

QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE QUEENSLAND WATER COMMISSION

Name

Queensland Water Commission (QWC)

Commissioner

Ms Mary Boydell

A. Key functions and role of QWC

The Queensland Water Commission (QWC) is established as an independent statutory body under the *Water Act 2000* (the Act). The QWC is the primary organisation to provide advice to the Government on achieving water security in South East Queensland (SEQ).

Main functions

Under Chapter 2A, section 345 of the *Water Act 2000*, the QWC's main functions are to do the following for the SEQ region and designated regions:

- (a) advise the Minister on –
 - (i) matters relating to water supply and demand management for water; and
 - (ii) the delivery of desired levels of service objectives for water supplied to the SEQ region and designated regions;
- (b) facilitate and implement regional water security programs; and
- (c) ensure compliance with the programs and with QWC water restrictions.

Principles

In performing its functions the QWC must have regard to the following principles as required by section 346 of the *Water Act 2000*:

- The general principle is that water in the region is to be managed on a sustainable and integrated basis to provide secure and reliable supplies of water of acceptable quality for all uses.
- The specific principles are –
 - (a) for water sharing – the principle that water quality is a scarce resource that is to be shared across the region; and
 - (b) for water sources – the principle that water quality should be managed from its source to its end users in a way that –
 - (i) ensures the health of catchments, aquifers and their ecosystems; and
 - (ii) delivers water of a quality desired by the end users at the lowest overall cost; and
 - (c) for water supply operations – the principle that water supply arrangements should maximise efficient and cost-effective service delivery and the efficient use of water as defined under section 10(3), including, for example, appropriate connectivity between supply sources, and in accordance with desired levels of service objectives for the water; and

- (d) for cost sharing and pricing – the principles that –
 - (i) the cost of water sources should be shared among users who benefit from them; and
 - (ii) pricing should be consistent with commitments of the State under intergovernmental agreements to which it is a party; and
- (e) for planning – the principle that assessments of regional water supply should –
 - (i) consider environmental, social and economic factors; and
 - (ii) include the application of ‘least cost planning’ to ensure proper economic comparison of all supply-side and demand-side options; and
- (f) for QWC water restrictions – the principle that they should –
 - (i) help the achievement of the region’s objectives for long-term demand management for water; and
 - (ii) enable the appropriate management of any significant threat to the region having a sustainable and secure water supply; and
- (g) for flood mitigation and dam safety – the principle that these issues should be considered in the preparation of assessments of water supply.

The QWC has no regulatory or operational role in dam safety or flood mitigation nor does it have a role in the preparation or implementation of the *Manual of Operating Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam*.

While the QWC plays no part in determining dam operating levels, the QWC’s role necessitates that it consider the potential implications of such matters. Any proposal to modify the volume of water stored in a dam for supply purposes must be assessed against the water security risk criteria, and consideration given to the risk implications for the SEQ region’s water security. Existing Full Supply Level (FSL) for a dam is a fundamental input into any analysis of level of service, water supply security and base case costs.

QWC’s role in providing advice to the Minister on options to inform the making of the Regional Water Security Program (RWSP) and giving effect to that in the System Operating Plan (SOP) is a fundamental component of the legislative framework to ensure delivery of a sustainable and secure water supply and demand management for the SEQ Region.

The QWC is also the Rules Administrator for the SEQ Water Market Rules, as declared by the Minister, through the Market Rules.

Water Security Planning and Regional Water Security Program

The QWC provides advice to the Minister on water supply and demand management for the region through the SEQ Water Strategy (the Strategy) and advice on regional water security options. The finalised Strategy was released in July 2010.

The advice is provided by the QWC within the context of other existing planning and regulatory instruments including water resource planning arrangements provided for under the Act (as administered by the Department of Environment and Resource Management) and the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* (as administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning). The SEQ Regional Plan requires that “water in the region is managed on a sustainable and total water

cycle basis to provide sufficient quantity and quality of water for human uses and to protect ecosystem health”.

The Strategy is the adaptable blueprint for maintaining water security in SEQ into the future. The Strategy is a public document that provides detailed information on how water security will be achieved, including the objectives for security and the supply-demand balance. The Strategy forms the basis for decisions on water security to 2050 and beyond.

Significant expertise around hydrology and water supply planning, supported by complex modelling capability, is fundamental to the decision making that underpins the Strategy. The Strategy modelling sets parameters for a balanced assessment of the appropriate volumes of water to be taken from the various water supplies, within the context of the water resource planning allowances. This work includes the contribution of the Wivenhoe-Somerset-Brisbane River system, as the significant source of surface water for the region, and which is therefore critical to any assessment of water security.

The Strategy is reviewed and updated regularly. An annual report is to be prepared by the QWC in September of each year, with the initial report to be produced in September 2011. The report will include a status report on the sufficiency of water available to meet needs (both as to the volume in storage and the available yield) as well as a review of the fundamental planning assumptions including demand, effects of embedded water efficiency, climate impacts and government policy decisions. Major reviews of the Strategy are aligned with reviews of the SEQ Regional Plan, every five years.

Section 360J of the *Water Act 2000* describes the matters that the QWC must address when it provides advice on regional water security options. In developing advice on infrastructure options for water security the QWC seeks input from DERM, Seqwater and SEQ Councils on any flood or safety impacts including beneficial aspects.

The matters that QWC must address include:

- (a) the desired levels of service objectives for the region or part of the region;
- (b) water supply works or sewerage for achieving the desired levels of service objectives, whether or not the water supply works or sewerage are in the region;
- (c) demand management for water in the region;
- (d) the extent to which implementation of the levels would involve modifying existing water supply works or sewerage or building new water supply works or sewerage;
- (e) assessing the likely costs and pricing implications of addressing the issues mentioned in paragraphs (c) and (d);
- (f) the preferred ways of sharing the cost, taking into account the extent to which end users of water benefit from the demand management, and the modifications or building.

Based on the advice, the Minister makes a RWSP for SEQ. Section 345(b) of the *Water Act 2000* requires the QWC to facilitate and implement regional water security programs. In November, 2006, the first RWSP was made. The RWSP was revised in 2010.

One of the critical components of the RWSP for SEQ is the desired levels of service objectives (LOS) adopted by the government for the region. The LOS objectives define:

- the average amount of water per capita that must be supplied in normal times; and
- the desirable maximum frequency, severity and duration of water restrictions.

The desired LOS objectives for the SEQ region can be found in the *Regional Water Security Program for South-East Queensland, Revision 1* which is attached and marked **QWC-1**.

LOS objectives are a way of describing water security for a community. The security for SEQ is delivered through a combination of supply and demand management measures and the efficient operation of the SEQ Water Grid.

The QWC is responsible for the setting of, and ensuring compliance with, water restrictions in SEQ. This is an ongoing responsibility. Currently, low level restrictions described as Permanent Water Conservation Measures are in place. These measures are designed to support conservation of water as a valuable resource and are supported by a communication message promoting a voluntary target of 200 litres per person per day, as a regional average (Target 200).

