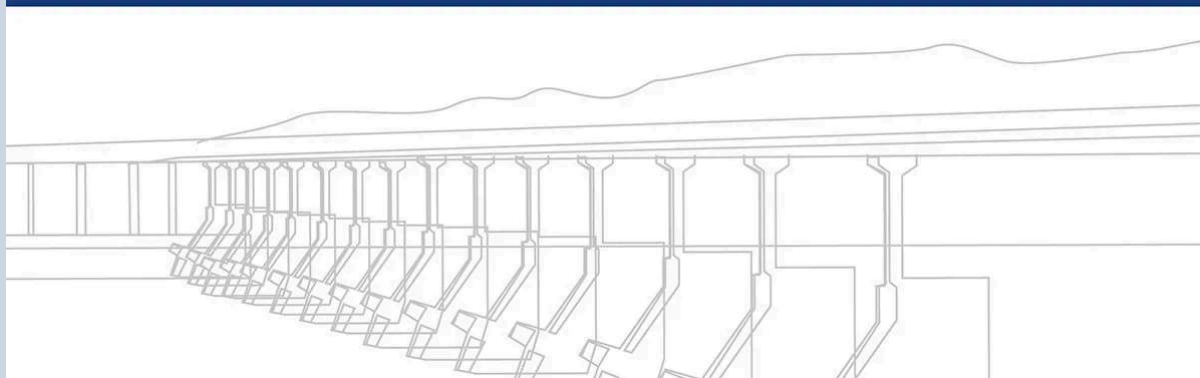




Dams Safety

Dams Safety Focus



23 February 2024



Message from the CEO

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of *Dams Safety Focus*.

Declared dam owners may be aware that in December last year the NSW Government asked the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to investigate the efficient costs of Dams Safety NSW carrying out its functions under the *Dams Safety Act 2015*, and recommend a methodology for recovering these costs from declared dam owners. I encourage all declared dam owners to stay updated through IPART's [website](#).

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to our newest board member, Dr Lisa Caffery. Lisa brings with her a wealth of experience, having served across various sectors including resources, health, utilities, not-for-profit, and government. Her insights and expertise will undoubtedly enrich our board discussions. Some of you may already know Lisa in her current role as the Chair of Sunwater in Queensland.

As declared dam owners, it's crucial to complete your 2023 [Annual Dam Safety Standards Reports](#). These reports are due on 31 March 2024 and are mandatory under NSW dams safety law. Non-compliance may result in penalties. Please contact us if you require assistance.

Lastly, in this issue you can read about our recent opportunity to collaborate with a delegation from Indian state and national governments, focussing on dam safety management and regulatory practices.

Chris Salkovic
CEO, Dams Safety NSW



Proposed dams safety levy from 1 July 2024

The NSW Government is proposing to introduce a dams safety levy, in accordance with the *Dams Safety Act 2015*.

The Government has commissioned the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to recommend a clear, cost-effective methodology for the dams safety levy, emphasising the financial sustainability and efficiency of Dams Safety NSW. IPART will determine the design, structure, and implementation options for a cost recovery model.

IPART is an independent agency of the NSW Government, charged with regulating key markets and government services to ensure effective social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

Next steps

As part of its work, IPART will consult with declared dam owners and report to the Government in 2024. IPART has been asked to consider issues raised by stakeholders during consultation in 2020 to explore funding and levy design options.

More information

IPART has launched a [website](#) where further details will be released in the coming months.



Dams Safety NSW welcomes new Board member

Dams Safety NSW welcomes business and community engagement leader Dr Lisa Caffery as our newest Board member.

Lisa is a community engagement and governance specialist who is passionate about regional Australia. She is a skilled executive in governance, strategy, engagement, social performance management, and social research. Lisa completed a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Central Queensland University (CQU) in 2021 and maintains research interests in rural and remote communities, social impact, health and STEM education. She also possesses undergraduate and postgraduate tertiary qualifications in communications/public relations and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Lisa is the current board chair of Sunwater Ltd, a Queensland Government-owned corporation that supplies 40 per cent of water used for irrigation, industrial and urban customers in that state.



