

7 February 2011

Mr John Bradley  
Department of Environment and Resource Management  
Director General  
GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

  
Dear Mr Bradley,

Please find attached a revised draft of the Contingency Protocol (Protocol) following our meeting last Friday 4 February 2011.

I confirm that the Protocol documents the process to initiate discussions between Seqwater and DERM, including the Dam Safety Regulator, on the options to be considered in the event of a predicted rainfall event greater than 100mm in any one day in the Wivenhoe/Somerset catchments (Trigger Rainfall Event).

The Protocol highlights a number of key issues to be consider including:

- Pre-release of water from Wivenhoe Dam based on predicted rainfall and possible release scenarios; and
- Possible changes to release procedures in relation to normal operations and to operations under the Flood Operations manuals, including accelerated releases.

The earlier draft of the Protocol has been discussed with the Dam Safety Regulator and we will be happy to finalise the Protocol with all appropriate representatives from DERM after they have had an opportunity to review the further draft.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Borrows  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Contingency Protocol in the event of possible Wivenhoe Dam Gate Operations for Flood Releases**

### **Objective**

The purpose of this Contingency Protocol (Protocol) is to document the process to initiate discussions between Seqwater and DERM, including the Dam Safety Regulator and any other agencies as determined by DERM, on the options to be considered, in the event of a predicted rainfall event greater than 100mm in any one day in the Wivenhoe/Somerset catchments (Trigger Rainfall Event).

### **Background**

The Minister for DERM has requested the development of the Protocol subsequent to the recent floods in SEQ in January 2011.

### **Protocol**

Once the Seqwater Duty Flood Operations Engineer is aware of a Trigger Rainfall Event, Seqwater will contact the Dam Safety Regulator to determine if a meeting between the parties is required to be held. Depending on the size and intensity of the Trigger Rainfall Event, both parties may agree that a meeting is not necessary and email notification from Seqwater will suffice.

It should be noted that forecasts are not always accurate and an actual rainfall event greater than 100mm in any one day in the Wivenhoe/Somerset catchments may occur that was not predicted. In such an event, Seqwater will notify the Dam Safety Regulator immediately such an event occurs.

In the event that a meeting is held the purpose of the meeting would be for DERM to consider:

- The likelihood of releases from Wivenhoe Dam;
- The probable size of any releases from Wivenhoe Dam;
- The potential impacts of such releases from Wivenhoe Dam;
- Options including:
  - Pre-release of water from Wivenhoe Dam based on predicted rainfall and possible release scenarios ;
  - Possible changes to release procedures in relation to normal operations and to operations under the Flood Operations Manual including accelerated releases;
- Communications, including with Councils and other downstream stakeholders.

### **Briefing and Information**

At the meeting, other parties may be requested to provide information, e.g. the Bureau of Meteorology, Brisbane City Council. These will be included with DERM's approval. Seqwater will provide to DERM all relevant information that is available in terms of predicted rainfall and provide impacts of any release strategies in terms of bridges and communities downstream.

### **Communications**

Depending on the outcome of the discussion, further communications and discussions with other agencies may be required, in particular Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council Somerset Regional Council and Government agencies e.g. Bureau of Meteorology, Local Governments/Local Disaster Management Groups, SEQ Water Grid Manager, Queensland Police Service, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (extreme events **only**). This will be required as there may be impacts of pre- releases on works downstream.

### **Review of Protocol**

This protocol will be reviewed annually by Seqwater and DERM, or more frequently as determined by the parties.