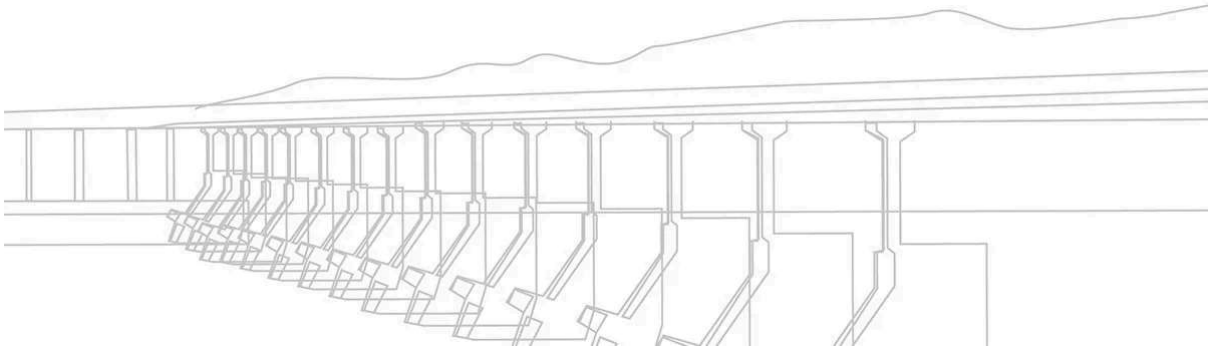




Dams Safety

Dams Safety Focus



20 October 2023



Message from the CEO

Welcome to the October 2023 edition of *Dams Safety Focus*.

Earlier this year Dams Safety NSW completed our first stakeholder engagement survey. We received responses from 76 organisations responsible for dams and an additional 35 from industry stakeholders. This broad participation provided us with excellent feedback, highlighting both our strengths and areas for improvement. You can read more about the results in this edition.

The 31 December 2023 deadline for completing your dam's risk report is fast approaching. These reports are a fundamental component of ensuring the safety of dams. If you are a dam owner required to complete a risk report by this deadline, please ensure you are familiar with your obligations. Our team will be requesting a copy of the risk report and is here to answer any questions you may have.

Once again, DSNSW is looking forward to participating in the [ANCOLD conference](#), this year in Cairns. If you're attending, we'd love to see you at our booth in the exhibitor's hall, where our team will be on hand to answer your questions about dam safety regulation in New South Wales.

Chris Salkovic
CEO, Dams Safety NSW



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 undertaking frequent inspections of dams is critical to protect the safety of people, property and the environment.

"Our [embankment dam inspection course](#) has been very well received, and this new course offers similar guidance to the owners and operators of concrete dams," Mr Salkovic said.

"In this course, you'll gain knowledge about concrete dams and how to inspect and assess them, the equipment and records you need, and what to do in the unlikely event that you find signs of problems.

“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.

