

# Dam Safety Obligations for Significant or Above Dams

FACT SHEET 1 – October 2025

## Ensuring Compliance and Safety for Your Dam

If you own a dam with a Consequence category of Significant or above, specific obligations under the *Water Management Act 1999* and the *Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015* apply. These obligations aim to protect people, infrastructure, and the environment from potential impacts of dam failures.

For comprehensive information on dam owner obligations: [www.nre.tas.gov.au/DamSafety](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/DamSafety) or scan the barcode on page 2 below.

### Key Legal Responsibilities

- 1. Conduct a CSR from first filling and then 5 yearly**  
Engage a qualified consultant to inspect the dam and produce a Comprehensive Surveillance Report (CSR).
- 2. Submit a DSEP every 10 years (if required)**  
If your dam has a Potential Loss of Life (PLL) rating, develop and submit a Dam Safety Emergency Plan (DSEP).
- 3. Implement safety recommendations**  
If your CSR recommends dam upgrades or major repairs the dam owner must deal with these in a timely manner.

### Dam Safety Process Overview

1. Consequence Category Assessment (CONCAT) - Conducted by your consultant to determine the dam's Consequence category.
2. Comprehensive Surveillance Report (CSR) - required for dams categorised Significant or above; submitted from first filling and then 5 yearly.
3. Action recommendations - if upgrades, major repair works and modifications are needed.
4. Dam Safety Emergency Plan (DSEP) (if PLL > 1 is identified) - required every 10 years; submitted to NRE Tas and actioned by the dam owner during dam safety emergencies. More information can be found in Figure 1 on the last page.



## Are there associated fees?

Yes. NRE Tas may charge a fee to assess each CSR and DSEP:

- 60 **fee units** per half hour of assessment
- A one-time DSEP upload fee of \$210

What is a **fee unit**? A fee unit is a standardised monetary value used by the Tasmanian Government to calculate certain fees and charges.

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-policy-and-reform/fee-units>

## Other cost considerations

- Consultant fees: for CSR, CONCAT, and DSEP preparation.
- Potential costs: for remedial works or upgrades recommended by your consultant.

For guidelines, consultant list and other information [scan the barcode](#)



## The importance of compliance


Adhering to dam safety regulations is crucial not only to avoid penalties but also to safeguard your property, community, and business.

A well-maintained dam is a valuable asset, and compliance ensures its longevity and safety.

## Questions?

### Dam Safety and Regulatory Assurance Program

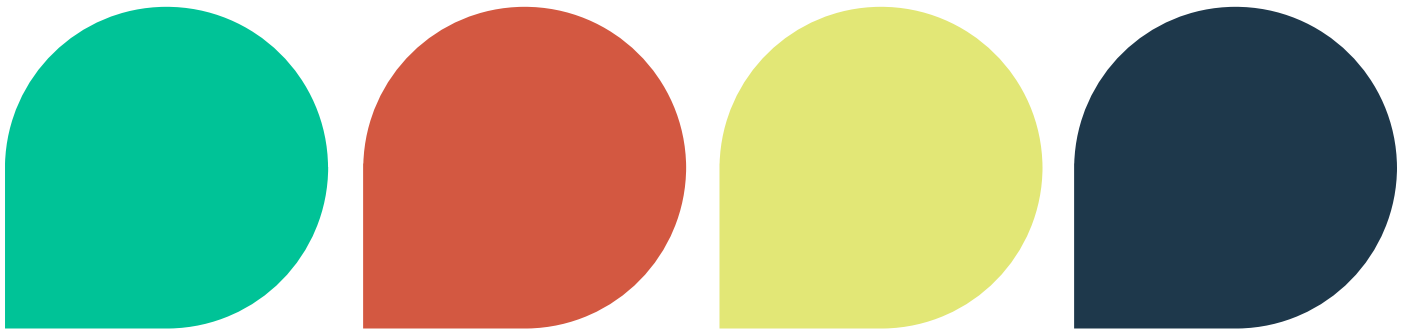
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

