

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & MINES
OFFICE MEMO**

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DATE: 24 January 2005

FROM: Principal Engineer, Dam Safety

TO: Director, Dam Safety (Water Supply)

SUBJECT: **Approval of Flood Mitigation Manual, Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams**

Background

The South East Queensland Water Board Act 1979 set a requirement for Flood Mitigation Manuals to be prepared for Wivenhoe Dam and for Somerset Dam. The requirement for Flood Mitigation Manuals for the dams has been retained through the subsequent legislation changes. It currently exists within Water Act 2000.

The then South East Queensland Water Board elected to prepare a combined Manual for the two dams because of the potential effect of Somerset Dam flood operations on Wivenhoe Dam operations. The Manual defines standard procedures for the operation of both Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams during flood periods. Revision 5 of the Manual, approved in October 2004 for five years is the current version. It was prepared specifically for use during the period of construction of the first auxiliary spillway at Wivenhoe Dam.

Flood Mitigation Manual Revision

The South East Queensland Water Corporation has now requested through their letter of 10 January 2005 some further revisions to the manual.

The key revision is to reflect that SEQWater may contract another organisation to discharge the responsibilities of the Headworks Operator, as it has done with SunWater. Other minor errors or discrepancies are also corrected. The actual operational procedures for the gates at the dams remain unchanged from the currently approved manual.

The complete document submitted for approval is attached.

Approval of Manual

Approval of the attached document as a flood mitigation manual would continue to provide the dam owner and operators with protection from civil liability while the procedures are observed (s.500 of *Water Act 2000*).

The *Water Act 2000* provides that the chief executive may get advice from an advisory council before approving a flood mitigation manual. In this instance I recommend that the option to get advice from such an advisory council be waived – the changes do not warrant use of such a council.

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Flood mitigation manuals can be approved for periods not exceeding five years. It would seem reasonable to approve this manual for a five year period.

Recommendation

That the *Manual of Operational Procedures for Flood Mitigation for Wivenhoe and Somerset Dam (Revision 6)* submitted by the South East Queensland Water Corporation be approved for five years as a Flood Mitigation Manual under section 497 of *Water Act 2000*. A gazette notice is required to formalise the approval.

Ron Guppy
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, DAM SAFETY