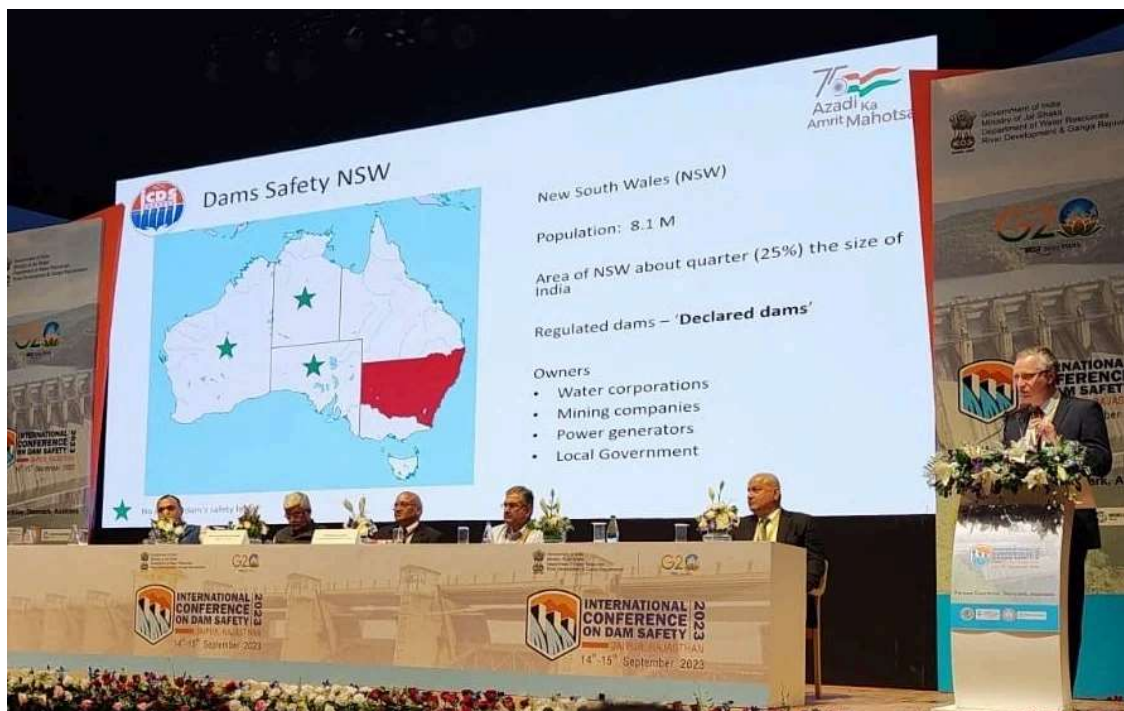
COURSE COST: \$210

[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



Dams Safety NSW shares expertise at international conference in India

Dams Safety NSW's dam safety expertise was featured at the International Dam Safety Conference in Jaipur, India, from 14-15 September 2023. Dams Safety NSW's Chris Salkovic, Shane McGrath and Peter Boyd presented on dam safety governance and regulation, integrated risk management, and asset management. The 800-delegate conference was opened by the vice-president of India and was attended by several government ministers.

To gain insights into Indian dam safety, the team visited the Bhatsa Dam, the major water supply for Mumbai, and the Bisalpur dam, which supplies water to Jaipur.

The NSW team, which included Professor Basant Maheshwari from Western Sydney University, participated in meetings with senior officials from the Indian Central and State governments. These officials displayed a strong interest in understanding how Dams Safety NSW had recently implemented a modern dam safety regulatory framework in NSW. Additionally, they sought the team's insights on risk management and asset management practices.

The visit was supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Water Partnership.

Results of first Dams Safety NSW stakeholder engagement survey are in!

Earlier this year, Dams Safety NSW engaged a market research firm to conduct our first independent stakeholder engagement survey. Seventy-six declared dam owners completed the survey questionnaire and 15 declared dam owners and 35 other stakeholders took part in in-depth interviews. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Dam owners who responded to the survey expressed a strong interest in having:

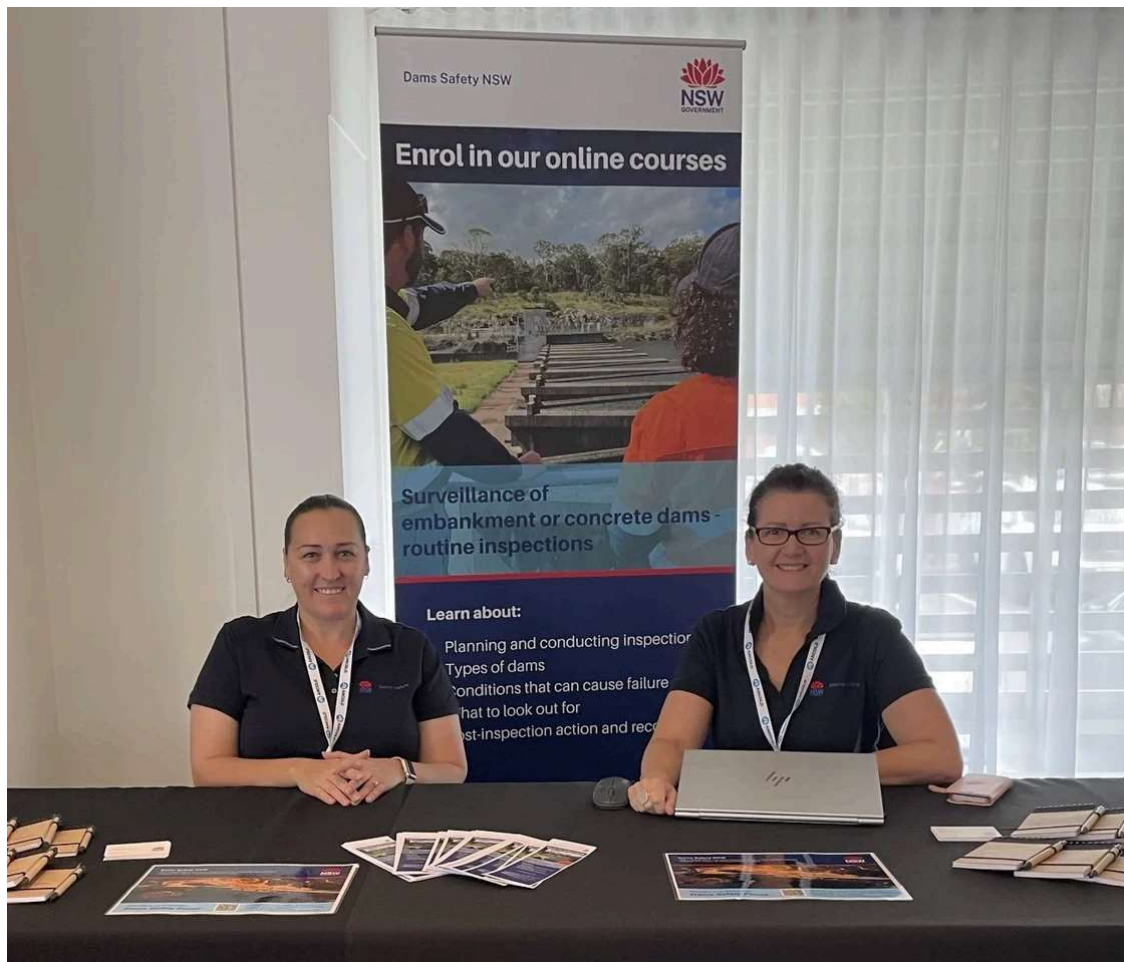
- more guidance documents, templates and fact sheets
- access to examples of actions and documents from other dam owners
- more face-to-face visits from DSNSW staff
- more information about past non-compliances and incidents.