REGISTER NOW: FREE online forum about new NSW SES changes and dam emergency plans

WHEN: Wednesday 20 March 2024 – 10am-10:45am

Join our FREE online Q & A forum to hear about how **recent NSW State Emergency Service changes** will impact your dam emergency planning. It will cover the:

- new [Australian Warning System \(AWS\)](#)
- new dam summary cover sheet for emergency plans
- updated DSNSW Emergency plans guideline

The session will be split into three sessions with a Q & A after each session. Our panel will include representatives from NSW State Emergency Service and Dams Safety NSW.

Submit your questions for the panel when you register or ask them live on the day. For more information, email Dams Safety NSW at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au

REGISTER HERE

Dams Safety NSW named NSW Water Awards' finalist

Dams Safety NSW (DSNSW) has been announced as a finalist in the 'Organisational Excellence' category at the [2024 NSW Water Awards](#) for their [online courses for safer dams in NSW](#).

DSNSW's courses are self-paced and fully online, which is quite different from previous face-to-face training in dam safety. This delivery style allows for a greater range of people and organisations to access knowledge.



NEW online concrete dam surveillance course - enrol now!

Dams Safety NSW has launched the second of our online training courses, '[Surveillance of concrete dams - routine inspections](#)'. The course will help NSW dam owners understand the activities involved in conducting routine visual inspections of concrete dams.

DSNSW has collaborated with TAFE NSW to deliver the three-hour online course available now on [TAFE NSW's online learning platform](#).

CEO of Dams Safety NSW, Chris Salkovic, said our [embankment dam surveillance course](#) has been well received, and this new course offers similar guidance to the owners and operators of concrete dams.

"It caters to those individuals looking to improve their understanding of concrete dam inspection. Additionally, it offers a valuable foundation for pursuing accreditation as an inspector in the future."

It is recommended that participants have at least six months' experience inspecting dams before attempting the course.

COURSE COST: \$210

[CLICK HERE TO ENROL](#)

Note: After successfully completing this course, you can choose to be assessed for competency against the National Water Training Package unit of competency '**NWPCAD010 - inspect and report on concrete dam safety**', for an additional fee.

Contact Dams Safety NSW for more information about eligibility requirements for competency assessments by emailing us at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.

ENROL NOW



Risk reports for your dam - be prepared!

All declared dam owners must identify and manage risks to their dams. A risk report must be prepared for a declared dam every five years to meet your obligations under the *Dams Safety Act 2015*.

Preparing a risk report can be complex and time consuming, and often requires input from specialist consultants. To ensure your risk report is delivered on time, it is important to be prepared. Here are some tips:

KNOW when your risk report is due

All declared dam owners will have been notified of their due date (between 2022 and 2026). If you are unsure, please contact info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au

START your risk report early

Preparing a risk report takes time and will most likely require specialist consultant involvement. Allow plenty of time for procurement, consultation, costing and planning.

UNDERSTAND your requirements

Ensure you and your consultant have a clear understanding of:

- The requirements under the Act and Regulation
- The consequence category of your dam

- The scope of the report
- Peer review requirements

You can find further information on the website: [Dam Safety Facts - Risk reports for declared dams](#) | [Dams Safety \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

Have you submitted your Annual Safety Standards Report?

All declared dam owners are required to publish a report that shows their efforts over the year to manage dam safety. The [Annual Dams Safety Standards Report](#) covers the previous calendar year and is **due by 31 March**. Dam owners must submit the report to Dams Safety NSW, keep a copy at their office and publish it on their website (if they have one) for the public to view. The information gathered from the reports also helps Dams Safety NSW prioritise our compliance activities for the following year, focussing on areas that need the most attention to help make the NSW community safer.

