1. The Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) undertook a review into SunWater and Seqwater’s Warnings Communications at the request of the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply. One of the recommendations of the review was that the legislation and guidelines should be reviewed to ensure consistency and define key terms.
2. The Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016 responds to that recommendation, and broader findings of IGEM and other reviews, and seeks to provide greater focus to the dam safety regulatory framework. The Bill is supported by a suite of operational and administrative measures which are already underway and have seen significant improvements in the engagement between SunWater and Seqwater and their respective communities and disaster management groups.
3. The Bill responds to the IGEM review by:
* clarifying key terms;
* explicitly defining the purpose of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), which provide the framework for warnings; and
* simplifying the structure of EAPs and approval processes.
1. The Bill also explicitly focuses the dam safety regulatory framework on public safety issues by reducing overlap with the work health and safety framework for dams which pose no threat beyond their immediate workplace, such as smaller farm and mining dams. It will also improve the ability of dam owners to manage dam safety issues by managing the water levels of their dams and erecting downstream signage.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
* [Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)