



The Honourable Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

Our Reference: CTS 08907/17

Level 34, 1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300
Email energyandwatersupply@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.dews.qld.gov.au

Mrs Deb Frecklington MP
Member for Nanango
PO Box 1158
KINGAROY QLD 4610
Email: nanango@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mrs ^{Deb,} Frecklington

Re: Wivenhoe Dam Upgrade

I refer to your letter of 5 April 2017 in relation to media commentary about the potential raising of Wivenhoe Dam and your subsequent conversations with Seqwater.

It is important to emphasise that studies in relation to Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams, including potential raising options, are at early stages and no commitments have been made by the Queensland Government.

I understand Seqwater has also advised you that the studies are at an early stage and that a wide range of options are being assessed.

The studies include investigations into the practicality and cost effectiveness of dam raisings and are being undertaken concurrently because Somerset Dam and Wivenhoe Dam operate as one system.

It is also important to note that these studies are part of what has been an ongoing series of investigations and works at the dams since the early 2000's when extreme event estimates by the Bureau of Meteorology began increasing well beyond the estimates made at the time the dams were designed.

You would be aware that temporary improvements have already been completed at Somerset Dam to improve its immunity to overtopping and that the focus for Seqwater at this stage is on permanent improvements for Somerset Dam. This is outlined in the Dam Improvement Program FAQs on the Seqwater website. I have included a copy for your information, along with Seqwater's fact sheet on *Planning for the upgrade of Somerset and Wivenhoe dams*.

Specifically in relation to Wivenhoe Dam, the 4-metre raising is just one of the options being investigated – with all options to be evaluated in the context of not only dam safety improvements but also potential water supply and flood mitigation benefits.

Seqwater is planning for public stakeholder consultation, including with your constituents, later this year – once sufficient assessment of all relevant upgrade options have been completed. The focus of community engagement and communication will be on explaining the need for the upgrade, the range of complex dam safety, water security and flood mitigation issues to be considered in the planning; and to seek early community feedback about what is important to South East Queenslanders.

In the interim, Seqwater has advised me that they issue email newsletter updates to interested stakeholders and community members about the Somerset project; and given the media and community interest in the Wivenhoe Dam announcement, are proposing to expand the newsletter to encompass the Wivenhoe Dam project as well.

Yours sincerely



Mark Bailey MP
**Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply**

ENC (2)