There are also specific programs and requirements in place for non-residential water users, such as water efficiency management plans.

The Strategy identifies potential options for future augmentation of water supplies for the SEQ Region. These are broad ranging in scale and type including local supplies using rainwater and stormwater through to large scale infrastructure options such as desalination and dams. Other opportunities have been identified that are associated with existing storages.

A critical component of the Strategy is drought preparedness which includes the introduction of drought storage reserves into some dams in the region. As outlined on page 98 of the Strategy, such reserves have the effect of reducing the working volume of dams. This, in turn, reduces the yield of water that can be taken from the storage and still achieve the same level of security. This reduction in working volume could be offset by increasing the working storage of the dam. An increase in working storage could be achieved by several methods, including raising the dam wall to physically increase the storage capacity of the dam or modifying the operating rules that balance water storage capacity and flood mitigation capacity, so that some of the flood compartment is 'converted' to water storage capacity. Downstream flood impacts must be a key consideration in investigations into any of these options.

One of the recommended planning investigations identified in the Strategy is a review of the operation of the Brisbane River System (which includes Wivenhoe) to optimise the water supply yield and to balance the flood storage and water supply storage volume requirements. QWC, in conjunction with Seqwater and in consultation with Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils, had commenced preliminary work on an investigation to identify the maximum level to which the FSL of Wivenhoe Dam could potentially be raised, without raising the dam wall. An assessment of the

impacts of the recent wet season, including the severity of flood impact both upstream and downstream of the dam wall will inform this and other planning activities.

System Operating Plan

In accordance with section 360V of the *Water Act 2000*, the QWC has made a SOP to facilitate the achievement of the desired LOS objectives for the region. The SOP sets risk criteria and security rules that guide decisions on how the Grid is operated. The risk criteria reflect the LOS objectives by identifying the likelihood of the Grid 12 (Baroon Pocket Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Cooloolabin Dam, Wappa Dam, Lake Macdonald, Somerset Dam, Wivenhoe Dam, North Pine Dam, Lake Kurwongbah, Leslie Harrison Dam, Hinze Dam and Little Nerang Dam) falling below 40%. The SOP also requires an Operating Strategy to be prepared by the SEQ Water Grid Manager (SEQWGM) that demonstrates that appropriate steps are taken to minimise the risk of triggering restrictions. Present government policy requires purified recycled water to be used to augment water supplies in Wivenhoe Dam when the combined storages reach 40%.

The SOP must state each of the following¹ (section 360W of the Act):

- (a) the plan area for the plan;
- (b) the entities to which the plan applies;
- (c) the water supply works and sewerage for the plan area, whether or not the water supply works or sewerage are in the plan area;
- (d) if the system operating plan is for the SEQ region—the maximum volume of water the SEQWGM may enter into contracts to sell;
- (e) if the system operating plan is for a designated region—the share of water available under the plan to each of the water service providers for the water supply works;
- (f) the desired levels of service objectives for the region;
- (g) other obligations imposed on the entities under the plan.

However, the plan must be consistent with any water resource plan applying to the plan area for the SOP.

The QWC administers the SOP for compliance. Implementation of the Plan rests largely with the SEQWGM.

The Market Rules Section 4.2 describes the role of the SOP as, amongst other things:

- a set of operating principles for the use of water infrastructure in the SEQ Region, including the Water Grid;
- the maximum volume of water available to the SEQWGM for supply under Grid Contract Documents; and
- matters which the SEQWGM must have regard to in formulating Grid Instructions.

The SEQWGM issues instructions to the grid participants that describe what bulk water supplies will be used to meet water demands throughout the region. Operating instructions are issued between the grid participants. The SEQWGM and grid

¹ *Water Act 2000*, S360W

participants must have regard to, and must give effect to, the SOP in formulating and issuing Grid Instructions or Operating Instructions. The SOP Release 3.2 dated 2 March 2011, is attached and marked **QWC-2**.

Market Arrangements and Administration

Chapter 2, Part 5A of the *Water Act 2000* provides the regulatory framework governing the operation of the SEQ Water Market (the Market Rules). The QWC has been declared the Rules Administrator for the purposes of the Market Rules. The Market Rules are made by the Minister in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 2000*. The QWC reports annually to the Minister on the effectiveness of the SEQ Water Market.

The Market is the ‘wholesale exchange for’ the supply of declared water services to the SEQWGM and the sale by the SEQWGM of the water. The ‘declared water services’ are made up of the water supply infrastructure owned by the Grid Service Providers - Seqwater, WaterSecure and Linkwater.

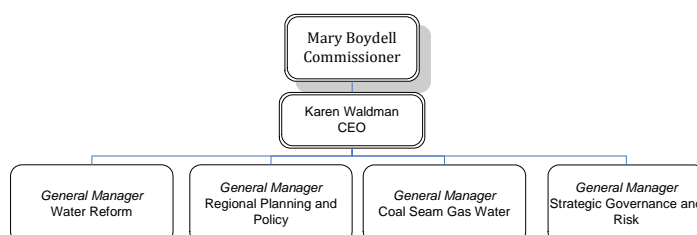
The SEQWGM holds various water entitlements under the *Water Act 2000*. The SEQWGM purchases water services from Seqwater, WaterSecure and LinkWater. Put simply, Seqwater manages the bulk water storage infrastructure in SEQ and the treatment of water within that infrastructure. WaterSecure manufactures water and LinkWater manages the bulk supply pipelines that transport the water. The SEQWGM sells water to the three distributor-retailers (Allconnex Water, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater) established under the *SEQ Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* to sell and supply water and wastewater services to households and businesses in SEQ.

B. QWC Structure and Operation

The QWC is structured as:

- One Commissioner, appointed by the Governor in Council; and
- A CEO, appointed by the Governor in Council.
- The CEO is supported by the expert advice and assistance of the Executive Management Team (General Manager, Water Reform; General Manager, Regional Planning and Policy; General Manager, Coal Seam Gas Water; General Manager, Strategic Governance and Risk), and a special purpose governance committee, the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

The figure below shows the senior tiers of management at the QWC.



The QWC works closely with other organisations to ensure its obligations are met and regional water security outcomes are achieved for SEQ. These organisations include:

- government agencies such as Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Queensland Treasury;
- SEQ Water Grid Participants: SEQWGM, Seqwater, LinkWater, WaterSecure, Allconnex Water, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater.

C. Specific responsibilities under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and other relevant legislation

The QWC has no responsibility in respect of disaster operations or disaster management for the State or SEQ under the State Disaster Management Plan.

D. Preparedness for flooding events generally

The QWC has no regulatory responsibility for flood preparedness for the broader SEQ community.

QWC is located at 53 Albert St in Brisbane City. This building was flood-affected and as a result a number of actions were implemented to ensure continued operations.

