



Queensland  
Government

Hon Stephen Robertson MP  
Member for Stretton

Minister for Energy and  
Water Utilities

Ref MO/10/5598  
CTS 00873/11

09 MAR 2011

Mr Ken Schmidt  
Chairman  
Mid Brisbane River Irrigators  
[REDACTED]  
FERNVALE QLD 4306

**QFCI**

Date:

11/04/11

DM

Exhibit Number:

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Dear Mr Schmidt

Thank you for your letter dated 23 December 2010 regarding the management of recent water releases from Wivenhoe Dam and its effect on the Brisbane River.

I note since your letter and the January 2011 Flood event, an independent Commission of Inquiry to examine the State's unprecedented flood disaster has formally commenced.

This Commission of Inquiry is an opportunity to address a significant number of issues you have raised.

Public submissions are now being requested, and I actively encourage you to present any comments or issues in a formal submission to the Inquiry for consideration. Information on making a submission and closing dates can be found on the Inquiry's website <[www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au](http://www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au)>.

Seqwater is currently in the process of reviewing the January event. A report will be provided to the Dam Safety Regulator and the Commission of Inquiry.

Any further information related to the operation of Wivenhoe Dam will now be subject to the independent Commission of Inquiry and will become, over time, available through this medium.

In addition, on 13 February 2011, I announced the water level in Wivenhoe Dam would be temporarily reduced to 75% of full supply, based on recommendation from Seqwater.

Seqwater recommended this temporary reduction to balance drinking water security and flood mitigation, based on new data in light of the extreme January weather event.

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This event has created another flood benchmark which must be acted on. The inflow into Wivenhoe Dam was almost double that of the 1974 flood event. Water was also flowing into the Dam 50% faster than in 1974.

The recommendation to temporarily reduce the full supply level also acknowledges South East Queensland is still in the middle of the wet season, as well as one of the strongest La Nina patterns in history.

This is an interim measure for the remainder of the wet season. The longer term approach will be shaped by outcomes from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mike Foster of Seqwater on telephone [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Robertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP**