

**Implementation Update on the Queensland Floods Commission of
Inquiry Final Report Recommendations**

October 2015

Update on completion of ongoing recommendations as of October 2015

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION NUMBER/S	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS TO DATE
COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS (SINCE THE OCTOBER 2014 UPDATE)			
Delivery of flood provisions in the planning framework	7.18	Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP)	<p>Concerns were raised during the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry (QFCOI) that certain works that were being undertaken as part of state transport infrastructure projects, and in particular that there was an inappropriate off-site disposal of fill sources in Ipswich that had increased flood impacts. Recommendation 7.18 required that Government consider amending the sustainable planning legislation to give local governments the opportunity to make these works assessable, if they have the potential to reduce floodplain storage.</p> <p>Government responded to the QFCOI Final Report indicating that it would consider the most appropriate means for ensuring plumbing and drainage work carried out by or on behalf of a public sector entity is appropriately assessed in the planning framework. If considered necessary to implement the most effective solution, amendments would subsequently be made to the sustainable planning legislation.</p> <p>The sustainable planning legislation was reviewed with regards to what measures would be the most effective method of assessment for state infrastructure projects. As a result of this process it was identified that measures are in place to ensure that potential flood impacts are considered in the planning and design of state infrastructure through a detailed assessment by the Department of Transport and Main Roads of all state infrastructure projects as to: the impact of the project on the community; and the impact the project will have on the environment, including flooding and floodplain storage, in accordance with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Road Drainage Manual. The assessment is best placed with a state government department as most transport infrastructure projects cross local government boundaries and would result in inefficient decision making processes, delays and additional costs for the projects to be assessed under each individual local government planning scheme.</p> <p>The matter which the QFCOI had regard to in Ipswich was found by Government to have actually been assessable at the time by the Ipswich City Council under the planning scheme, as the disposal was by a private sector entity. In relation to this matter, Government concluded that the provisions relating to work carried out by or on behalf of a public sector entity in the <i>Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009</i> were confusing and required clarification. An amendment to the regulation has been completed that will assist local governments in ascertaining the extent of the exemptions from assessment, to avoid the type of situation that occurred in Ipswich.</p> <p>Consequently, the possibility of making amendments to the sustainable planning legislation in accordance with the recommendation was considered and found to be unnecessary. However, an amendment to the <i>Sustainable Planning Regulation</i></p>

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION NUMBER/S	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS TO DATE
			<p>2009 was made in May 2015 to clarify in what circumstances local government assessment can occur.</p> <p><u>Completed May 2015</u></p>
Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dam operations	17.4, 17.5, 17.7	Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS)	<p>The measures recommended regarding the new Wivenhoe and North Pine flood mitigation manuals have all been implemented in several iterations of the manuals. The amount of discretion able to be exercised by flood engineers has been addressed including the circumstances in which that discretion can be used, along with the issue of the use of forecasts, which has been clarified and considered. Further studies are underway by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology in relation to forecasting improvements.</p> <p>The latest flood mitigation manual has implemented all changes made as proposed in the recommendation. The delineation of objectives for flood engineers has been considered and clarified, along with a number of other terminology issues. The objectives and strategies in the manuals have also been reviewed and rewritten significantly over several iterations of the flood mitigation manuals to clarify the processes.</p> <p>An independent technical writer was employed to assist with the revisions of the flood mitigation manuals ahead of the 2011-2012 wet season. The manuals have subsequently been rewritten significantly over the last few years with the most recent revision incorporating the outcomes of the Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams Optimisation Study and the North Pine Dam Optimisation Study. A consultant flood engineer was utilised, with the required expertise to undertake the majority of the rewriting of the subsequent manual revisions. In addition, a range of different technical staff have also reviewed those revisions.</p> <p><u>Completed October 2015</u></p>
<u>ONGOING RECOMMENDATIONS</u>			
Delivery of flood provisions in the planning framework	4.1b, 5.8	DILGP	<p>The <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> and <i>Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009</i> will be replaced by new planning legislation expected to commence in late 2016.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken on proposed amendments to the compensation provisions in the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> during the first half of 2013. Possible legislative amendments regarding the compensation provisions, as well as the remake or extension of temporary local planning instruments, will be considered as part of the current planning legislation reform.</p> <p>The planning legislation reform is currently undergoing consultation and is planned to be introduced in late 2015.</p> <p>Following the February 2015 change in government, replacement bills were drafted to reflect current Government policy positions and planning legislation reforms, and, consequently, the timeline for completion of these recommendations was extended.</p>

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION NUMBER/S	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS TO DATE
			<u>Expected to be completed by the end of 2016</u>
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study	2.2	Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) / DILGP	<p>The Brisbane River catchment flood study is progressing in partnership with local governments. The first significant phase was completed in June 2015 with the delivery of the comprehensive hydrologic assessment report and its noting by Government.</p> <p>The second and final phase is well advanced with the development of hydraulic models now completed. It is anticipated that the detailed hydraulic assessment will be completed by late 2015 and the overall consolidated flood study report will be completed in the second half of 2016 following consideration for endorsement by the project partners after the local government elections in March 2016.</p> <p>Following completion of the flood study, it is anticipated that work will continue on a floodplain management study and floodplain management plan the end of 2018. These two aspects will be informed by the Brisbane River catchment flood study however are not required for recommendation 2.2 to be complete.</p> <p>The updated Disaster Management Modelling Tool has been finalised as part of the flood study and is available to each of the local councils, being Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council to inform disaster management strategies, should another flood event occur before the finalisation of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study.</p> <p>The mid-2016 date for completion of this recommendation was approved by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Implementation Committee.</p> <p>This timeframe accommodates a probable delay from early 2016 to mid-2016 due to the local government elections in March 2016 as the local government stakeholders will be unable to endorse the flood study during the caretaker period.</p> <p><u>Expected to be completed by mid-2016</u></p>
Referable dams	17.30	DEWS	<p>Government is continuing to work with the Toowoomba Regional Council to implement the recommendation. Failure impact assessments are being conducted to determine if any people are placed at risk if a detention basin or dam was to fail.</p> <p>The failure impact assessment for East Creek in Toowoomba has been submitted and accepted with no referable dams found on East Creek.</p> <p>A failure impact assessment for the Clewley Park Detention Basin on West Creek has been submitted and accepted with the basin not being referable.</p>

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION NUMBER/S	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS TO DATE
			<p>A failure impact assessment for the remaining detention basins on West Creek is still being finalised. However, current indications are that the rest of the detention basins on West Creek will also not be referable.</p> <p>The work remaining on this recommendation includes the finalisation of the failure impact assessments for the remaining detention basins on West Creek.</p> <p><u>Expected to be completed by November 2015</u></p>
LN1 drain	10.12	DEWS	<p>SunWater recognises that it is the owner of the LN1 drain system in Emerald and is the entity responsible for the maintenance of the LN1 drain system. The maintenance in the past has been conducted as per the agreement between SunWater and the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC).</p> <p>Negotiations on a new maintenance agreement between SunWater and CHRC were deferred in August 2013 to enable the future potential owner of the LN1 drain, the board of the Local Management Arrangements (LMA) project for the region, to provide input to any contractual arrangements that were to be negotiated.</p> <p>The LMA project enables the local management of SunWater's eight irrigation schemes in Queensland, and the project allows for the transfer of distribution assets from SunWater to bodies owned and managed by the water users supplied by the scheme.</p> <p>Pending the former Government's consideration of the LMA project, SunWater recommenced direct negotiation with the CHRC in May 2015 in order to progress recommendation 10.12, and is expected to have provided a draft maintenance agreement by October 2015 regarding both parties' responsibilities.</p> <p>In mid-2015 Government decided to proceed with the transfer of ownership of SunWater assets under the LMA project, including the LN1 drain system. If the transfer of ownership and operation is to go ahead, the responsibility for maintenance of the LN1 drain system will be an essential condition negotiated between SunWater and the locally managed body.</p> <p><u>Expected to be completed in 2016.</u></p>
Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dam operations	17.13	DEWS	<p>In addition to recommendations 17.4, 17.5, and 17.7, it was recommended that prior to approving a flood mitigation manual Government will ensure that the terms of the manual are expressed in a manner that allows a determination of compliance with it to be made by reference to objective standards.</p> <p>Seqwater will continue its long term revisions to the manuals after the 2015-16 summer wet season to consider the outputs from the ongoing Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study.</p>

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION NUMBER/S	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS TO DATE
			<u>Expected to be completed in 2016.</u>