



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your ref A590315
Our refs CTS 15246/20

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.dnrme.qld.gov.au

14 September 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 13 August 2020 concerning petition No. 3284-20 received by the House on 13 August 2020, which requests the following actions.

1. Release the GHD engineering report that determined the dam gates would not be reinstalled at Leslie Harrison Dam.
2. Investigate the feasibility of options to restore the Dam's holding capacity.
3. Permit non-motorised recreational use at and on the Dam (Tingalpa Reservoir) while having regard to conservation opportunities.

The GHD report contains technical and operational information about the Leslie Harrison Dam water infrastructure. As such it presents an unacceptable risk to Seqwater's infrastructure if the information were to be in the public domain.

The gates were originally installed to increase water supply capacity. Since that time the North Stradbroke Island Water Treatment Plant (NSI WTP) has become the major water supply for the Redland area. The Redland area is also now connected to the SEQ Water Grid via the Eastern Pipeline Interconnector, and therefore the additional supply volume that would be achieved by reinstating the gates is not required.

The SEQ Water Grid allows water to be moved between the southern Gold Coast to the northern Sunshine Coast and provides one of the most secure urban water supplies in Australia.

The additional Full Supply Capacity (FSC) of reinstalling the gates would be around 1,000 megalitres (ML) - a 0.05% increase in the FSC of the dam. The additional 1,000ML provided by reinstalling the gates would cost \$18 million and would not provide value for money for customers. Optimising other parts of the SEQ Water Grid would provide a better return on investment for water security.

Leslie Harrison Dam was one of the South East Queensland (SEQ) dams identified for upgrade as part of Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program. The dam is located in a highly populated residential area, and the local Redlands population has increased significantly from 12,500 people when the dam was built in 1968 to close to 150,000 today. It is therefore critical to maintain the safe operation of the dam into the future.

The dam's water level was lowered in 2014 and gates were removed in 2015 to ensure the ongoing safety of the dam while Seqwater continued its investigations into dam safety. The Leslie Harrison Dam Safety Upgrade project was completed in 2019.

Leslie Harrison Dam supplies roughly 25 per cent of Redlands demand, the North Stradbroke Island Water Treatment Plant supplies more than 55 per cent and the remainder is supplied by the SEQ Water Grid.

Leslie Harrison Dam is a critical part of Seqwater's Water Grid which provides water security to SEQ. Water-based recreation has never been permitted on Leslie Harrison Dam. From 1969, under the ownership of Redland City Council, the lake was closed to public access and this arrangement has continued since 2008 when Leslie Harrison Dam was transferred to Seqwater's ownership.

An independent scientific water quality risk assessment undertaken by Seqwater in 2014 determined that allowing any recreation in Tingalpa Reservoir (where Leslie Harrison Dam is located) would present an unacceptable level of risk to water quality.

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Lynham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy