

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 253

asked on Thursday, 20 February 2020

MR D LAST ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's dams—

Will the Minister outline (a) the number of and names of state controlled dams that have spilled in 2020 (including dates when spilling occurred), (b) a breakdown of the estimated water (megalitre) that has spilled from each dam (reported separately by dam) and (c) whether any dam safety concerns have arisen due to increased capacity in certain dams (outlined separately per dam)?

ANSWER:

(a) As at 23 March 2020, the following 22 state-controlled dams have spilled in 2020:

Dam owner/operator	Dam name	Location	Spilling occurred
Sunwater	1. EJ Beardmore Dam	St George	from 15/02/2020 to 20/03/2020
	2. Julius Dam	Mt Isa	29/01/2020 to 20/03/2020
	3. Burdekin Falls Dam	Ravenswood	from 8/02/2020, still spilling
Seqwater	1. Borumba Dam	Gympie	spilled 13/02/2020, still spilling
	2. Cedar Pocket Dam		spilled 15/02/2020, still spilling
	3. Baroon Pocket Dam	Maleny	spilled 10/03/20, still spilling
	4. Lake Macdonald Dam	Noosa	spilled 6/02/2020, still spilling
	5. Ewen Maddock	Sunshine Coast	spilled 25/02/2020 to 20/03/2020, now 98.7%
	6. Poona Dam		spilled 9/02/2020, still spilling
	7. Wappa Dam		spilled 6/02/2020, still spilling
	8. Enoggera Dam		Brisbane and surrounds metropolitan area
	9. Gold Creek Dam	spilled 7/02/2020, still spilling	
	10. Lake Manchester Dam	spilled 14/02/2020, still spilling	
	11. Leslie Harrison Dam	spilled 9/03/2020 to 22/03/2020, now 99.9%	
	12. Sideling Creek Dam (Lake Kurwongbah)	Beauresert	spilled 13/02/2020, releases being made now 80.7%
	13. Nindooibah Dam		spilled 14/02/20 02/03/2020, now 98.8%
	14. Wyaralong Dam	Gold Coast	17/02/20, still spilling
	15. Hinze Dam		spilled 9/03/2020 to 22/03/2020, now 99.4%
	16. Little Nerang Dam		
DNRME	1. Crooks Dam	Mount Garnet	25/01/2020
	2. Corella Dam	Cloncurry	28/01/2020
	3. Copperfield Dam	Kidston	29/01/2020
Total	22 dams		

(b) The estimated volume of water that has spilled from each dam in 2020:

Sunwater

Dam name	Estimated overflow (ML)
EJ Beardmore Dam	1,612,716
Julius Dam	71,490
Burdekin Falls Dam	967,370 (still spilling)

Information about the storage levels and capacity of Sunwater's dams is available on the Sunwater website:

https://storagelevels.sunwater.com.au/win/reports/win_storages.htm

Seqwater

Spill flows and volumes are monitored for the Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams, as these are required for flood event reports following declared flood event operations; however, none of these dams has spilled this year.

Spill volumes are not routinely monitored for other Seqwater dams, though the overflows have been small.

Information about the storage levels and capacity of Seqwater's dams is available on the Seqwater website: <https://www.seqwater.com.au/dam-levels>

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Relatively small overflows have occurred from Crooks, Corella and Copperfield dams and the department does not record spill volumes.

(c) No immediate dam safety concerns have arisen as a result of the recent inflows/capacity increases in state-controlled dams.

The Sunwater and Seqwater dams that have emergency action plan requirements are closely monitored by their operations centres.

Paradise Dam's capacity has increased beyond 42 per cent and water is being released from the dam to lower its capacity to the reduced full supply level adopted for safety reasons.