

I farm in the Giru benefitted area and attended your first information session in Clare. It was stated that you will look at the cost of safety upgrades to the Burdekin dam and will make recommendations on who should be responsible for the cost of those upgrades. To insure equal treatment of all irrigators/water users in Queensland schemes these costs should not be charged to irrigators. As far as I know Lake Tinaroo Dam and others have been upgraded to current safety standards in the past without charging irrigators in those schemes. Paradise dam has been built to higher standards (and then repaired and improved after the Bundaberg floods showed some weakspots) without asking Bundaberg irrigators to pay the extra costs created to meet today's safety standards. Forcing Burdekin growers and water users to foot the bill for the Burdekin dam upgrade seems to be putting us at an economical disadvantage compared to schemes that got the upgrades to the same current standards already paid for by government. Once all schemes are brought up to the same safety standard you can look at this question again and decide on a common set of rules for allocating the cost of future dam safety upgrades from thereon.