They also reported a range of barriers that prevented them from being fully compliant, including time constraints and the amount of work required, staffing constraints, limited availability of consultants and experts and a lack of these skills

in-house, the costs involved and/or a lack of funding and uncertainty about parts of the requirements.

Participating declared dam owners scored their overall satisfaction with DSNSW as 7 out of 10 (mean score) and a similar score of 7.2 was received from other stakeholder groups.

DSNSW is currently developing and implementing a program of education and engagement activities for the 2023-24 financial year that addresses some of the findings of the survey. As part of this program, we will deliver more communications and educational materials, events, engagement opportunities and visits to help dam owners to comply with legislation and engage with DSNSW.



Left to right: DSNSW's Renee McDonald, Assistant Project Officer, and Margaret Hynes, Capability Manager, promoting our online courses at the ANCOLD Dam Operators Forum.

Dam specialists descend on Bendigo

The Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) Dam Operators Forum, held in Bendigo, Victoria, from 15-17 September 2023, brought together 102 participants representing a wide range of industries, organisations and government

bodies. Attendees shared their experiences and insights, improved their water dam knowledge, and expanded their professional networks.

Dams Safety NSW attended the forum to promote our online dam operator courses, and network with stakeholders who were interested in participating in our competency assessments.

Assistant Project Officer, Renee McDonald, said it was particularly valuable to listen to dam operators and learn about the challenges they face during their work.

"Forums like this are a great opportunity for DSNSW, as a regulator, to engage with our stakeholders," said Renee.

"We were really happy to be able to provide operators with guidance and educational material to help improve their compliance with NSW dam safety legislation."



Listen to our consultant's forum on risk reporting for declared dams

The Dams Safety NSW [consultants' forum](#), held in August 2023, gave engineering consultants the chance to ask the regulator questions about new legislative requirements related to risk reports for declared dams.

Principal Dams Safety Engineer, Jason Porter, and Governance and Assurance Manager, Peter Boyd, talked about Dams Safety NSW's expectations on how declared dam risk reports should be prepared so that the reports comply with the regulation.

Under the Dams Safety Regulation 2019, a [risk report](#) is a written report that dam owners must produce on all foreseeable risks to their declared dam.



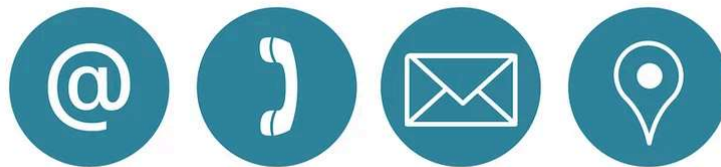
Are you emergency prepared?

Emergency exercises must be carried out for all declared dams in NSW. They form an important part of risk mitigation and emergency preparedness 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.**

Watch our [Q & A forum](#) to hear about the benefits of emergency exercising, and read our tips and insights to help you plan, hold, and review an emergency exercise. Our panel includes representatives from Dams Safety NSW, NSW State Emergency Service, and declared dam owners.

Follow the [link](#) to our resources including:

- forum presentations
- tips
- frequently asked questions
- case studies
- links to further guidance



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.

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

[Unsubscribe](#)