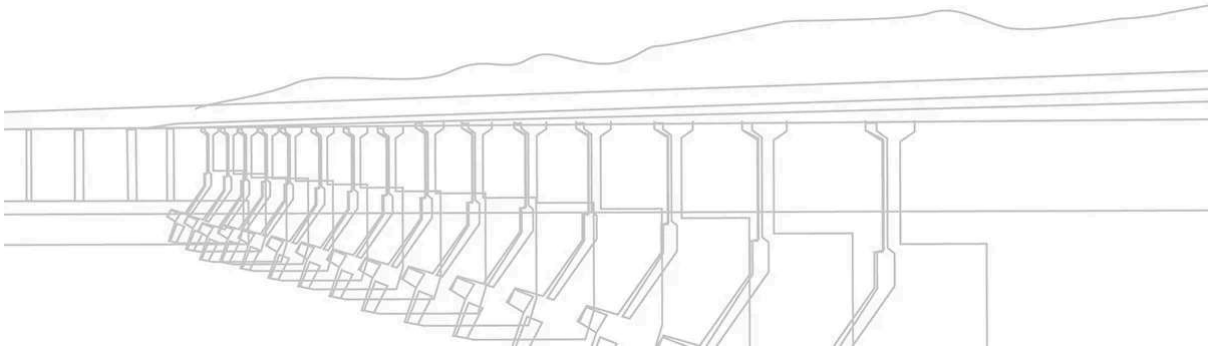




Dams Safety

Dams Safety Focus



15 June 2023



Message from the CEO

Conducting a risk assessment on your dam is critical to protect lives, properties, and the environment. A clearly presented, compliant risk report will help you understand how to prioritise your operations, plan capital works, and how to plan and carry out maintenance.

All declared dam owners must complete a risk report for their dam by a date specified by Dams Safety NSW (DSNSW). Due dates for risk reports have been spread over a five-year period from December 2022 to December 2026.

Many owners we've spoken to over the past few months have been surprised by how long it takes to complete a risk report. It is recommended you engage a

consultant at least 12 months before your risk report is due.

If you don't know when your risk report is due, please contact us immediately by calling (02) 9842 8073 or emailing info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au

South Korean dam safety delegates meet with DSNSW

Last month, at our office in Parramatta, DSNSW had the pleasure of hosting a delegation of five senior officials from South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) and the Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC). Local governments in South Korea and the KRC own 17,080 agricultural dams that are regulated and audited by MAFRA. The purpose of the delegate's visit was to exchange ideas and knowledge about dam safety regulation and policies. The face-to-face meeting gave us the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences, reaffirming our commitment to continuous improvement and global cooperation.

Chris Salkovic
CEO, Dams Safety NSW



REGISTER NOW for our FREE live online forum: Conducting a dam emergency exercise

WHEN: Friday 23 June, 2023 - 11am-12pm

Declared dam owners in NSW are legally required to conduct an emergency exercise for their dam. These emergency exercises play an important role in risk mitigation and making sure you're prepared in the unlikely event of a dam failure. **NSW legislation requires that at least one emergency exercise must have been conducted for NSW declared dams before 1 November 2024.**

[Join our FREE online Q&A forum](#) to hear about the benefits of conducting emergency exercises, as well as tips and insights to help you plan, conduct and review an emergency exercise.

Our panel will include representatives from Dams Safety NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, and declared dam owners.

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

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



First competency assessments completed

Following the launch of Dams Safety NSW's first online course '[Surveillance of embankment dams – routine inspections](#)', we have now held our first competency assessments.

Last month 8 participants, who successfully completed the online course, were assessed against the National Water Training Package unit of competency 'NWPCAD011 - inspect and report on embankment dam safety' by registered training organisation Water Training Australia. The assessment included pre- and post- field activities and tasks and a face-to-face assessment day in the Orange region. All 8 participants passed the requirements to earn the unit of competency.

Dams Safety NSW runs these assessments for declared dam owners and their staff. If you would like to take part in a future competency assessment, and you work for a declared dam-owning organisation, and have completed the online Surveillance of embankment dams course, register your interest at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.

Frequently asked questions: online dam safety courses and assessments

Do I have to do the Dams Safety NSW online embankment dams – routine inspection course?

No. Declared dam owners are responsible for determining competency needs and ensuring their staff and contractors have the relevant competencies. The online ‘Surveillance of embankment dams – routine inspections’ course is only one way declared dam owners may seek to enhance the competency of their staff. There are other courses and skill development methods available that declared dam owners can choose to meet their needs.

Do I need to do the competency assessment to demonstrate competency, or is the certificate of course completion for the online course enough?