All declared dam owners should read our [Annual Dams Safety Standards Report](#) fact sheet and familiarise themselves with the information they need to complete the report. Please use this [online form](#) for your report/s. Dam owners can email the signed report forms to Dams Safety NSW at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.

Unpacking the Dam Safety Management System

All declared dam owners must implement a dam safety management system (DSMS) to ensure the ongoing safety of their dams, and to comply with the requirements specified in the [regulation](#). But what exactly is a DSMS? What should it include? How often should it be updated?

To answer these questions Dams Safety NSW has developed an online resource that gives dam owners easy access to our communications materials about the different components of a dam safety management system.

Visit our online resource [here](#).



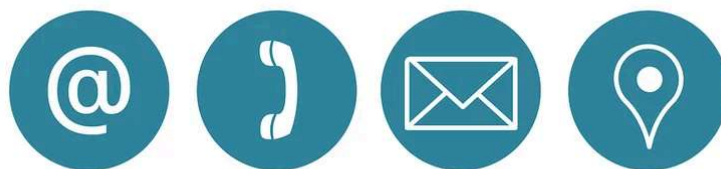
DSNSW shares expertise with Indian counterparts

From 5 to 9 February Dams Safety NSW participated in the Australia-India Technical Exchange Program on Dam Safety and Rehabilitation program, supported by the World Bank, the [Australian Water Partnership](#) and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Senior government officials from India visited Sydney and nearby dam sites to gather and share knowledge about dam safety management and regulatory practice.

India has approximately 6000 large dams. They are an integral part of water resource development and management supporting agriculture, energy generation and drinking water supply. They also play a key role in flood management. Many dams across India were constructed decades ago. India now faces the dual challenge of ensuring their safety and coping with increasing demands.

The exchange program, coordinated by Western Sydney University, also involved staff from WaterNSW, Hunter Water and Sydney Water, who conducted visits to a number of dams.

DSNSW's participation in this program is widely acknowledged as recognition of our team's leading safety management regulatory practice.



Do you have a new contact person for your dam?

Notify DSNSW - it's the law

If you have a new contact person for your declared dam, or their details have changed, you are legally required to notify Dams Safety NSW within 14 days.

Maintaining up-to-date details for a contact person for DSNSW ensures that the Dams Safety Act and regulation can be administered efficiently and safely.

Dam owners need to notify Dams Safety NSW of changes to contact details within 14 days by completing this [online form](#), emailing us at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au, or calling (02) 9842 8073.



Serious incidents or injuries that occur at, or in relation to, a declared dam must be reported to Dams Safety NSW as soon as possible after the incident by calling **0403 681 645 (24 hours/7 days a week)**.

A written report of an incident in a form approved by Dams Safety NSW must be given to Dams Safety NSW no later than 72 hours after the incident, even if an oral report of the incident has already been given. **[Click here to complete the online incident report form.](#)**

Examples of the types of incidents you should report to DSNSW include:

- Risk of or actual failure of the dam
- Death or serious injury of persons related to the dam and its operations
- A security incident that has or may affect the safety of the dam

- An incident related to dam safety that is reasonably likely to cause concern to members of the public

If you are not sure if an incident meets the reporting requirements in clause 19 of the Dams Safety Regulation, it is recommended that declared dam owners report the incident.

Even if you have already made an oral report, email any additional information to **incident@damsafety.nsw.gov.au**

Reporting incidents to DSNSW is required by law. The information helps us monitor action taken by dam owners to resolve issues at dams. It also helps us track issues related to dam safety to inform our policies and programs.

Contact us

Dams Safety Focus is our newsletter on dam safety in NSW. If you have any questions or feedback contact us at:

Dams Safety NSW

Phone: (02) 9842 8073

Email: **communications@damsafety.nsw.gov.au**

Visit our website - Dams Safety NSW

Dams Safety NSW, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta, NSW 2124

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