E. Preparation and response to 2010/2011 flood events

Preparation Pre 11 January 2011 Flood

1. In late October 2010, the QWC was made aware that the Minister had requested the SEQWGM review the flood safety benefits of pre-emptively dropping Wivenhoe supply levels prior to the start of the 2011 wet season.
2. The QWC received an email from the SEQWGM on 24 December 2010 regarding proposed releases of water stored in Wivenhoe Dam to reduce it to 95% of Wivenhoe's FSL, and 97.5% in North Pine Dam, for flood mitigation purposes for the current wet season. The SEQWGM requested that QWC note this proposed strategy and reply appropriately. The e-mail received from the SEQWGM is attached and marked **QWC-3**.
3. QWC responded on 24 December 2010 to the SEQWGM. The e-mail sent to the SEQWGM is attached and marked **QWC-4**. The email stated that:
 - it was noted that the drawdown to 95% and 97.5% respectively would not infringe the risk criteria stipulated in the SEQ System Operating Plan or the interim Operating Strategy;
 - it was noted that the SEQWGM had stated that this drawdown would not impact on its ability to meet supply obligations to the Water Grid customers;
 - the QWC has no objection to the proposed release; and
 - the QWC recommended that Seqwater liaise with DERM to confirm its understanding of any conditions that applied, particularly in relation to dam safety matters.

Response to the 2010-2011 Flood

The QWC has no regulatory or operational role in the management of flood events. However, because many QWC staff have relevant experience, the QWC contacted both DERM and the SEQWGM offering to provide any assistance that could be beneficial.

The SEQWGM identified two QWC officers with relevant experience and they were nominated for the emergency room roster, however their assistance was not ultimately required.

DERM requested the service of a QWC Officer to assist in the preparation of a State-wide flood mitigation options report. This assistance was provided and this action is now complete.

The QWC also identified potential demand management measures, including restrictions in non-flood affected areas to meet flood impacts such as the loss of significant water treatment capacity. The SEQWGM advised that these measures would not be required.

F. Preparedness for next wet season

The 2010- 2011 Wet Season

The Minister wrote to the Commissioner on 20 January 2011 requesting that QWC provide all necessary assistance to Seqwater for investigations into a contingency protocol for flood releases from Wivenhoe Dam. The letter from the Minister to QWC is attached and marked **QWC-5**.

In response to this request, QWC undertook a series of modelling investigations into the impact of various water release scenarios on short (12 months), medium (~5 years) and long term (beyond 5 years) regional water security. Scenarios considered:

- various release arrangements for Wivenhoe, Hinze and Baroon Dams;
- a range of inflow sequences including the 2001-2006 drought sequence;
- demands based on current best estimates; and
- other assumptions, such as trigger levels for recycled water.

The basis of the investigations for the short term was the compliance of the tested scenarios on the security risk criteria specified in the SOP.

The outcomes of the investigations found that for this wet season only:

- if the water stored in Wivenhoe Dam was released down to 75% of the water storage capacity, any impacts on regional water security would be expected to be manageable;
- however, this assessment was based on impact to the total grid and does not take consideration of operational and regulatory matters associated with such a release.
- further advice was recommended on these matters.

A draft report was prepared and the information provided to Seqwater, DERM and the SEQWGM for comment on 14 February 2011. The letter to Seqwater and the draft report entitled *Impact on SEQ Water Strategy of Various Operating Scenarios for*

Wivenhoe Dam is attached and marked **QWC-6**.

The 2011-2012 Wet Season

QWC has recently commenced investigations into the impact of the 75% storage scenario during 2011-2012 wet season on regional water security. These investigations will provide preliminary information to support advice that the QWC will prepare approaching the 2011-2012 wet season, about regional water security. This work will also inform QWC's consideration of the SOP and the SEQWGM's Operating Strategy for the next 12 months.

Long Term Considerations

QWC stresses that any proposals, beyond a one-off release of water as a temporary measure from the water storage compartment of Wivenhoe Dam, require careful and thorough investigation, as over the long term these could have significant impacts on key assumptions that underpin the LOS, water supply security and base case costs.

The draft report included a preliminary investigation of the impact of a permanent reduction in the Wivenhoe Dam FSL by 25%. This investigation concluded that a reduction of 25% in the FSL would have an impact on the security of supply and that future water supply infrastructure to support regional growth would need to be brought forward by about 5 years. This assessment was based on the current best estimates of future demand including both growth and usage. However, further work would need to be undertaken to provide more certainty on the impacts of a permanent 25% reduction in FSL, including operational impacts. The QWC will progress work to inform any such considerations during 2011, in tandem with the annual review of the Strategy in order to be able to inform considerations of relevance to water security, as and when required.

Index of Attachments to this submission

No.	Descriptions
QWC-1	Regional Water Security Program for South East Queensland, Revision 1, March 2010
QWC-2	The System Operating Plan - Release 3.2 dated 2 March 2011
QWC-3	Email received from SEQWGM to QWC on 24 December 2010
QWC-4	Email response sent to SEQWGM from QWC on 24 December 2010
QWC-5	Minister's letter to Commissioner on 20 January 2011
QWC-6	Letter of response to Seqwater and draft report (Version 6) on <i>Impacts on SEQ Water Strategy of Various Operating Scenarios for Wivenhoe Dam</i> , dated 14 February 2011

South East Queensland SYSTEM OPERATING PLAN

Release 3.2

Release Date 2 March 2011

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South East Queensland System Operating Plan

1. Authority to make the South East Queensland System Operating Plan

This South East Queensland System Operating Plan (Plan) is made under the *Water Act 2000, Chapter 2A, Part 5, Division 2* to facilitate the achievement of the desired levels of service objectives for the South East Queensland region (SEQ region). This Plan is an amendment to the South East Queensland System Operating Plan Release 3.1 (August 2010).

This Plan commences on 2 March 2011 and will continue in force until such time as it is amended.

2. Plan area

The Plan area is shown in Schedule 1. The Plan area encompasses the local government areas of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Redland, Scenic Rim, Somerset and Sunshine Coast.

3. Definitions

Schedule 4 defines particular words used in this Plan.

4. Application of the Plan

4.1 Entities to which plan applies

For this Plan other than Sections 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, Schedule 2, Section 9 and 10 the entity to which the Plan applies is the SEQ Water Grid Manager (SEQWGM). In accordance with the market rules, the SEQWGM will issue grid instructions consistent with the Plan.

For Sections 8.6, 8.7, and 10 of the Plan, the entities to which the Plan applies are the SEQWGM and the Queensland Water Commission (QWC).

For Section 8.8 of the Plan, the entities to which the Plan applies are the manufactured water entity, the distributor-retailer entity and the QWC.

For Section 9 of the Plan, the entities to which the Plan applies are the manufactured water entity, the bulk water supply entity, the bulk water transport entity, the SEQWGM and the QWC.

For Schedule 2 of the Plan, the entities to which the Plan applies are the manufactured water entity, the distributor-retailer entity and the SEQWGM.

4.2 Water supply works and sewerage for the Plan

The water supply works for the Plan area are those water supply works which supply a declared water service for the SEQ region, as declared under the *Water Act 2000*, regardless of whether or not those works are in the Plan area.

