

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 December 2010 5:50 PM  
**To:** spiller daniel @ SEQWGM  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT - HEAVY RAINS PROMPT CONTROLLED RELEASES FROM WIVENHOE DAM

Dan I am fine with it, and up to you but..

I would add in a reference to releases being "in accordance with the flood operations manual (or whatever its called) set to manage dam safety, which was reviewed in 2009 (IF TRUE).

No need to consult me again either way but pls send me copy of final issued.

Thanks

John B

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

**From:** Dan Spiller <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Sun Dec 12 17:40:40 2010  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT - HEAVY RAINS PROMPT CONTROLLED RELEASES FROM WIVENHOE DAM

Serves me right for not copying you the first time.

Do you approve?

**From:** Lance McCallum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 December 2010 5:38 PM  
**To:** SEQWGM Media; Aleisha Coote  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - HEAVY RAINS PROMPT CONTROLLED RELEASES FROM WIVENHOE DAM

Thanks Aleisha.

Can I confirm that:

- a) DG Derm approves
- b) Lockyer and BCC have signed up to content

Lance

**From:** SEQWGM Media <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 December 2010 5:29 PM  
**To:** Lance McCallum  
**Subject:** DRAFT - HEAVY RAINS PROMPT CONTROLLED RELEASES FROM WIVENHOE DAM  
**Importance:** High

DRAFT

MEDIA RELEASE

12 DECEMBER 2010

#### HEAVY RAINS PROMPT CONTROLLED RELEASES FROM WIVENHOE DAM

Controlled releases from Wivenhoe Dam are expected to begin tomorrow afternoon, following the weekend's heavy rainfall across South East Queensland.

Water Grid spokesperson Dan Spiller said the dam operators are likely to open one of the five gates, to release a daily average of 30,000 megalitres over a number of days. The releases will restore the dam to just below full supply level.

"The volume of water released will be less than in October, when we had all five gates open and were releasing up to 130,000 megalitres per day," said Mr Spiller.

"Releases are expected to continue until towards the end of the week, depending upon any further rainfall."

Somerset Dam began releasing water into Wivenhoe Dam at midday today, after heavy rainfall on the Sunshine Coast.

All dams throughout South East Queensland have been hovering around 100 per cent capacity since heavy rainfall during early October.

Hinze Dam is continuing to release approximately 5,000 megalitres of water per day through the outlet gates. Several other local dams are continuing to spill.

Mr Spiller said with all the water currently around the area, the community needs to be vigilant about safety around dams, weirs and fast-flowing waters.

"Members of the public need to be aware of the dangers of swimming in weirs and flooded waterways. The facts are that it only takes ankle deep water to knock you off your feet, and only 60 seconds to drown," he said.

"We are discouraging people from visiting Wivenhoe Dam over the next few days to view the gate openings, given how wet the area is and the forecast for further rainfall."

The Water Grid has consulted with Ipswich, Somerset and Brisbane City Councils regarding the decision to release water from Wivenhoe Dam tomorrow.

Levels in the Lockyer River were taken into account, with the releases from Wivenhoe Dam timed so as to allow sufficient time for levels downstream to drop.

The release is expected to result in the closure of Twin Bridges, Colleges Crossing and Savages Crossing.

ENDS

Notes to the editor

About the SEQ Water Grid

Established in June 2008 in response to the crippling Millennium Drought, the SEQ Water Grid represents one of Australia's largest investments in water infrastructure.

Through a network of climate resilient water sources, treatment facilities, new two-way pipes and existing pipelines, the SEQ Water Grid gives the South East Queensland region the ability to support water demands, water quality, economic prosperity and lifestyle - regardless of climate change and population growth.

For further information visit [www.watergrid.com.au](http://www.watergrid.com.au) <<http://www.watergrid.com.au>>

For further details contact the SEQ Water Grid Communications Unit on:

Ph: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

Aleisha Coote

Senior Media Advisor

SEQ Water Grid Communications Unit

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane

Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002

ABN: 14783 317 630

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## Bradley John

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**From:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 December 2010 9:10 AM  
**To:** Milligan Graeme  
**Cc:** Best Debbie; Brown Damien  
**Subject:** Re: Friday Flood Status report for Minster

Can this be coordinated/forwarded to oer particularly rsd who are also providing rregularr updates on some issues

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

**From:** Milligan Graeme  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Best Debbie; Bradley John  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 17 08:42:30 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Friday Flood Status report for Minster

Tim

This is follow up advice on the statewide flooding and rainfall situation as at this morning.

