

13 January 2011

The Honourable Stephen Robertson MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
and Minister for Trade
PO Box 15216
Brisbane QLD 4002

Dear Minister

Independent review of Somerset and Wivenhoe Dam operations against the *Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam*

Attached is a final report from Mr Brian Cooper, Brian Cooper Consulting, on an independent review of the operation of Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams for compliance against Seqwater's *Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation at Wivenhoe Dam and Somerset Dam* (Flood Mitigation Manual) during the current flood event.

Mr Cooper concludes that:

"The strategies as set out in the Flood Mitigation Manual have been followed, allowing for the discretion given to making variations in order to maximise flood mitigation effects. The actions taken and decisions made during the Flood Event appear to have been prudent and appropriate in the context of the available knowledge available to those responsible for flood operations and the way events unfolded."

Given the circumstances, we endeavoured to provide him with as much information as possible to enable a sufficient compliance review against the Flood Mitigation Manual. Mr Cooper identifies some Flood Mitigation Manual requirements where further information of compliance is required. In relation to these matters, Mr Cooper states:

"There are a number of requirements where there was insufficient time given the urgency of this review, to source the necessary information for me to demonstrate compliance. However, satisfaction or otherwise of these requirements would have had little impact on the operation of the two dams during this particular Flood Event. It is intended that they be audited when time permits, after the Flood Event."

Also, attached is a summary from Mr Barton Maher, Seqwater, on the development history of the Flood Mitigation Manual, and in particular, the extensive peer review to which both the Flood Mitigation Manual and studies that fed the development of it were subject. For example:

- the Brisbane and Pine Rivers Flood Study underwent an internal review by the Water Resources Group and then went to an independent review panel comprising of Professor Colin Apelt, Head of Department, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland; and Mr Eric Lesleighter, Principal Hydraulic Engineer and Chief Engineer Water Resources, Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation
- the 2005/2006 Brisbane Valley Flood Damage Minimisation Study involved a Project Technical Review Group involving SEQWater Corporation, the Bureau of Meteorology, SunWater, Department of Natural Resources, Mining and Water Dam Safety Regulator and WRM Consultants
- the most recent 2009 review of the Flood Mitigation Manual was subject to an expert review panel comprising of The Bureau of Meteorology; SunWater (as operator of the Flood Control Centre); the Department of Environment and Resource Management Dam Safety Regulator and Brisbane City Council. The minor changes to the Flood Mitigation Manual were extensively tested to ensure that the flood mitigation outcomes were not compromised.

I hope this proves to be of assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact me on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Barry Dennien
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Mr John Bradley
Director-General
Department of Environment and Resource Management