The sewerage to which the Plan applies is the sewerage associated with western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater.

5. Maximum volume of water to be managed

5.1 Maximum volume

The maximum volume of water the SEQWGM may enter into contracts to sell is 450,000 ML/a, which is the total volume that can be supplied by water supply works for the Plan, calculated using the SEQ regional water balance model.

A schematic of the SEQ regional water balance model, representing the SEQ network is shown in Schedule 3.

5.2 Relationship to commission water restrictions

Notwithstanding the maximum volume of water, the QWC may impose a commission water restriction on water users in accordance with the *Water Act 2000*.

Commission water restrictions do not alter the maximum volume of water. However, by directly impacting on end-user demand they are likely to indirectly impact on the monthly volume of water which grid customers order from the SEQWGM to fulfil their demands.

5.3 Access to water supplies

The actual volume of water that the SEQWGM can access at any point in time may be affected by a number of factors including, but not limited to:

- any conditions specified on water entitlements held by the SEQWGM;
- requirements of any applicable Resource Operations Plan or Interim Resource Operations Licence; or
- any conditions associated with a contract between the SEQWGM and the manufactured water entity for supply of manufactured water.

6. Desired levels of service (LOS) objectives

The SEQWGM should manage the water supplied from water supply works for the Plan area to support the achievement of the following desired LOS objectives:

- During normal operations sufficient water will be available to meet an average total urban demand of 375 litres per person per day (including residential, non-residential and system losses), of which 230 litres per person per day is attributed to residential demand;
- Medium level restrictions will not occur more than once every 25 years, on average;
- Medium level restrictions need only achieve a targeted reduction in consumption of 15% below the total consumption volume in normal operations;
- The frequency of triggering drought response infrastructure will be not more than once every 100 years, on average;
- The frequency that the total volume of water stored by all key water grid storages declines to 10% of their combined water storage capacity will be not more than once every 1000 years, on average;
- The total volume of water stored by all key water grid storages must not be permitted to reach 5% of the combined total water storage capacity of these storages;
- Wivenhoe, Hinze and Baroon Pocket Dams must not be permitted to reach minimum operating levels; and
- It is expected that medium level restrictions will last longer than six months, no more than once every 50 years, on average.

7. Risk criteria

The table below details the risk criteria, which indicate the probability of reaching specified storage volumes over a five year period of SEQ regional water balance model simulation, where specified storage volumes pertain to the total volume of water stored by all key water grid storages.

Volume of water stored by all key water grid storages	Probability of reaching volume of water stored		
	within 1 year	within 3 years	within 5 years
40%	less than 0.2%	Not Specified	less than 5%
30%	Not Specified	less than 0.5%	less than 1%

8. Operating rules

8.1 Efficient and cost-effective operation rule

Subject to other rules in Section 8 of this Plan, the SEQWGM, in determining the sources of supply to meet demands, shall seek to optimise the efficient and cost-effective operation of water supply works to deliver the required volumes of water.

8.2 Water security rule

When the total volume of water stored by key water grid storages falls below 40% of the total water storage capacity of these storages:

- The supply of manufactured water from the South East Queensland (Gold Coast) Desalination Plant shall be maximised, subject to operational constraints;
- The supply of manufactured water to Wivenhoe Dam from the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme shall be maximised, subject to appropriate approvals from the Office of the Water Supply Regulator and operational constraints.

8.3 Rule for the supply of water to power stations

Subject to operational constraints:

- (1) CS Energy Limited shall be supplied with water sourced in accordance with the following priorities:
 - Water is to be supplied from the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, before
 - Water is to be supplied from the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme, in accordance with section 8.6 of this Plan, before
 - Water is to be supplied from Wivenhoe Dam.
- (2) Tarong Energy Corporation Limited shall be supplied with water sourced in accordance with the following priorities:
 - Water is to be supplied from the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, before
 - Water is to be supplied from Wivenhoe Dam.

8.4 Rule for the supply of water via the Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 1

Subject to operational constraints, the supply of water via the Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 1 from water supply works within the local government area of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to other areas within the Plan area shall be:

- zero when the total volume of water stored by Baroon Pocket Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Cooloolabin Dam, Poona Dam and Wappa Dam as a proportion of the total water storage capacity of these dams is less than or equal to the total volume of water stored by Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and North Pine Dam as a proportion of the total water storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and North Pine Dam.
- zero when the total volume of water stored by Baroon Pocket Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Cooloolabin Dam, Poona Dam and Wappa Dam is less than 70% of the total water storage capacity of these dams.
- up to 65 megalitres per day when the total volume of water stored by Baroon Pocket Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Cooloolabin Dam, Poona Dam and Wappa Dam is between 70% and 100% of the total water storage capacity of these dams.

The monthly grid instruction provided by the SEQWGM in respect to the supply of water via the Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 1 shall nominate a volume in megalitres no greater than the number of days in the month multiplied by 65.

8.5 Rule for the supply of water from Lake Macdonald and the Upper Mary Water Supply Scheme

The supply of water from Lake Macdonald and the Upper Mary Water Supply Scheme shall, subject to operational constraints, be in accordance with the following priorities:

- water is to be supplied from Lake Macdonald while the dam is overflowing and may continue to be supplied until the total volume of water stored by Lake Macdonald falls below 95% of capacity after an overflowing event, before
- water is to be supplied from the Upper Mary Water Supply Scheme, before
- water is to be supplied from Lake Macdonald.

8.6 Rule for supply of water within the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme

The supply of water under water entitlement numbers 103187, 103184 and 103203 shall be in accordance with the following conditions or any varied conditions approved by the QWC, from time to time, in accordance with this Section 8.6:

- (a) water take is sourced from run of river flow; and
- (b) Berry's Lagoon weir is overflowing.

At least 30 business days prior to the commencement of a water year for the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme, the SEQWGM may seek the approval of the QWC to vary these conditions. If the QWC approves the variation, the conditions as varied and approved by the QWC will take effect from the commencement of that water year.

The SEQWGM must notify the bulk water supply entity in writing of any QWC approval to vary these conditions prior to the commencement of that water year.

8.7 Rule for supply of water within the Logan River Water Supply Scheme

Water shall not be supplied under water entitlements held by the SEQWGM, located within the Logan River Water Supply Scheme, to meet demands other than those of the towns of Beaudesert, Kooralbyn, Rathdowney, South Maclean and Jimboomba, when Maroon Dam is at or below elevation 193.23 meters Australian Height Datum (equivalent to 10,000 megalitres of water storage in Maroon Dam), subject to operational constraints or without approval of the QWC being given to the SEQWGM.

8.8 Western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater rule

The purpose of this Section 8.8 is to provide a process for securing the availability of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater to ensure the ongoing operation of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme which is integral to achieving water supply security for the SEQ region.

