



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



Queensland
Government

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.

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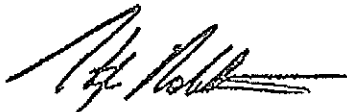
(2) Furthermore, while this review of factors relevant to the operating release strategy and the Full Supply Levels is underway, I would request that you develop a contingency protocol which would ensure that if rainfall, that is likely to result in a flood release from Wivenhoe Dam, is forecast for 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 Mr Bob Reilly, 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, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP