

## B. Audit scope and methods

### Performance engagement

This audit was performed in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*—December 2019 and the Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements*, issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This standard establishes mandatory requirements and provides explanatory guidance for undertaking and reporting on performance engagements.

The conclusions in our report provide a reasonable level of assurance that the objectives of our audit have been achieved. We do not give an assurance over the level of non-compliance of safety reports and notifications due to data quality issues.

### Audit scope, key questions, and criteria

The objective of the audit is to provide insights on the dam regulator’s framework for ensuring dams are managed safely. See Figure B1 for a listing of the key questions and criteria used to address the objective.

#### Entity subject to this audit

The only entity subject to audit is the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, referred to as ‘the department’ throughout this report.

Figure B1 lists the questions and criteria used to answer the audit objective, to provide insights on the dam regulator’s framework for ensuring dams are managed safely.

**Figure B1**  
**Audit questions and criteria**

Key questions	Sub-questions	Criteria
1: Evaluate the sufficiency and appropriateness of the dam safety information collected by the department.	1.1. What information should the department collect from dam owners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The department only requires owners to provide the information that is required under the legislation.</li> </ul>
	1.2. What information does the department collect from dam owners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The department collects all the information as required by the legislation.</li> </ul>



	<p>1.3. What does the department do if information is not provided?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department follows up with owners in a timely way (48 hours) on late notification and reports.</li> <li>• The legislation requires documents to be provided within the period stated in the Act of Dam Safety Conditions.</li> <li>• The department receives 90% of the required compliance reports and notifications on-time (based on the due date as per the Dam Safety Conditions).</li> </ul>
<p>2: Evaluate how effectively the department uses this information to set expectations and inform its enforcement and compliance activity.</p>	<p>2.1. How does the department judge risks of non-compliant dam safety documentation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk frameworks, policies and assessments are current and up to date. And comply with industry standards.</li> <li>• Calculations of risk follow department's documentation.</li> <li>• Risk calculations are assessed using current and accurate information of risk population.</li> <li>• Risk assessments are informed by complete information on dam safety issues from safety reports.</li> </ul>
	<p>2.2. How does the department target enforcement and compliance to risk?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department uses the risk assessments to inform its compliance program. It has all the data it needs to inform the risk matrix.</li> <li>• Compliance escalation process is documented and followed consistently.</li> <li>• The department has documented the level of auditing based on risk, not limited to resource availability.</li> </ul>

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