- (1) In relation to the use and/or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater, the distributor-retailer entity must make available western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (treated) to the manufactured water entity in accordance with any feedwater notification issued by the manufactured water entity. The process for issuing and complying with a feedwater notification is set out in Schedule 2.
- (2) The distributor-retailer entity must report the following information quarterly to the QWC, within 20 business days from the end of a quarter:
 - (a) daily volume of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (untreated) received at each of the following wastewater treatment plants— Bundamba, Gibson Island, Goodna, Luggage Point, Oxley and Wacol; and
 - (b) daily volume of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (treated) made available to each of the following advanced water treatment plants— Bundamba, Gibson Island, and Luggage Point; and

- (c) for each of the wastewater treatment plants at Bundamba, Gibson Island, Goodna, Luggage Point, Oxley and Wacol, the quality of the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (treated), as measured by the distributor-retailer entity (in accordance with the distributor-retailer entity's applicable development permit for the environmentally relevant activity and any approved recycled water management plan together with copies of any such conditions and any such plan, to the extent it has not been previously provided).
- (3) Subject to Sections 8.8(4), the distributor-retailer entity must not enter into, change, extend, renew, assign, novate or otherwise deal with any agreement with a third party in relation to the use and/or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater unless the terms of the agreement, change, extension, renewal, assignment, novation or other dealing have been approved by the QWC, or otherwise comply with any standing approval issued by the QWC to the former relevant Council after 1 July 2008. The QWC may from time to time publish a procedure for the distributor-retailer entity to apply to the QWC for an approval or a standing approval under this section.
- (4) Nothing in this Section 8.8 affects:
- a contract between a former relevant Council and a third party, in force at 30 June 2008, for use and or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (existing contract), provided the volume or duration of the contract is not altered;
 - the ability of a party to an existing contract to assign or novate the contract to another party during the term of the existing contract; or
 - the ability of the distributor-retailer entity to undertake maintenance works on the sewerage for the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater.

For the purpose of this Section 8.8, 'third party' does not include the manufactured water entity.

9. Operating Strategy

By 30 November and 31 May each year, the SEQWGM must submit to the QWC for approval, a proposed operating strategy for the next 12 month period.

The proposed operating strategy must include:

- Details of how the SEQWGM intends to supply water to meet the forecast demands of each of its customers, including intended sources of supply, bulk water transfer arrangements and efficient and cost-effective operation proposal;
- Details of assumptions adopted to support the proposed operating strategy; and
- Any additional information supporting the proposed operating strategy.

In preparing a proposed operating strategy, the SEQWGM must make reasonable endeavours to consult each entity to which the proposed operating strategy will apply.

The SEQWGM must demonstrate that all reasonable actions have been integrated into the proposed operating strategy to achieve the:

- Desired LOS objectives; and
- Risk criteria.

The principal tool for demonstrating compliance with the desired LOS objectives and risk criteria is the SEQ regional water balance model.

The QWC, in considering a submitted operating strategy, must:

- Request further information if required;
- Approve the operating strategy with or without conditions;
- Amend and approve the operating strategy; or
- Require the SEQWGM to submit a proposal for a revised operating strategy.

The QWC may amend an approved operating strategy, or require the SEQWGM to submit a proposal for a revised operating strategy, at any time.

The SEQWGM may submit a proposal for a revised operating strategy at any time.

The SEQWGM must submit information in accordance with Section 9 in the format specified by the QWC.

Within five business days of making a decision under this section, the QWC must notify the SEQWGM of the decision.

The SEQWGM must only issue grid instructions based on the approved operating strategy, unless otherwise directed, in writing, by the QWC.

The manufactured water entity, the bulk water supply entity and the bulk water transport entity must comply with any reasonable written request from the SEQWGM to supply information which may assist the SEQWGM to fulfil its obligations under this section 9.

10. Monitoring, reporting and review of the Plan

10.1 Monitoring

- (1) The SEQWGM must record the details for the grid instructions each month including:
 - (a) monthly customer demand forecast notices;
 - (b) monthly grid service provider forecast notices;
 - (c) the grid instructions;
 - (d) the basis and methodologies for calculating the grid instructions;
 - (e) the details of operational constraints as exercised for any applicable rule in Section 8; and
 - (f) any amendments and relevant correspondence to the above.
- (2) The SEQWGM must monitor and record the following information each month:
 - (a) the volume of surface water and ground water taken from each location and available to be taken;
 - (b) the volume of water supplied to each customer;
 - (c) the volume of water supplied from each water treatment plant;
 - (d) the volume of water transported by the bulk water transport entity;
 - (e) the volume of water stored in surface water storages; and
 - (f) an assessment of the outcomes of the grid instructions.

Details of the accuracy of the data, and if applicable, the way in which the data was estimated must also be recorded.

10.2 Monthly data provision

At the time of issue or amendment by the SEQWGM, the SEQWGM must provide a copy of the grid instructions under Section 10.1(1)(c), including details under Section 10(1)(d) and (e), to the QWC.

10.3 Reporting

The SEQWGM must provide the following reports to the QWC:

- quarterly report;
- annual report; and
- non-compliance report.

This section does not limit any other reporting requirements that must be undertaken in accordance with the market rules.

(1) Quarterly report

The SEQWGM must submit to the QWC within 20 business days from the end of each quarter a report on compliance against the Plan including, but not limited to, the following matters:

- (a) the desired LOS objectives and risk criteria;
- (b) the supply of water under contractual arrangements and the maximum volume of water that may be supplied;
- (c) infrastructure changes, commissioning and capacity constraints;
- (d) the grid instructions;
- (e) an overview of the basis for grid instructions and compliance of the grid instructions and outcomes with the Plan;
- (f) any circumstances where the Plan was not complied with;
- (g) monitoring and reporting;
- (h) any non-compliance reports; and
- (i) a discussion of any matters that may warrant review of the Plan.

The SEQWGM must also report on the estimated time to supply depletion for the following rural towns and villages that have reticulated supply based on a single supply source: Aratula, Boonah, Kalbar, Mount Alford, Beaudesert, Kooralbyn, Rathdowney, Canungra, Amity Point, Dunwich, Point Lookout, Dayboro, Jimna, Kenilworth, Kilcoy and Linville. Details of the basis of estimations must also be provided.

The SEQWGM must include information in accordance with Section 10.1, for the quarter, in the format specified by the QWC.

The SEQWGM may include information for the quarterly report, for the quarter ending 30 June, as part of the annual report submitted in accordance with Section 10.3(2). The SEQWGM must advise the QWC, in writing, of its intent to follow this process within 20 business days from the end of the financial year.

(2) Annual report

The SEQWGM must submit to the QWC within 60 business days after the end of the financial year a report on compliance against the Plan including, but not limited to:

- (a) the desired LOS objectives and risk criteria;
- (b) the supply of water under contractual arrangements and the maximum volume of water that may be supplied;
- (c) circumstances where the Plan was not complied with; and
- (d) a discussion of any matters that may warrant review of the Plan.

The SEQWGM must include information in accordance with Section 10.1, for the financial year, in the format specified by the QWC.