Completion of the online course is not sufficient to demonstrate competency. We recommend a minimum of six months practical experience before and 2 months after the online course, before attempting the competency assessment. Candidates should also have completed at least two routine visual inspections.

Who is eligible for a competency assessment through Dams Safety NSW?

Declared dam owners and their employees who have completed the online course and meet other eligibility requirements. Contact us for more information on info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au

How much does the course and assessment cost?

The online [Surveillance of embankment dams course](#) costs \$210 and the competency assessment costs \$500.

If I complete the online course, does that mean I know everything I need to know about surveillance of my declared dam/s?

No. The course only covers routine visual inspections. Additionally, because every dam is unique, individual dam owners may have other knowledge, skill and

experience requirements for their dams that are not covered in the course.

If I pass the competency assessment, am I now a 'competent person' as defined by the Dams Safety Regulation 2019?

No. Under the Regulation, a 'competent person' is a person who has substantial knowledge and skills in dam design or risk analysis in relation to that type of dam (acquired through training, qualification and experience) and is at least one of the following:

- registered under a law that provides for the registration of professional engineers
- a member (or is qualified to be a member) of Engineers Australia with the status of Chartered Professional Engineer
- is entered on the National Professional Engineers Register administered by the Institution of Engineers Australia
- the holder of professional qualifications in a relevant speciality.

NOTE: there are some requirements of the Dams Safety Regulation 2019 that can only be performed by 'competent persons' as defined in the Regulation.

Will Dams Safety NSW be running other online courses?

Yes. We will soon be launching an online 'Surveillance of concrete dams – routine inspections course' and will provide enrolment information as soon as it is available. If you would be interested in other topics for declared dam-related online courses, please get in touch via info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au



Does your dam emergency plan have the correct DSNSW contact details?

Make sure your dam emergency plan has the correct, up-to-date contact details for Dams Safety NSW.

Flowcharts in your emergency plan (for Amber or Red Alerts) should refer to the **Dams Safety NSW Duty Officer**, and include the phone number **0403 681 645**.

Remove references to the former "Dams Safety Committee (DSC)", "the Executive Engineer", "CEO" or "Chris Salkovic".

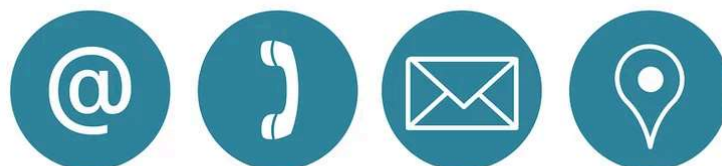
When you call Dams Safety NSW to report an incident, or to notify us about a dam safety emergency, you are put through to a call centre that is staffed 24/7, then to the Dams Safety NSW Duty Officer for action.

Dam risk reports take time: engage a consultant now

It can take consultants months to do the investigation and analysis required to produce a quality risk report for a declared dam. Owners must contact consultants early and not leave it until a month or two before they are due.

Consultants who quote a considerably lower price and promise faster delivery are not necessarily producing compliant risk reports. Having to redo the report is not value for money.

DSNSW will not generally grant an extension for submitting your risk report. Dam owners have been notified of their deadlines to arrange these reports since 2021. Clear commitment from dam owners and early communication with DSNSW is essential. Over time, owners and consultants will improve and streamline their processes as we all work together to ensure safe dams for NSW.



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.

Notify Dams Safety NSW of the new details by 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.



Dam owners urged to submit Annual Safety Standards Reports

Dams Safety NSW (DSNSW) is reminding declared dam owners who have not yet submitted their Annual Safety Standard Reports, that they are in breach of the Dams Safety Regulation 2019, and must submit their reports now.

All declared dam owners were required to submit a report to DSNSW by **31 March 2023**. Dam owners must keep a copy of the report at their office and publish it on their website (if they have one) for the public to view.

The [Annual Dams Safety Standards Report](#) includes information about the consequence category of your dam, the dam safety management system, and other safety management requirements. The report also requires information for dams in the design/ construction/commissioning and decommissioning phases.

CEO of DSNSW, Chris Salkovic, says the Regulator has now received 78% of reports, but dam owners can do better.

"This is the second year this legal requirement has been in place, so we're expecting all dam owners should know what they have to do.

"The Annual Dams Safety Standards Report demonstrates a dam owner's compliance with the dams safety standards set out in the Dams Safety Regulation.

"Going through the process of completing the report is gives dam owners the chance to identify any gaps that may exist in their dam's safety management

system, and what needs to be done to address them."

Dam owners who do not comply with a legal requirement may be issued with a penalty notice.

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. Use this [online form](#) for your report/s. Email the report forms to Dams Safety NSW at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.

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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