We will provide future updates if there is any significant change in circumstances.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Graeme Milligan  
General Manager, Water Quality & Accounting  
Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]  
Facsimile: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au) <<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/>>  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
41 George St, Brisbane Q 4000  
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Q 4001

BOM Queensland State Forecast

Issued at 4:45 am EST on Friday 17 December 2010

## Warning Summary at issue time

Flood warnings are current for the Barcoo, Bulloo, Condamine, Balonne, Paroo, Lower Warrego, Langlo, Ward, Moonie, the Fitzroy River Basin and the Cooper Creek.

## Weather Situation

A weak ridge lies off the Queensland east coast. A surface trough lies over western Queensland, moving slowly east.

## Forecast for the rest of Friday

High cloud areas with patchy rain developing in the far southwest and cool temperatures. Isolated showers and thunderstorms elsewhere, becoming scattered in the SE and the far NW. Light to moderate NE to NW winds, freshening about the southeast. Light to moderate SW to SE winds in the SW of the state.

## Forecast for Saturday

The surface trough remains almost stationary from the northern Channel Country to off the Southeast Coast. A cool day with areas of patchy rain across southern districts south of the trough ahead of a new upper trough moving over the Great Australian Bight. To the north of the trough, further showers and thunderstorms with moderate to locally heavy falls possible close to the trough itself with thunderstorms.

## Forecast for Sunday

The surface trough begins to move northeast over the interior once again, but falls back south over the Southeast Coast. The new upper level trough will move over the west and this will increase the rain areas over the southeast and central interior with some locally heavy falls. Lighter patchy rain across southern Queensland. Showers and thunderstorms continuing over the tropics northeast of the trough. A cool to cold day over the west and the southern interior.

## Forecast for Monday

The surface trough moves over southern and central districts clearing the showers, rain areas and thunderstorms from southern Queensland. Further showers, rain areas and thunderstorms over northern Queensland. A cool day over most of the interior.

## Outlook for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

The trough is expected to persist over northern and central Queensland, with showers and thunderstorms continuing over these districts. The trough is likely to redevelop back over the southern interior of the state during Wednesday and Thursday with isolated showers and thunderstorms again over the southeast. Remaining fine over the southwest. Cool over most of the interior.

## DERM summary of the Bureau rainfall information

### Rainfall in the last 24 hours

From 16/12/10 9am to 17/12/10 0830 Northern tropical coastal regions experienced falls generally up to 49mm. South East Queensland experienced rain falls up to 99mm associated with severe storms. The Western area was generally dry.

Announced Allocations

No anticipated significant changes since the previous advice given most water supply systems are at 100% announce allocation..

**Bradley John**

---

**From:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 December 2010 5:54 PM  
**To:** spiller daniel @ SEQWGM  
**Cc:** Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Lyons Michael @ SEQWGM  
**Subject:** RE: Wivenhoe Dam talking points

Good stuff

Thanks

John Bradley  
Director-General  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
**Telephone:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

Department of Environment and Resource Management  
400 George Street, Brisbane Q 4000  
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Q 4001

---

**From:** Dan Spiller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 December 2010 5:23 PM  
**To:** Bradley John  
**Cc:** Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Lyons Michael @ SEQWGM  
**Subject:** Wivenhoe Dam talking points

John,

As requested.

Regards,  
Dan

**Daniel Spiller**  
Director, Operations  
SEQ Water Grid Manager  
Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Visit: Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane  
Post: PO Box 16205, City East QLD 4002  
ABN: 14783 317 630

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## Bradley John

---

**From:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 December 2010 1:11 PM  
**To:** Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; Ken Smith  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Wivenhoe fact sheet  
Barry

Looks ok to me - key material on page 1, second column doesn't seem to come through strongly though....

I think it might be worthwhile to bold the section that says

As soon as Wivenhoe's flood storage compartment begins to fill, it has to be carefully emptied. This has to be done in order to make room in case another heavy rainfall event arrives quickly, as the compartment can fill in 3 days in heavy rain. Controlled Releases consider the following flood factors: catchment runoff below the dam wall, urban runoff and river levels.