(3) Non-compliance report

The SEQWGM must:

- (a) notify the QWC within two business days of becoming aware of a non-compliance by the SEQWGM against the Plan; and
- (b) provide to the QWC within five business days of becoming aware of a non-compliance by the SEQWGM a report on the matter including any actions taken by the SEQWGM and recommendations on the matter.

(4) Additional information

The SEQWGM must also provide to the QWC such additional information requested by the QWC from time to time as necessary in order for the QWC to:

- check whether the Plan remains appropriate for conditions in the SEQ region;
- undertake ongoing review of the regional water balance for the SEQ region; and
- monitor compliance with the Plan.

This section does not limit any other reporting requirements that must be undertaken in accordance with the market rules.

10.4 Review of the Plan

Without limiting circumstances in which the Plan may be amended, it is expected that the Plan will be reviewed regularly and if deemed necessary, amended by the QWC.

The Plan review process will inform the five yearly review of the Regional Water Security Program for the SEQ region.

Schedule 1: Plan Area



Schedule 2: Feedwater notification

1. Requirements for a feedwater notification

A feedwater notification issued by the manufactured water entity must be consistent with:

- grid instructions issued by the SEQWGM; and
- any agreement between the manufactured water entity and the distributor-retailer entity in relation to the use and/or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater that is approved or deemed to be approved by the SEQWGM in accordance with Section 7 of this Schedule.

A feedwater notification that is inconsistent with either of the above is invalid to the extent of the inconsistency.

2. Preparing and issuing feedwater notification

Draft feedwater notifications

If the SEQWGM issues the manufactured water entity with a draft grid instruction, requesting the manufactured water entity to supply water to the SEQWGM, the manufactured water entity must, within one business day of receipt of the draft grid instruction, issue a draft feedwater notification to the distributor-retailer entity.

The distributor-retailer entity may submit written comments to the Manufactured Water Entity on the draft feedwater notification within three business days of receipt of the draft feedwater notification.

Feedwater notifications

If the SEQWGM issues the manufactured water entity with a grid instruction, requesting the manufactured water entity to supply water to the SEQWGM, the manufactured water entity must, within one business day of receipt of the grid instruction, issue a feedwater notification to the distributor-retailer entity.

If the SEQWGM amends a grid instruction issued to the manufactured water entity and the relevant feedwater notification is inconsistent with the amended grid instruction, the manufactured water entity must, within one business day of receipt of the amended grid instruction, issue a revised feedwater notification to the distributor-retailer entity.

3. Contents of feedwater notification

The feedwater notification issued by the manufactured water entity must be in writing and specify:

- the relevant grid instruction to which it relates;
- the time at which it was issued;
- for Bundamba, Gibson Island and Luggage Point advanced water treatment plants:
- the volume, flow rate and quality of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater to be made available to each plant; and
- if applicable, the time at which the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater is to be made available to each of the plants.

4. Quality of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater

For each of the wastewater treatment plants at Bundamba, Gibson Island, Goodna, Luggage Point, Oxley and Wacol, the distributor-retailer entity must:

- (1) make the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater available in accordance with any approved recycled water management plan applicable to the wastewater treatment plant;

- (2) to the extent no such approved recycled water management plan is in place, make the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater available in accordance with the conditions of the applicable development permit for the environmentally relevant activity;
- (3) without limiting 4(1) and 4(2) above, use its best endeavours to make the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater available in accordance with the quality specifications of the feedwater notification and consistent with the historical performance of the plant over the past three years; and
- (4) without limiting 4(1), 4(2) and 4(3) above, use its best endeavours to make the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater available at a quality that is consistent with the quality of the western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater produced by formerly produced by the relevant Council from the relevant wastewater treatment plant over the three year period ending on 30 June 2008.

5. Inability to make available western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater in accordance with feedwater notification

Where the distributor-retailer entity is unable to make available western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater in accordance with a feedwater notification (including as revised), the distributor-retailer entity must notify the SEQWGM and the manufactured water entity in writing as soon as possible. The notice must:

- identify the relevant feedwater notification;
- identify the extent to which the feedwater notification cannot be complied with;
- identify the length of time the distributor-retailer entity expects to be unable to comply with the feedwater notification;
- set out the reasons for the distributor-retailer entity's inability to comply, including relevant facts and supporting material; and
- On receipt of a notice under this Section 5 of Schedule 2, the SEQWGM must, no later than two business days after the receipt of the notice, notify the QWC of the non-compliance with the feedwater notification.

6. Amending feedwater notification

The manufactured water entity may amend a feedwater notification at any time, subject to Section 1 of this Schedule, including where:

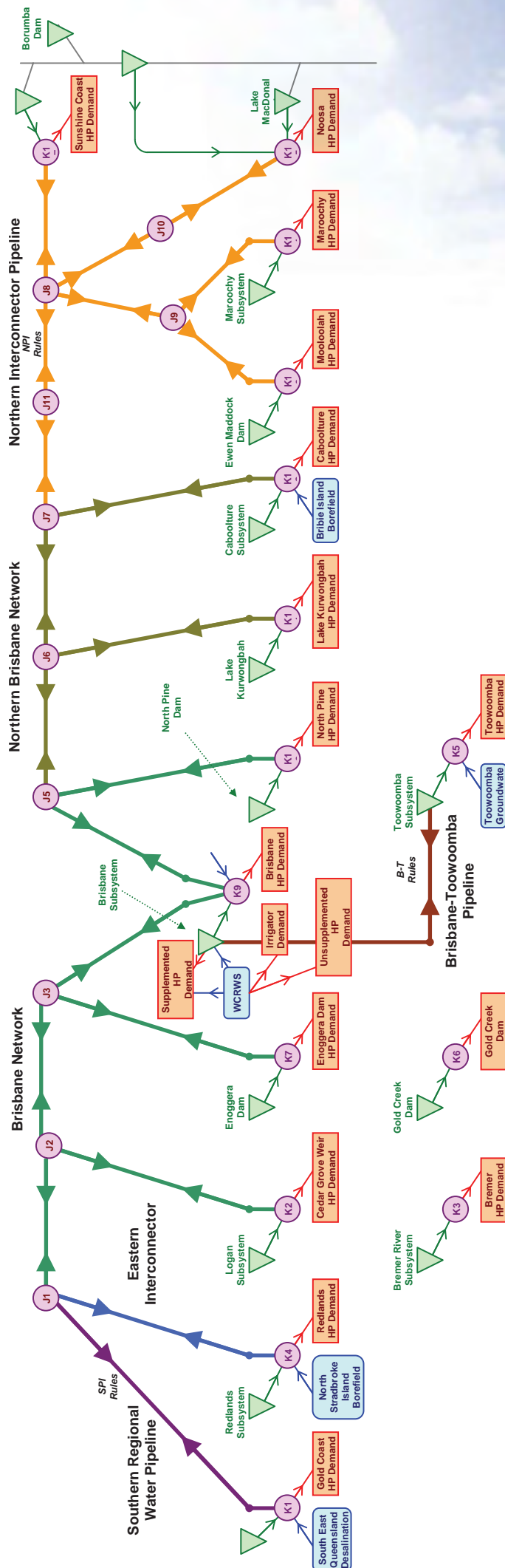
- a feedwater notification is inconsistent with the relevant grid instruction; or
- there is an error in the feedwater notification.

