisbane, it is likely that for some events the increased early

releases will exacerbate local flooding in Brisbane. This is potentially a significant risk as this flooding is directly attributable to the dam releases and could be avoided if the dam was operated according to the current strategy.

The flood strategies for Wivenhoe and Somerset are based on holding back flood waters until the rain has occurred and downstream flooding has peaked. Releasing early in an event compromises some of the flood mitigation capacity for the intermediate flood events.

Option 5 – Temporarily Lower the Storage Level

It was requested that the option of temporarily lowering the storage and commence the releases as per the current flood manual from the lowered storage level (e.g. make EL64 the FSL, down from EL67) be investigated. However, it is proposed that the key level in the manual of EL74m, where the gates are opened until the flood level stops rising, would be maintained. This would require a change by the Queensland Government to the regulatory requirements and levels of service that the storage is operated under.

As can be seen in Table 5 lowering the FSL to EL64 and commencing flood operations at this level has a profound impact on the discharges for the shorter duration flood events with smaller flood volumes. However, once the flood volume exceeds the 2,000,000ML mark the effectiveness of this change in the operating level is diminished resulting in only a 10% reduction in the peak outflows for the dam.

Given the January Major Flood had a volume of over 2,500,000ML the benefits from lowering the storage level would not have resulted in any major change to the extent of flood inundation. It would however have reduced the depth of inundation with a corresponding reduction in the number of house and commercial properties flooded.

Table 5 - Impact of Temporarily Lowering FSL

Flood Event				Existing Rules		Temporarily Reducing FSL.		
Duration (hours)	Annual Exceedance Probability	Maximum Inflow (m ³ /s)	Flood Volume (ML)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Maximum Outflow (m ³ /s)	Maximum Lake Level (m AHD)	Flow Reduction %
36 hours	1 in 200	8,214	1,544,119	38141	71.4	1,971	70.24	94.83%
36 hours	1 in 500	10,455	1,624,119	5983	72.2	3,446	71.17	42.40%
36 hours	1 in 1000	12,031	1,772,752	6010	72.78	4,504	71.83	25.06%
48 hours	1 in 5000	14,278	2,562,553	9066	74.7	8,217	74.17	9.36%
72 hours	1 in 5000	13,181	2,880,602	8190	74.15	7,609	73.79	7.09%
96 hours	1 in 5000	11,870	2,948,032	7534	73.74	6,916	73.35	8.20%
120 hours	1 in 5000	12,727	3,005,136	7227	73.55	6,635	73.17	8.19%

Attachment A

Rainfall Forecasting for the Wivenhoe Dam Catchment

Background

1. On 6 July, Chris Russell, of Connell Wagner, met with Mike Bergin and Peter Baddiley seeking advice regarding the predictability of significant rain events over the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. Connell Wagner has been engaged by SEQWCo to provide advice on the feasibility of maintaining the water level in the Wivenhoe storage at one metre above Full Supply Level. As a part of the dam operations under that scenario, it would be required that the additional storage above FSL be released ahead of a major inflow into Wivenhoe Dam. This would require some 24 to 48 hour advance prediction of catchment average rainfalls in the order of 300mm in 24 hours; 375mm in 36 hours and/or 430mm in 48 hours.

2. Wivenhoe Dam catchment is located to the north-west of Brisbane and has an area of about 7,000 square kilometres. For meteorological forecasting, the catchment is broadly about 100 km in the north-south direction, and 70 kilometres wide (east-west); bounded in the west by the Dividing Range with its eastern boundary varying from about 40 to 80 kilometres inland from the coast. The distribution of rainfall over the catchment is significantly influenced by the topography in major events.

Discussion

3. As discussed at the meeting, the experience of Meteorologists and Hydrologists in the Brisbane office of the Bureau is that the short to medium term (0 to 48 hour) prediction of rainfall for the purpose of objective use in flood forecasting models is a difficult task. Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) are available from the Australian and international Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models and have been used subjectively in the Brisbane office for many years. Whilst the NWP models have shown improvement in the accuracy of QPF over the past decade or so, there is still at times considerable error or uncertainty, in the prediction of the location, amount and timing of rainfall events at the catchment scale.

4. The improved skill of NWP models in recent years has particularly been in forecasting the development and movement of broad-scale synoptic features that would be likely to produce the threshold rainfall amounts in question. These large-scale features include decaying tropical cyclones, east coast low pressure systems and significant upper level troughs. However while these systems maybe well forecast on a time scale of 2 to 3 days the very heavy rainfall concentrations are dependent on finer scale (mesoscale) and convective features. Whilst there is often the ability to forecast the potential for a significant rain event to occur in the southeast Qld-northern NSW region, it is difficult (if not impossible) to predict the actual location of the heaviest rain, even with only a few hours notice.