We should point out that just recently during October 2010 the Dam received inflows equivalent to almost half the flood compartment capacity in just a few days

John Bradley  
Director-General  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
**Telephone:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

Department of Environment and Resource Management  
400 George Street, Brisbane Q 4000  
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Q 4001

---

**From:** Barry Dennien [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 December 2010 12:11 PM  
**To:** Bradley John; Ken Smith  
**Subject:** Updated Wivenhoe fact sheet

Ken / John

Any final thoughts, we would like to get this on the web tonight.

We have updated with facts from the talking point sheet yesterday

Regards

**Barry Dennien**  
Chief Executive Officer  
SEQ Water Grid Manager

**Phone:** [REDACTED] | **Fax:** [REDACTED] | **Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Visit:** Level 15, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane  
**Post:** PO Box 16205, City East Qld 4002  
**ABN:** 14783 317 630

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**Bradley John**

**From:** Bradley John  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 December 2010 3:08 PM  
**To:** 'Ken Smith'  
**Cc:** spiller daniel @ SEQWGM  
**Subject:** FW: Technical Situation Report and Kholo Bridge damage  
**Attachments:** Technical Stuation Report W19.docx

Ken

Further advice from Dan Spiller. (Note the WGM release issued this morning pasted below referred to Kholo's Bridge being reopened to traffic – but this was before the damage was identified. It has been superseded by the BCC release)

John Bradley  
 Director-General  
 Department of Environment and Resource Management  
**Telephone:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

Department of Environment and Resource Management  
 400 George Street, Brisbane Q 4000  
 GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Q 4001

---

**From:** Dan Spiller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 December 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Bradley John; Best Debbie; Tim Watts  
 [REDACTED] Lance McCallum [REDACTED] Geoff  
 Stead [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Dennien Barry @ SEQWGM; adcock john @ SEQWGM; Reilly Bob; Brown Damien;  
 [REDACTED]; Rob Drury [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Technical Situation Report and Kholo Bridge damage

All,

The Wivenhoe Dam gate closed at 1pm today, with the dam just above FSL. Releases through the valve will continue, with ongoing monitoring of inflows. Some more detail is contained in the attached technical report.

We have just been advised by BCC that Kholo Bridge has been severely damaged (I will forward photos seperately). They are preparing Community Service Announcement now claiming this is due to dam releases. The bridge will be unserviceable until early 2011.

We will try to work with BCC officers regarding the wording of the release. For this event, the flows were due to a combination of the gate opening and significant Lockyer Valley flows. Flows have been no more than in October. In October, College's Crossing was damaged with Ipswich City Council making public statements at that time. EMQ dealt with the claims for damages. Seqwater is not liable, provided it made releases in accordance with the management plan.

For information, today's media updates is below. With the gate now closed, we will only issue updates as the situation changes. (Aside from the release to the CM on Monday around the Wivenhoe Dam fact sheet.)

From today, I am A/CEO. Please call on [REDACTED] if you have any queries or require any further information.

Regards,  
 Dan

1/04/2011

**WEEKLY GRID UPDATE  
FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER 2010**

**Please note, this will be the last formal update from the Water Grid team until Tuesday 4 January, unless there are significant changes to current operational procedures.**

**WATER GRID READY FOR HOLIDAY SEASON**

Over the last few weeks, Water Grid operators have been managing controlled releases from the region's key storages to ensure the Grid is prepared for further rains this summer.

Water Grid spokesperson, Barry Dennien, said Brisbane's key storage, Wivenhoe Dam, has released more than 320,000 megalitres since the gates were opened earlier this month.

"With further rain expected this summer it is important we retain the dam at just below full drinking water supply level for the safety of South East Queensland," Mr Dennien said.

On top of storing 1.15 million megalitres of drinking water, Wivenhoe Dam can also temporarily store an additional 1.45 million megalitres, equal to 2.5 times the volume of Sydney Harbour.

"Although this may sound like a large flood buffer, Wivenhoe's flood storage compartment can fill in less than three days following heavy rainfall," Mr Dennien said.

"In fact, following heavy rainfall in October, Wivenhoe Dam received inflows equivalent to almost half the flood compartment capacity in just a few days.

"It is important for the flood storage compartment to be emptied through controlled releases following heavy rainfall and inflows into the dam. As a result of the recent releases, the flood compartment is now empty, ready for any inflows over the holiday season."

**DAM RELEASES**

As at 8am today the following water releases are being made: Please note that the release strategy may change according to weather conditions.

