

# Callide Valley Flood Review Update

JULY 2015

## Welcome to the first edition of the Callide Valley Flood Review Update.

In June 2015, the Inspector-General Emergency Management, Iain MacKenzie, completed an independent review into the February 2015 Callide Creek flood event and made thirteen recommendations.

These are being actioned by the Banana Shire Council (BSC), the Shire's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), SunWater, the Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC).

Work is well underway by these agencies to implement these recommendations. This Update has been prepared by BSC and SunWater in liaison with other agencies to inform the Callide Valley community on progress to date on these activities. A further Update will be prepared in late August.

### Callide Valley Flood Review Recommendations\*

- #1 DEWS and SunWater to undertake studies that consider the feasibility of operating Callide Dam as a flood mitigation dam
- #2 BSC to commission flood study for high risk areas across the Banana Shire and for flood risk management
- #3 BSC to coordinate public education strategy including disaster management arrangements and key risks
- #4 SunWater to provide information to downstream residents regarding dam operation and potential impacts of outflows
- #5 DEWS and SunWater to investigate adopting more flexible approaches with respect to Emergency Action Plans
- #6 BSC, SunWater and BOM to identify the requirements for a suitable gauge network for flood warnings in the Callide Valley in liaison with DNRM
- #7 BSC to develop a multi-channel warning strategy and public information campaign
- #8 SunWater and BSC to develop a multi-channel warning strategy for residents downstream of dams and develop common messaging and procedures
- #9 SunWater and BSC to pre-format emergency alert messages and identify alert area polygons and to test in liaison with the SDCC
- #10 LDMG to review Local Disaster Coordination Centre capability and capacity including resourcing, training and operational protocols
- #11 BSC to complete business continuity planning including documenting and testing the plan
- #12 BSC to review and test evacuation planning including activation triggers
- #13 SDCC to consider requesting critical infrastructure owners to the State Disaster Coordination Centre during events that impact on their assets

\*The table above is an outline of the recommendations. A copy of the recommendations and detailed report can be downloaded from: [www.igem.qld.gov.au/callide/](http://www.igem.qld.gov.au/callide/)



## Improving Warning Systems

*(Recommendations 7, 8 & 9)*

BSC are working closely with the LDMG and Emergency Services to develop an improved warning strategy in order to be prepared in the event of any future disasters in the Shire.

SunWater has also been working with the BSC to improve the warning systems associated with releases from Callide Dam and Kroombit Dam. A strategy workshop involving BSC and SunWater has been scheduled in early August to develop a coordinated, multi-channel warning strategy for use in the next summer's wet season. It is expected that this warning strategy will use mobile phone SMS alerts, social media sites such as twitter and Facebook, radio broadcasts, as well as dedicated websites.

The Inspector General is also currently undertaking a separate review of warnings and communications during flood events involving all SunWater (and SeqWater) dams in Queensland. The findings from that review will also be incorporated into the warning strategy once that review is complete.

SunWater has met with the DEWS and BSC to update its Emergency Action Plans for Callide and Kroombit Dams. These updates will include updated wording associated with the warnings sent to downstream residents during dam releases. SunWater is also identifying a roster of liaison officers who will be embedded in the State Disaster Coordination Centre in emergency events that impact on its dams.



## Reviewing the Flood Gauging Network

*(Recommendation 6)*

The DNRM are conducting a performance review of the Flood Warning Gauge Network throughout Queensland. This is looking at the rainfall and stream flow information that is being monitored by various local, state, private and Commonwealth entities. It is also examining its ongoing maintenance and use for flood warning purposes primarily by BOM.

BSC, BOM and SunWater are preparing a joint submission into the DNRM performance review in relation to potential requirements for a suitable gauge network for flood warnings in the Callide Valley.



## Developing Community Awareness and Education Strategies

*(Recommendations 3 & 4)*

BSC is currently liaising with key stakeholders including emergency services to develop strategies regarding its disaster management arrangements and notifications.

SunWater has met with BSC to develop information explaining how its dams are operated and what different size releases mean for downstream residents. This is being designed to integrate with the BSC's overarching disaster management strategy in relation to broader community emergency preparedness throughout the Shire.



## Commissioning Detailed Flood Studies

*(Recommendations 1 & 2)*

BSC has recently engaged consultants to complete catchment-wide mapping and flood studies for the Banana Shire. These flood studies will be delivered in two stages:

- The first stage (which is currently underway) will provide vital information on areas that are likely to be affected by flooding within the Banana Shire
- The second stage (which requires additional funding) will consider a range of potential mitigation strategies and involve extensive public consultation. BCS has submitted an application to the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning for funding for this future work. Similar investigations and consultations conducted by local governments in other parts of Queensland have taken two to three years to complete.

The DEWS have formed a project team to work with SunWater and BSC to investigate if it is feasible to operate Callide Dam as a flood mitigation dam.

The DEWS will commission consultants to analyse the potential flood mitigation benefits associated with operating the dam differently for a range of dam inflow events. The project will include modelling of the impact of making operational changes on the reliability of water supply to irrigators, industries and towns dependent on water supplies from Callide Dam.

Current dam safety constraints or considerations are also being documented by SunWater as part of this feasibility study.

Information about the potential benefits, impacts, constraints and costs will be considered as part of the project to analyse a range of alternative operational strategies for Callide Dam. This work, including public consultation, is expected to be completed by mid-2016.



## Reviewing Disaster Management Coordination Arrangements

*(Recommendations 5, 10, 11, 12 & 13)*

BSC is liaising with all agencies to review their staffing commitments in relation to the Local Disaster Coordination Centre. Training of operational protocols continues to be rolled out for both Council staff and members of the LDMG agencies.

The Evacuation Sub Committee of the LDMG is undertaking a review of the Evacuation Sub Plan. In addition, BSC is currently developing a Business Continuity Plan, for both disaster management and Council operations. BSC and the Police have commenced a critical review of evacuation routes and planning. The next workshop is scheduled to be held with relevant agencies in August to progress this review.

## For more information, please contact:

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