5. Examples of high rainfall events that have occurred in the past 10 to 15 years in this region, some of which had little to no advance prediction of the "precise" location and/or magnitude of resulting rainfall include Feb 1997, Dec 1991, Feb 1992, May 1998, Feb 1999, Mar 2001, and June 2005. Several of these events were not produced by large-scale features but by slow moving convergence

zones which the current modelling capability cannot adequately predict. The two most recent events in 2001 and 2005 were relatively short-lived events and occurred at different times of the day – 2001 in the afternoon and 2005 overnight. While one could reasonably expect that most really significant rainfall events are most likely through the warmer months, winter extreme events are by no means rare.

6. Considerable effort is being applied to derive improved deterministic and probabilistic QPFs from NWP models. In the near future, the Bureau will be providing a publicly available rainfall forecasting service via a website. The rainfall predictions will be generated automatically by combining the outlooks from a suite of Australian and international. Forecast rainfall amounts for 24 hour periods will be given for 4 days ahead, together with the chance of exceeding various amounts from 1mm to 50mm. The latter is a “pseudo” measure of probability based on the consistency in the forecast rain amounts given by up to eight NWP models used in deriving the rainfall forecast. Whilst it is not considered that this will provide a sufficiently accurate method for objective decision making for pre-releases from Wivenhoe Dam, the probabilistic rain forecasts may provide a basis for a risk management approach. There may need to be further studies on risk quantification for prediction of high to extreme rainfall events to support this approach. Given that there are large levels of uncertainty in rainfall forecasts, the forecasting of hydrological response may require an ensemble of future rain scenarios to be considered for the Wivenhoe Dam application.

7. As for a potential service provided by the Bureau an alert type product would seem to be the best alternative where the potential for an extreme rainfall event in the following 2 to 3 days across southeast Queensland was given a rating on say a 3 level scale. If that rating was high then a second phase could be activated which could provide more detailed forecast of expected rainfall amounts and location. However I emphasise that this type of service can be expected to not provide the required 2 days advice of an event on some occasions and may fail to provide anything more than a few hours notice, such is the nature of the predictability of the mesoscale components of these events.

8. Currently the Bureau provides a QPF service for the dams in Southeast Queensland. This twice-daily service predicts the average rainfall across the catchments in the following 24-hour period. We have not undertaken any verification of the service. However it is likely that verification would show reasonable skill in identifying rainfall events but quite poor skill in predicting extreme events. This service is to be reviewed in the next few months and we may commence charging for the product as it is essentially not a basic service and should not be publicly funded. We have yet to commence discussions with the client so these comments should be kept confidential. This issue is raised because any future customized product provided in support of dam operations will certainly be on a fee for service basis. There is also the issue of whether the Bureau would have the capacity to provide such a service at all and that would have to be part of any future discussions.

Summary

9. In light of the demand for water in southeast Queensland and the highly variable nature of rainfall in the area the project has many obvious attractions. However the capability of the science to provide sufficiently reliable 24 to 48 hour advance predictions of high catchment average rainfalls is limited. The Bureau would be willing to participate in future discussions on the subject and maybe able to assist with some advice that would assist.

Mike Bergin

Manager Weather Services,

Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland.

Peter Baddiley

Supervising Engineer Hydrology

Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland

24 July 2006

From: Hill, Peter I (SKM) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 9:59 AM
To: Barton Maher
Cc: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Subject: RE: Forecasting rainfall in Wivenhoe Dam catchment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Barton,

Although I note the words of caution below from Peter Baddiley, the rainfall forecasts have come a long way in the last 5 years and so it might be worth checking back with the Bureau (and possibly head office in Melbourne) regarding the suitability of their forecast rainfall for helping dam operations.

We are aware of a couple of other dam owners with large gated storages that do consider the Bureau's forecast rainfall out to 4 days in their decision making. The Bureau have recently started making the forecasts publicly available on the web and so there is heightened public awareness of their potential application.

We are not advocating complete reliance on these forecasts or their use in full quantitative analysis, however feel that they do provide a reasonably robust indication of whether significant rainfall is likely and therefore suggest that the wording is modified accordingly.

Happy to discuss further.

Regards,

Peter Hill
Principal

SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ (SKM)
312 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000
PO Box 312 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia
P: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

For further information, visit our website at www.skmconsulting.com

From: Barton Maher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 10:08 AM
To: Nathan, Rory J (SKM)
Cc: Hill, Peter I (SKM)
Subject: FW: Forecasting rainfall in Wivenhoe Dam catchment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Rory and Peter,

I will rewrite the report to make it clearer – but here is our advice from Peter Baddiley on rainfall forecasting at Wivenhoe

Best regards,

Peter Baddiley
Supervising Engineer Hydrology & Flood Warning
Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 413
BRISBANE QLD 4001
AUSTRALIA
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
EMAIL: [REDACTED]
WWW: www.bom.gov.au/hydro/floodfold

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Ph: [REDACTED]
Karalee Office: 68 Junction Rd Karalee QLD 4306 Australia
PO Box 2437, North Ipswich QLD 4305
Website | www.seqwater.com.au

From: Rob Drury
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2011 8:51 AM
To: Barton Maher
Subject: FW: Forecasting rainfall in Wivenhoe Dam catchment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Peter Baddiley [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2010 9:44 AM
To: Rob Drury
Subject: FW: Forecasting rainfall in Wivenhoe Dam catchment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Rob
A small miracle - I found the Bureau's 2006 response/advice regarding forecasting rainfall for the Wivenhoe catchment.

As briefly discussed today, whilst weather prediction models are steadily improving, the forecast of rainfall amounts over catchment time/space scales is recognised as one of the most challenging/difficult tasks. Detailed rainfall forecasting is not deterministic - the uncertainties involved are often expressed in probabilistic forecasts, an example of which is at our website at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp> . Click on the "chance of rainfall" radio button.

regards, peter

Peter Baddiley
Regional Hydrology Manager
Climate & Water Division
Bureau of Meteorology
Level 24, 49 Ann Street
Sydney NSW 1511 Australia
Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Web: www.bom.gov.au

From: Peter Baddiley
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2006 4:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mike Bergin
Subject: Forecasting rainfall in Wivenhoe Dam catchment

Chris
As discussed with Michael Drury, (mailto:michael.drury@bom.gov.au) a sub-section of the...

Please direct all enquiries to seqwater@seqwater.com.au

Regards, Peter

From: Terry Malone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2011 8:06 AM
To: Barton Maher; Rob Drury
Subject: RE: Flood Changes

Barton

A few spelling mistakes and inconsistent units (I prefer m³/s).

I suggest that it should be stated predicted levels greater than EL 74 require the gates to be opened until the water level stabilises. Any reduction in starting level which does not achieve a peak lower than EL 74 is unlikely to have any impact upon peak release rate.

I would also make the point that design flows bear no resemblance to actual events. This is demonstrated by the Jan 2011 flood - dual peak inflows of about 10,000 and 12,000 m³/s with a flood volume of 2,650,000ML, placing it in the 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 5,000 AEP according to Table 4.

Terry

-----Original Message-----

From: Barton Maher
Sent: Monday, 31 January 2011 1:22 AM
To: Rob Drury
Cc: Terry Malone
Subject: Flood Changes

FY Review

Barton Maher
Program Director - Dams & Weirs
QLD Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater

Ph [REDACTED] Karalee
Office, 68 Junction Rd Karalee QLD 4306 Australia PO Box 2437, North Ipswich QLD 4305
Website | www.seqwater.com.au

-----Original Message-----

From: Rob Drury
Sent: Sunday, 30 January 2011 10:02 PM
To: Barton Maher
Subject:

Sorry for late email. Just to clarify, The 3 things we need to cover are 1. Weather which I will do 2. What are benefits of reduced levels in dam, re discharges and damages in brisbane and some indication of accuracy 3. Contingencies. There are maybe 4 of them, do no different, slow drawdown, pre release days before event and inherent risks, adjusted release ignoring bridges. If go with last one we ramp straight to say 1900cumecs but give some indication of damage curves [nil in city I guess] and what release equates to damage [3000cumecs I guess] to show what we can release depending on lockyer and bremer and local creeks
rob

From: Terry Malone [REDACTED]
 Sent: Sunday, 30 January 2011 5:12 PM
 To: Rob Drury; Barton Maher
 Subject: Flood Volumes

Event	Somerset Dam			Wivenhoe Dam			
	Peak Elevation	Inflow	Outflow	Peak Elevation	Inflow*	Total	Outflow
	m AHD	ML	ML	m AHD	ML		ML
Jan 1974#	106.57	620,000	450,000	na	960,000	1,410,000	1,410,000
Jun 1983	101.58	260,000	280,000		800,000	1,080,000	470,000
Mar 1989	102.59	370,000	380,000	69.78	310,000	690,000	660,000
Apr 1989	102.69	340,000	350,000	71.45	520,000	870,000	820,000
b 1999	102.96	450,000	280,000	70.45	940,000	1,220,000	900,000
May 2009	99.62	110,000	110,000	62.19	125,000	235,000	0
Mar 2010	99.41	210,000	200,000	66.43	190,000	390,000	0
Oct 2010	101.37	250,000	270,000	69.61	360,000	630,000	630,000
Mid Dec 2010	100.42	150,000	140,000	67.50	220,000	360,000	330,000
Late Dec 2010	99.98	120,000	130,000	69.35	370,000	500,000	460,000
Jan 2011	105.11	825,000	820,000	74.97	1,830,000	2,650,000	2,650,000

No Wivenhoe Dam

* Upper Brisbane R only

Terry Malone
 Principal Hydrologist
 Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority Trading as Seqwater



[REDACTED]

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