

Seqwater gated dams



Dam release notification service

Seqwater operates three gated dams – Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and North Pine Dam. A gated dam is a dam that has been built to enable the operator of the dam to have some control over the release of water.

If you subscribe to notifications for a gated dam, you will receive notifications through your preferred channel (email, SMS, recorded message to landline or Seqwater's mobile app) about potential and actual water releases from a gated dam. This may include information about the inundation of bridges and crossings downstream, where these impacts are known.

Gated dam notifications

Water releases from gated dams are managed by skilled and experienced flood engineers. In the event that such releases may be required, Seqwater will mobilise its Flood Operations Centre, which is staffed around the clock, until any releases cease.

Seqwater notifications are:

- Notification #1 - Seqwater is on alert due to heavy rainfall and flood releases are possible from <insert gated dam name/s>. If you are downstream of the dam, stay away from fast flowing or deep water near waterways and floodplains. Updates will follow.
- Notification #2 – Seqwater advises that flood releases from <insert gated dam name/s> may begin in the next <XX hours/days> due to continuing rainfall.

We are monitoring the weather and dam conditions 24/7 at the Flood Operations Centre which is now active. If you are downstream of the dam, stay away from fast flowing or deep water near waterways and floodplains. Updates will follow.

- Notification #3 – Seqwater advises flood releases from < insert gated dam name/s > will begin at <time and date> due to continuing rain.

If you are downstream of the dams, stay away from fast flowing or deep water near waterways and floodplains. The next update will be provided once releases begin.

Note: Expected impacts on bridges or crossings downstream will be included if known at this time.

- Notification #4 - Seqwater advises flood releases from < insert gated dam name/s>began at <time and date>.

These releases, combined with river and creek flows downstream of the dam, are likely to flood the following bridges and crossings – insert bridge name>.

Note: Impacts on specific bridges will be included if known at this time.

If you are downstream of the dam, stay away from fast flowing or deep water near waterways and floodplains.

The next update will be provided by <time and date>.

- Further notifications – Updates on the flood releases in terms of impact on specific bridges / crossings may be issued depending on the severity and duration of the flood event.
- Final notification – Seqwater advises flood releases from <insert dam name/s> have stopped. <insert bridge/crossing name> have reopened.

If you are downstream of the dam, avoid fast flowing or deep water near waterways and floodplains.

No further updates for this weather event will be issued and Seqwater's Flood Operations Centre is no longer active.

Note: If the Bureau of Meteorology issue a Flood Warning for the Brisbane River downstream of Wivenhoe Dam, Seqwater will send an additional notification with reference and a link to this Flood Warning.

Notifications for the Mid-Brisbane Irrigators Group are outlined in the MBRI Information Sheet on the Seqwater website.

Use of the notification information

Floodwater releases from a gated dam are only one source of water contributing to flows in rivers or watercourses downstream of the dam.

In considering the information provided by the notification service, subscribers should be aware of other sources of potential flooding, including flows from catchments downstream of the dam, overland flows from adjoining or nearby land, localised flash flooding downstream of the dam, and stormwater system releases.

Our dam release notification service only provides information about the dams you select and does not provide information about any other potential sources of flooding.

The notification service does not provide information on river levels at gauges, or predictions about areas that may be inundated by flood waters in a flood event. Other sources of information include:

- details of road closures, inundation flood mapping and information about any evacuation arrangements - your local council and Local Disaster Management Group
- weather forecasts and information on changes in river levels at particular gauge locations - the Bureau of Meteorology
- emergency services warnings – Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.