One gate at Wivenhoe Dam remains open, releasing a daily average of around 30,000 megalitres.

Kholo Bridge and Burtons Bridge have re-opened to traffic. Twin Bridges, Savages Crossing and Colleges Crossing are currently closed.

Releases from Wivenhoe will continue over the holiday period depending on rainfall and inflows. Releases from other key storages may also occur depending on the weather.

Water Grid representatives have been working closely with councils since the releases from Wivenhoe and other dams began to ensure any likely impacts in surrounding areas were minimised.

Members of the public seeking information on potential impacts in their local areas, including road closures, should direct inquiries to their local councils.

For recorded information on current dam releases in South East Queensland, members of the public are encouraged to call **1800 613 122**.

For information on local flooding, including road closures, contact the local council or visit their website.

The council areas that are affected by Wivenhoe Dam releases are:

- o Somerset Regional Council; [REDACTED]; [www.somerset.qld.gov.au](http://www.somerset.qld.gov.au)
- o Ipswich City Council; [REDACTED]; [www.ipswich.qld.gov.au](http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au)
- o Brisbane City Council; [REDACTED]; [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

## **WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAMPERS**

Campers heading to South East Queensland dams are being urged to consider alternative arrangements this holiday season, with further wet weather expected over coming weeks.

Water Grid spokesperson Barry Dennien said every effort will be made to keep recreational sites open, however public safety is paramount.

"It is possible that some sites may be closed at short notice due to heavy weather and we are asking campers to explore other options."

The region's dam operators, Seqwater, are closely monitoring the levels, inflows and releases at all of South East Queensland's major dams.

Seqwater is offering a refund to those campers who wish to cancel bookings at Water Grid assets due to raised dam levels and flooding.

Mr Dennien said those campers wishing to continue with their plans are being advised that if lakes rise to unsafe levels, Seqwater rangers will be asking people to leave.

"Safety is a top priority for us, and we are asking members of the public to cooperate with all warnings and requests, to ensure everyone is kept safe."

**Wivenhoe and Somerset dams are currently open for all water-based recreational activities, however this may change at short notice depending on weather.**

The following recreation sites at Wivenhoe Dam remain closed:

- Billies Bay
- River access at Atkinsons Crossing

All other recreational sites have reopened however this status could change due to weather.

For more information on the status of Water Grid recreation sites visit [www.watergrid.com.au](http://www.watergrid.com.au)

Some camping grounds are fully booked, but if further heavy rainfall is received, it may be

necessary for one or more of the campgrounds to close. Please contact the operators of the various camp grounds of information specific to each site.

## GRID TWELVE

The current supply capacity of the **Grid Twelve is 100.0 %**, no change from last week. The Grid Twelve makes up nearly 90 % of South East Queensland's total water storage volume. See below for further breakdowns:

Dam	Current capacity (%)	Change in capacity on last week (%)	Rainfall (mm over past seven days)
Wivenhoe	<b>100%</b>	No change	93mm
Somerset	<b>100%</b>	No change	111mm
North Pine	<b>97.0%</b>	2.6% ↓	86mm
Hinze	<b>97.2%</b>	3.6% ↑	73mm
Baroon Pocket	<b>100%</b>	No change	110mm
Leslie Harrison	<b>96.8%</b>	2.5% ↓	81mm
Ewen Maddock	<b>100%</b>	No change	134mm
Cooloolabin	<b>100%</b>	No change	149mm
Lake Kurwongbah	<b>100%</b>	No change	86mm
Lake MacDonald	<b>100%</b>	No change	109mm
Little Nerang	<b>100%</b>	No change	73mm
Wappa	<b>100%</b>	No change	149mm

The current supply capacity of the **Grid Three 3 (Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine) is 100 %**, no change from last week.

Note: The Grid Twelve and Grid Three % full is calculated by dividing the combined current storage volume of the dams in the group by the combined full storage volume.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In times of heavy rainfall, the strategic management of dams is essential to assist in the protection of South East Queensland against flood. In accordance with the requirements of the Water Supply Act 2008, Seqwater, who are part of the Water Grid, maintains a comprehensive Dam Safety Management Program covering its 25 referable dams.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please direct all media enquiries to the **Water Grid Communications Unit:**

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: [www.watergrid.com.au](http://www.watergrid.com.au)

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