7. Approval of agreements relating to western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater

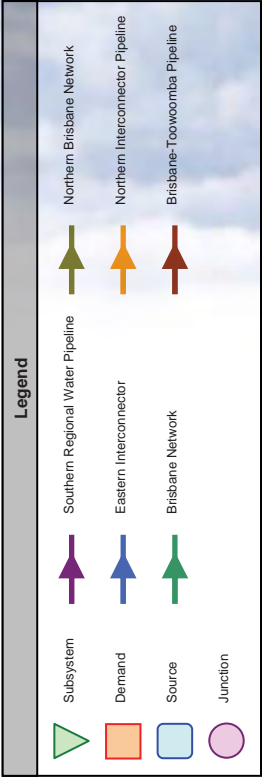
The distributor-retailer entity and the manufactured water entity must not enter into, change, extend, renew or otherwise deal with (including, without limitation, assign or novate) any agreement in relation to the use and/or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater unless the terms of the agreement, change, extension, renewal or other dealing have been approved by the SEQWGM.

An agreement between a former relevant Council, and the manufactured water entity in relation to the use and/or supply of western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater that is in force at 30 June 2008, excluding any change, extension, renewal or other dealing in relation to that agreement, is deemed to be approved by the SEQWGM.

Schedule 3: SEQ Network Schematic



- Notes**
1. Schematic does not literally represent the system interconnection, rather only what is required for modelling purposes.
 2. Only demands that have direct connection to the Water Grid are shown.
 3. All additional water sources shown.
 4. HP means High Priority water entitlement.



Schedule 4: Definitions

approved recycled water management plan has the meaning give in the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

business day means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, public holiday or bank holiday in Brisbane, Australia.

bulk water supply entity means the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority established under the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007*.

bulk water transport entity means the Queensland Bulk Water Transport Authority established under the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007*.

commission water restrictions has the meaning given in section 360ZD of the *Water Act 2000*

customer demand forecast notice has meaning given in the market rules.

desired LOS objectives has the meaning given in Section 6 of the Plan. The principal tool for demonstrating compliance with the desired LOS objectives is the SEQ regional water balance model.

distributor-retailer entity has the meaning given in the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*, and, in the Plan, refers to the Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority, which has a geographic area covering the local government areas of Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council, as shown in Schedule 1.

distribution service provider forecast notice has meaning given in the market rules.

drought response infrastructure means planned infrastructure to respond to a severe drought, triggered when all key water grid storages reach 30% of the combined total water storage capacity of these storages.

feedwater notification is a notification about western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater issued under Section 8.8 by the manufactured water entity to the distributor-retailer entity.

grid customer has the meaning given in the *Water Act 2000*.

grid instruction is an instruction issued by the SEQWGM to a grid participant in accordance with the market rules.

grid service provider forecast notice has meaning given in the market rules.

interim resource operations licence means a licence that was granted under section 175 of the *Water Act 2000*.

key water grid storages are all of Baroon Pocket Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Cooloolabin Dam, Wappa Dam, Lake Macdonald, Somerset Dam, Wivenhoe Dam, North Pine Dam, Lake Kurwongbah, Leslie Harrison Dam, Hinze Dam and Little Nerang Dam.

manufactured water is water produced by the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme or the South East Queensland (Gold Coast) Desalination Plant.

manufactured water entity means the Queensland Manufactured Water Authority established under the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007*.

maximum volume of water has the meaning given in Section 5.1 of the Plan.

market rules are the rules about the operation of the market that may be made by the Minister pursuant to section 360ZCX of the *Water Act 2000*, known as the Market Rules SEQ Water Market.

medium level restrictions means commission water restrictions that achieve a targeted reduction in consumption of 15% below the total consumption volume in normal operations, triggered when all key water grid storages reach 40% of the combined total water storage capacity of these storages.

minimum operating levels means the storage levels for:

- Wivenhoe Dam when the volume of stored water in Wivenhoe Dam is 11,600 ML;
- Hinze Dam when the volume of stored water in Hinze Dam is 2,180 ML; and
- Baroon Pocket Dam when the volume of stored water in Baroon Pocket Dam is 4,500 ML;

ML/a is megalitres per annum.

normal operations means the mode of SEQ Water Grid operation when the total volume of water stored by all key water grid storages is greater than 40% of the combined total capacity of these storages.

quarter means each three month period ending on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

resource operations plan means a plan approved under section 103(5) of the *Water Act 2000*.

risk criteria has the meaning given in Section 6 of the Plan. The principal tool for demonstrating compliance with the risk criteria is the SEQ regional water balance model.

run of river flow means water in a watercourse, not supplemented by storage releases.

SEQ region has the meaning given in the *Water Act 2000*.

SEQ regional water balance model is the Queensland Water Commission's model developed using the Water Headworks Network (WATHNET) computer program, used to determine the system yield based on existing infrastructure being operated in a specified arrangement. The model is based on stochastically generated inflow sequences derived from historical data. The relevant model version will be provided to the SEQ Water Grid Manager, or other entities, by the Queensland Water Commission as appropriate.

sewerage has the meaning given in the *Water Act 2000*.

total water storage capacity is the volume of water stored at full supply level (FSL).

water supply works has the meaning given in the *Water Act 2000*.

western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater means:

- sewage entering a sewerage network that provides source water for the following wastewater treatment plants— Bundamba, Gibson Island, Goodna, Luggage Point, Oxley, Wacol (western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (untreated)); and
- treated wastewater exiting the following wastewater treatment plants— Bundamba, Gibson Island, Goodna, Luggage Point, Oxley and Wacol (western corridor recycled water scheme feedwater (treated)).

[REDACTED]

From: Barry Dennien [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 December 2010 10:17 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: URGENT
Attachments: Seqwater letter re Min s request on options for release of water.docx

[REDACTED]

See attached a letter we are planning to send to Seqwater giving our permission to lower Wivenhoe below full supply level down to 95% and North Pine to 97.5% for flood mitigation purposes. The is only for the current wet season.

We request the QWC note this proposed strategy and reply appropriately by midday today.

We apologise in advance for the short turnaround period. Current weather events have made us progress this issue.

Regards

Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer
SEQ Water Grid Manager

[REDACTED]

Post: PO Box 16205, City East Qld 4002
ABN: 14783 317 630

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Trim Ref: D/10/8129

24 December 2010

Mr Peter Borrows
Chief Executive Officer
Seqwater
PO Box 16146
City East Qld 4002

Dear Mr Borrows

I refer to our letter of _ regarding the request from Minister Stephen Robertson to consider options to, and the benefits of releasing water from key storages in anticipation of major inflows over the coming summer period.

As you are aware, your officers have since provided advice about options and benefits.

