

# DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT POLICY

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## Western Water:

1. Undertakes to preserve its own large dams recognising their contribution to businesses and communities;
2. Recognises that dam ownership carries responsibilities for the safe and long term management of dams;
3. Will not expose the community to unacceptable risks from the existence and operation of Western Water dams;
4. Commits to using recognised prevailing good practice and technology in managing its dams;
5. Accepts ANCOLD Guidelines as the primary guidance for dam safety management practices and will have regard to the guidelines as specified in the Corporation's Statement of Obligations. Any significant departures of Western Water's dam safety program from the guidelines require;
  - a. a documented risk assessment or the written approval of a specialist dams engineer; and
  - b. approval from the Managing Director; and
  - c. Reporting to the Board
6. Will manage dam safety risks by a program of inspection, maintenance, monitoring, safety reviews, training, reporting, emergency management and remedial work;
7. Will progressively upgrade dams to satisfy the ANCOLD "Societal and Individual Risk Reference Guidelines" so that the risks of dam failure fall below the "Limit of Tolerability";
8. Will assess dam safety improvements to further lower risks to As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP) considering:
  - a. legal requirements
  - b. the views of government or the dam safety regulator
  - c. options to improve societal risk and their associated cost
  - d. other funding sources
  - e. the views of the affected public
  - f. community and political expectations using the DELWP 2015 publication Engaging Communities on Dam Safety
  - g. other business risks.
9. Will consider the affordability to the relevant customers when decisions are taken on whether to proceed with dam safety upgrades
10. Will inform affected communities about dam safety upgrades using the DELWP 2015 publication Engaging Communities on Dam Safety.
11. Will comply with the Dam Safety Management Guidelines (ANCOLD, 2003) and Strategic Framework for Dam Regulation (DELWP, 2014) and any future updates.

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## Definitions

ANCOLD means the Australian National Committee on Large Dams.

ALARP: As Low As Reasonably Practicable Principle. That principle which states that risks, lower than the 'limit of tolerability', are tolerable only if risk reduction is impracticable or if its cost is grossly disproportionate (depending on the level of risk) to the improvement gained.

Limit of Tolerability: A limit set by ANCOLD to assess safety upgrades for dams. The limit is plotted on F-N charts that plot the cumulative probability of failure(F) against number(N) of deaths, and the plot of failure modes for a dam can be compared to this limit. If any section of the plot falls above the Limit of Tolerability, remedial works are required.

## Effective date and review date

This policy takes effect on 9 February 2016. It is due for review by February 2019.

## Who is affected

This policy applies to managers and employees who make decisions affecting the safety and maintenance of Western Water dams.

## Rationale

Dam safety improvements are expensive and require judgments and trade-offs between community safety and customer price impacts.

## Contact

For more information on this policy, contact the General Manager Strategy and Planning.

## Related documents

ANCOLD (2003), Dam Safety Management Guidelines  
ANCOLD (2003), Guidelines on Risk Assessment  
ANCOLD (2012), Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams  
DELWP (2015), Guidance Note on Dam Safety Decision Principles  
DELWP (2014), Strategic Framework for Dam Regulation  
DELWP (2015), Statement of Obligations  
DELWP (August 2015) Engaging Communities on Dam Safety  
Western Water (2015), Reservoir Operation and Maintenance Manual  
Western Water (2009), Dam Safety Emergency Plan

## Communications

This policy will be made available on Western Water's website.