

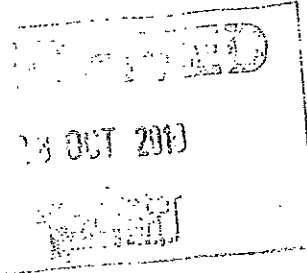


**Queensland
Government**

Ref CTS 19311/10

25 OCT 2010

Mr Gary Humphrys
Chair
SEQ Water Grid Manager
PO Box 16205
CITY EAST QLD 4002



Office of the
**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade**

Dear Mr Humphrys

I write in relation to seeking advice regarding options to and benefits of releasing water from key storages in anticipation of major inflows over the coming summer.

I understand that the key Water Grid storages are at 100 per cent of storage capacity going into the traditional wet season, with forecasts of higher than median rainfall and the prospect of multiple flood events.

I am also advised that our water supply is more secure than ever before, due to storages being full, key Water Grid projects completed and ongoing water efficiency.

I seek your urgent advice about whether this water security provides an opportunity to reduce the volume stored in key dams as a means of reducing the severity, frequency and duration of flooding in downstream areas.

In doing so, I note that recent releases from Wivenhoe Dam have resulted in significant inconvenience and isolation for residents in some downstream areas. With the catchments saturated, I understand that even quite minor rainfall events will result in further water releases and further inconvenience for these residents.

By end November 2010, I would appreciate your advice as to the available options and the likely benefits. At a minimum, you should review the operation of Wivenhoe, North Pine and Leslie Harrison dams. At least for Leslie Harrison Dam, this would be a return to standard operating procedures prior to the drought, when the dam was routinely drawn down to 95 per cent of capacity to minimise the impacts of storms on downstream residents.

I also seek your confirmation that these options would not significantly impact upon our current water security, measured as the probability of needing to reintroduce Medium Level Restrictions over the next five to ten years.

Level 17
61 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3225 1861
Facsimile +61 7 3225 1828
Email nrmet@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158



**Queensland
Government**

Office of the
**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade**

I emphasise that this is only a temporary measure, reflecting that dams are full prior to the commencement of the traditional wet season. I expect that your advice will include a clear date or trigger beyond which dams will be allowed to fill to their full supply level.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Should you have any further enquiries, please feel welcome to contact Mr John Bradley, Director General, Department of Environment and Resource Management on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP

Level 17
61 Mary Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3225 1861
Facsimile +61 7 3225 1828
Email nmet@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

[REDACTED]

From: Waldman Karen
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2010 11:22 AM
To: Bagdon Tad
Subject: Fw: Request for a review of dam operating levels

Attachments: Letter from Stephen Robertson MP RE Release of Water from Key Storages.tif;
image001.gif



Letter from
Stephen Robertson .. Hi Tad

For information and relevant action from QWC's perspective, Karen

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

From: Gina O'Driscoll [REDACTED]
To: Waldman Karen
Sent: Thu Oct 28 09:52:22 2010
Subject: FW: Request for a review of dam operating levels



image001.gif (391
B)

Karen - copy of letter as promised in my previous email.

Regards

Barry Dennien

Chief Executive Officer

SEQ Water Grid Manager

Phone: (07) [REDACTED] | Fax: (07) [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane

Post: PO Box 16205, City East Qld 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

Please consider the environment before printing this email. It takes 10 litres of water to make one sheet of A4 paper.

From: Barry Dennien
Sent: Tuesday, 26 October 2010 7:37 AM
To: Waldman Karen
Cc: Gina O'Driscoll; Dan Spiller
Subject: Request for a review of dam operating levels

Karen

The Minister has asked if we can review the flood safety benefits of pre-emptively dropping Wivenhoe supply levels a few percentage points. I letter will arrive today asking:

- seeks, by end November 2010, advice as to the available options and the likely benefits
- states that, at a minimum, a review of the operation of Wivenhoe, North Pine and Leslie Harrison dams emphasises that this is only a temporary measure, reflecting that dams are full prior to the commencement of the traditional wet season
- seeks advice about a clear date or trigger beyond which dams will be allowed to fill to their full supply level.
- Seeks advice on the best method, slow release or fast release over a few days as rain events are confirmed

I will cc the letter when it comes in.

Barry Dennien

Chief Executive Officer

SEQ Water Grid Manager

Phone: (07) [REDACTED] | Fax: (07) [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane

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[REDACTED]

From: Bagdon Tad
Sent: Tuesday, 26 October 2010 10:01 AM
To: Rose Rolf; Wong Wai Tong
Subject: FW: Request for a review of dam operating levels

Further risk analysis needed. Advice from WGM is that dropping to 90% has minimal impact on risk.

Tad Bagdon
Acting General Manager
Regional Planning and Policy
Queensland Water Commission
L16 53 Albert Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

[REDACTED]

www.qwc.qld.gov.au

From: Waldman Karen
Sent: Tuesday, 26 October 2010 9:59 AM
To: Bagdon Tad
Subject: FW: Request for a review of dam operating levels

Hi Tad

What are implications of this request for us please, thanks, Karen.

From: Barry Dennien [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 October 2010 7:37 AM
To: Waldman Karen
Cc: Odriscoll Gina @ SEQWGM; spiller daniel @ SEQWGM
Subject: Request for a review of dam operating levels

Karen

The Minister has asked if we can review the flood safety benefits of pre-emptively dropping Wivenhoe supply levels a few percentage points. I letter will arrive today asking:

- seeks, by end November 2010, advice as to the available options and the likely benefits
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- seeks advice about a clear date or trigger beyond which dams will be allowed to fill to their full supply level.
- Seeks advice on the best method, slow release or fast release over a few days as rain events are confirmed

I will cc the letter when it comes in.

Barry Dennien

Chief Executive Officer

SEQ Water Grid Manager

Phone: (07) [REDACTED] | Fax: (07) [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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