 1300 368 550

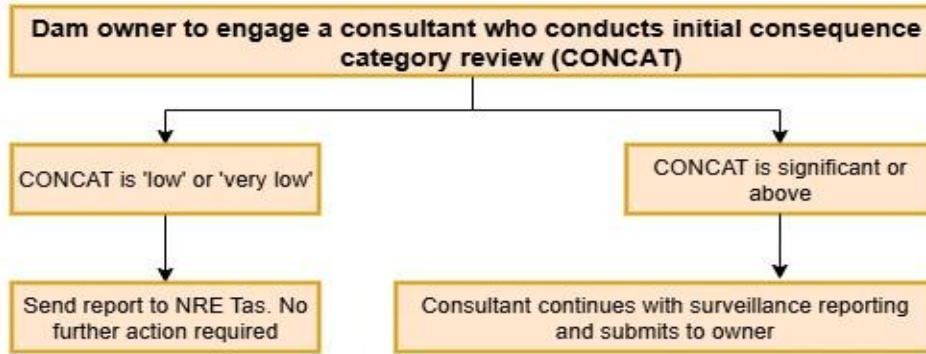
 [damsafety@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:damsafety@nre.tas.gov.au)

For more information: [scan the barcode](#)





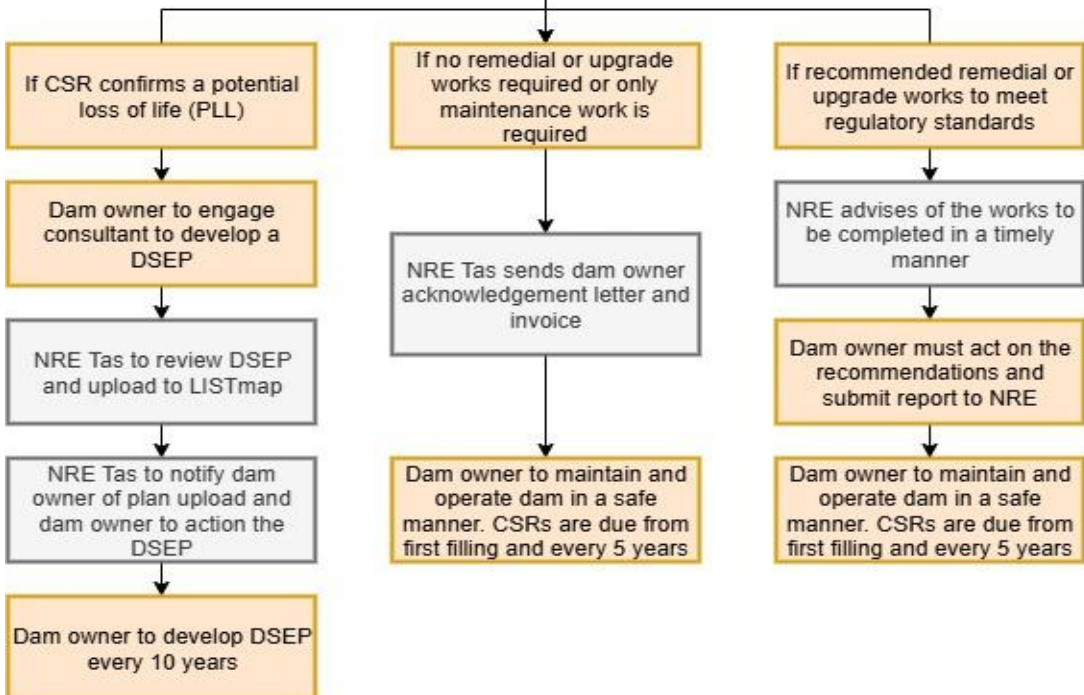
**Stage one**



**Stage two**



**Stage three**



**Figure 1. Dam owner reporting requirements**