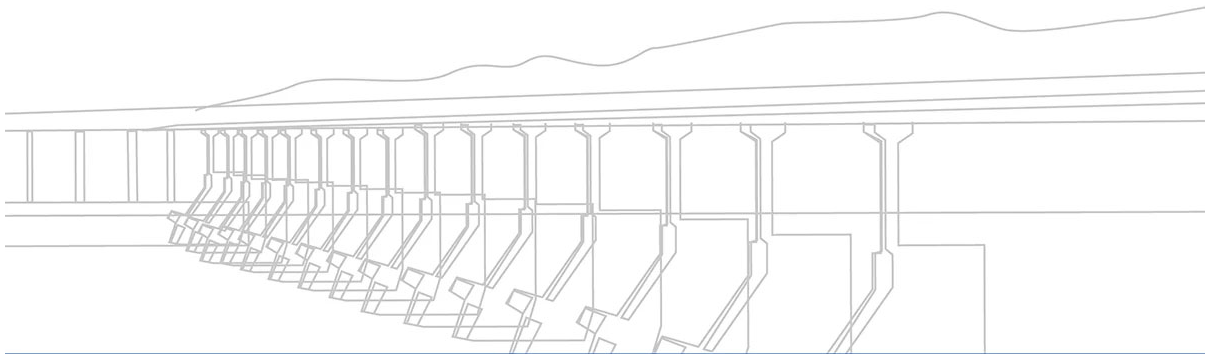


[View in browser](#)**Dams Safety**

Dams Safety Focus

**October 2020**

Calling all consultants

Dams Safety NSW has recently been connecting with owners of declared dams. We are also keen to make contact with consultants and professional services organisations involved with dams safety work.

For this reason we would like to invite consultants and senior members of your team to book a time from **Monday 9 November to Friday 13 November** to have a one-on-one online conversation with me, the CEO of Dams Safety NSW. This meeting will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you have about NSW Dams Safety requirements. To book a 15- or 30-minute appointment please call **(02) 9842 8073**.

Chris Salkovic
CEO, Dams Safety NSW



Members of Dams Safety NSW, socially distanced, at WaterNSW's Cascade Dams. Left to right: Jesse Jones, Margaret Hynes, Jason Porter, Asim Chohan and Akber Muhammad.

Transition Readiness Assessments underway

Dams Safety NSW's Operations Team is currently contacting all declared dam owners to discuss and explain the changes to the legislation, a process that we call a Transition Readiness Assessment, or TRA. We have already completed one third of our TRAs with declared dam owners in NSW.

The purpose of these discussions is to: strengthen our relationships with declared dam owners; get a better understanding of how Dams Safety NSW can provide information; and answer any questions dam owners may have about how the changes apply to their declared dams.

For those declared dam owners who have not yet received an invitation for one of these discussions, our team will reach out over the remainder of the 2020-21 financial year for an hour or two of your time. We are looking forward to meeting with all declared dam owners.



Glenbawn Dam, near Scone. The dam has one of the largest rock-fill embankment walls in Australia, 100 metres high and 1.1 kilometres long.

Ask to be added to our dam consultants list

Dams Safety NSW receives many calls from declared dam owners asking for recommendations for consultants to conduct dam-related safety work. For this reason we've decided to compile a list of dam-related consultants and publish the list on our website.

HOW TO BE ADDED TO THE CONSULTANTS LIST: Send an email to info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au with the name of the organisation/consultant, street address/PO Box, phone number, email address and website. We will be accepting requests to be added to the list until **6 November 2020**. Following initial publication of the list, we will make amendments as new consultants send through their details.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Dams Safety NSW will not be assessing or endorsing any consultant on this list. It is the responsibility of the declared dam owner to undertake their own due diligence and confirm that the consultant is suitable to undertake the requested work.

Proposal to introduce declared dams safety levy

Dams Safety NSW is proposing a change to the *Dams Safety Regulation 2019*. The proposal is to add a provision in the regulation to introduce a dams safety levy under Section 41 of the *Dams Safety Act 2015*.

The proposed dams safety levy would be based on the consequence category of the dam.

More information about the proposal to introduce a dams safety levy is provided in [Dam Safety Levy – Frequently asked questions](#).

Consultation and feedback

A consultation period with declared dam owners about the proposed levy commenced on Wednesday 30 September 2020 and will end 30 October 2020.

Dams Safety NSW will be holding virtual meetings during October. Declared dam owners should contact 0409 784 535 or email communications@damsafety.nsw.gov.au to book into a meeting.

Declared dam owners can provide their feedback on the proposed levy by:

- email to communications@damsafety.nsw.gov.au
- writing to Dams Safety NSW, Locked Bag 5123, Parramatta NSW 2124.

The closing date for feedback is 30 October 2020. If you have any questions please call 0409 784 535 or email us at communications@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.



Avon Dam, one of four dams that make up the Upper Nepean water supply scheme south of Sydney on the Illawarra Plateau.

Changes to Notification Areas

Notification Areas were first declared under the *Mining Act 1992* to surround dams and their storage reservoirs. Notification Areas were intended to:

- Enable the dam safety regulator to provide input and impose conditions on mining activities near dams and their storages, and to
- Protect the dam and storage from damage due to mining

Under the old *Dams Safety Act 1978* the former Dams Safety Committee was responsible for the protection of water impounded by dam structures as well as the dam structure itself.

Under the new *Dams Safety Act 2015* Dams Safety NSW is focussed on protection of the dam structure and not stored waters. The dam owners, together with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, are responsible for protecting dam water storage.

Under the new Act Notification Areas are still gazetted as delineating an area around a dam within which any proposed mining needs to be referred to Dams Safety NSW.

To reflect it's changed focus, Dams Safety NSW is changing the shape and size of Notification Areas to more accurately reflect its area of jurisdiction.

Dams Safety NSW has begun the process of redefining Notification Areas, which includes consultation with affected declared dam owners as an important part of the process. We expect we will complete the review in December 2021.

There are currently 269 Notification Areas of which 140 surround water supply dams. It is the 140 water supply dams that are subject to review of their associated Notification Areas.

Declared dam owners do not have to wait for Dams Safety NSW to consult on changes to their dams Notification Areas. They can request changes to the Notification Area by emailing Dams Safety NSW at info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au.



Emergency plans guideline now available online

Dams Safety NSW has published the [Emergency plans guideline](#). Declared dam owners must prepare and implement an appropriate emergency plan for their dam/s.

An emergency plan is intended to address an imminent or actual failure of the dam structure. Dams Safety NSW considers that effective emergency plans are a vital part of a dam owner's dam safety management system to minimise consequences in the unlikely event of such an event.

This guideline contains information on emergency plans for declared dams. It should assist declared dam owners who are preparing or amending their dam emergency plans.

This guideline is not a legislative document; dam owners are not required to adopt the suggested methods, techniques or other material contained in it and a dam owner may adopt other approaches if they fit better with a dam owner's systems.



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](#).

Contact us

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

Dams Safety NSW

Phone: (02) 9842 8073

Email: info@damsafety.nsw.gov.au

Visit our website - Dams Safety NSW

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

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