I advise that, from a water security perspective, the SEQ Water Grid Manager has no in principle objection to minor releases from Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams to minimise the operational and community impacts of gate releases. Specifically, we have no in principle objection to:

- Wivenhoe and Somerset dams being drawn down to 95 per cent of their combined full supply level
- North Pine Dam being drawn down to 97.5 per cent of its full supply level.

Any specific releases to below Full Supply Level should be approved by myself or, if I am not available, the Director of Operations, SEQ Water Grid Manager.

Any releases should be managed by Seqwater in accordance with any statutory and regulatory obligations, such as the flood operations manuals and Resource Operations Plan. We recommend that you liaise with the Department of Environment and Resource Management to confirm any conditions that apply.

I acknowledge that these releases would have a negligible impact on the extent and duration of flooding during a major flood event. However, they may provide the ability to minimise the community and operational impacts of minor releases.

We have assessed the water security implications of the release to be negligible, having no impact on our ability to meet the risk criteria specified in the *South East Queensland System Operating Plan* or our ability to meet our supply obligations to SEQ Water Grid customers.

From a water security perspective, I am advised that the Queensland Water Commission also does not have any objections to the proposed release.

Please note that these arrangements are intended to apply for the current wet season only, taking into account the level of storages and the rainfall forecasts over coming months.

I am keen to continue to work with you to investigate the optimal arrangements for future wet seasons. In particular, I am keen to work with you to further investigate options that may reduce the frequency or duration of intermediate level flows (between 1,900 and 3,500 cubic metres per second). In addition, we recommend that the investigations with the Queensland Water Commission to examine the opportunity of raising the full supply level of Wivenhoe Dam for increased water supply be expanded to include options to lower the full supply level for managing flood events.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] Director of Operations, by telephone on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 December 2010 11:56 AM
To: Dennien Barry [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT
Importance: High

Hi Barry

The QWC has considered the request by the SEQ Water Grid Manager to comment on the proposed drawdown of:

- Wivenhoe and Somerset dams to 95% of their combined full supply level
- North Pine Dam being drawn down to 97.5% of it's full supply level

The Commission note that the Water Grid Manager has no concerns and advises that the drawdown will not infringe the risk criteria stipulated in the SEQ System Operating Plan or the interim operating strategy. The Water Grid Manager has also stated that this drawdown will not impact on their ability to meet supply obligations to the Water Grid customers. Based on this advice, the Commission has no objection to the proposed release.

It is noted also that such releases are an operational matter for Seqwater, within the context of the Resource Operations Plan, where there is no condition in the SEQ System Operating Plan that regulates releases from the dams concerned.

It is however recommended that Seqwater liaise with the Department of Environment and Resource Management to confirm their understanding of any conditions that apply, particularly in relation to dam safety matters.

Regards, Karen

=====

From: Barry Dennien [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 December 2010 10:17 AM
[REDACTED]
Subject: URGENT

[REDACTED]

See attached a letter we are planning to send to Seqwater giving our permission to lower Wivenhoe below full supply level down to 95% and North Pine to 97.5% for flood mitigation purposes. The is only for the current wet season.

We request the QWC note this proposed strategy and reply appropriately by midday today.

We apologise in advance for the short turnaround period. Current weather events have made us progress this issue.

Regards

Barry Dennien

Chief Executive Officer

SEQ Water Grid Manager

Phone:

Email:

Visit:

Post: PO Box 16205, City East Qld 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

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Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton

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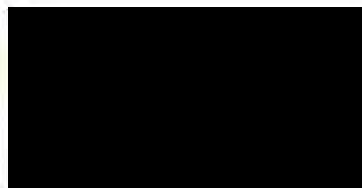
Queensland
Government

20 JAN 2011

Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade

RECEIVED
21 JANUARY 2011

Ms Mary Boydell
Commissioner
Queensland Water Commission
PO Box 15087
CITY EAST QLD 4002



Dear Ms Boydell

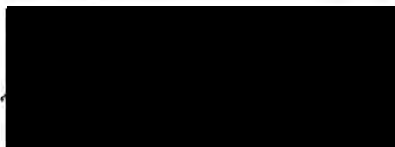
Please find attached correspondence to Mr Phil Hennessey, Chair, SEQ Water.

I would appreciate you providing all necessary assistance to SEQ Water to ensure that the requests in the attached correspondence can be responded to as a matter of priority and with urgency.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact



Yours Sincerely



STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton

COPY



Queensland
Government

QWC-5

Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade

20 JAN 2011

Ref CTS 00433/11

Mr Phil Hennessy
Chair
Seqwater
PO Box 16146
City East QLD 4002

CC: Mr Peter Borrows
Chief Executive Officer
Seqwater
PO Box 16146
CITY EAST QLD 4002

CC: Ms Mary Boydell
Commissioner
Queensland Water Commission
PO Box 15087
CITY EAST QLD 4002

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

Dear Mr Hennessy

You will be aware that the Premier recently announced a Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Floods which will consider among other things, compliance with, and the suitability of the operational procedures relating to flood mitigation and dam safety.

The Commission is required to deliver an interim report by 1 August 2011 (on matters associated with flood preparedness to enable early recommendations to be implemented before next summer's wet season); and its final report by 17 January 2012.

However, I am also aware that Seqwater is currently managing the releases from the flood compartment of Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams in South East Queensland, in the context of the company's current Flood Mitigation Manual for those dams. There are three matters I wish to raise with you in this letter:

(1) I note that under the Flood Mitigation Manual for Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams, Seqwater is required to prepare a report on the recent flood event (see clauses 2.9 and 7.4 of the Manual). It is essential that a report (covering the requirements of both clauses 2.9 and 7.4 of the Manual) to the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is completed within the required timeframe of six weeks from the date of the incident. However in view of the fact that we remain in the middle of the wet season and further significant inflows are possible, I would urge you to complete this review, which should include consideration of the appropriate Full Supply Levels, as a matter of priority and urgency.

Any other changes you propose to the Flood Mitigation Manual, or related matters, eg improved data collection, should be clearly identified in the Review report, along with a timetable to implement them.

Level 17
61 Mary Street Brisbane Qld 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

COPY

(2) Furthermore, while this review of factors relevant to the operating release strategy and the Full Supply Levels is underway, I would request that you develop a contingency protocol which would ensure that if rainfall, that is likely to result in a flood release from Wivenhoe Dam, is forecast for the catchment then Seqwater will immediately convene a discussion with the Chief Executive Officer of DERM, his dam safety regulatory staff, and other appropriate parties.

(3) I note that the recent preliminary report by Mr Cooper identified a number of improvements that Seqwater could implement to achieve a better outcome in the application of the Draft Communication Protocol between government agencies and local governments. I request that you contact [REDACTED] General Manager, Office of the Water Regulator of the department on [REDACTED] to progress these as a matter of urgency.

I have also written to the Chair of the Water Grid Manager and the Water Commissioner requesting all necessary assistance be afforded to SEQ Water to ensure the matters raised in this letter are responded to as a matter of priority and with urgency.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr John Bradley, Chief Executive of the Department, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP