



The British Dam Society

BDS/ ANCOLD joint presentation

Emergency Preparedness

7th April 2025

08:00 - 09:00 British Summer Time (BST)

17:00 - 18:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

BDS Presenter: Ian Hope of Severn Trent

ANCOLD Presenters: Siraj Perera of St.Peter's College Colombo
Damien Bryan of Water New South Wales



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Please note that this session will be recorded. Further details will be provided later on how this will be shared.

For synopsis and brief presenter biography see below

Synopsis

Reservoir incidents are rare occurrences and can be devastating when they happen. It is important that procedures are in place to reduce the risk of dam failure and for incident response. Each country will have their own processes that must be followed.

This joint presentation will discuss the work undertaken in both the UK and Australia to improve emergency preparedness for dam incidents.

Presenter Biographies

Ian Hope:

Ian Hope BSc MA CEng FICE has led the Dams and Reservoirs Team at Severn Trent for 15 years, responsible for 82 regulated reservoirs across England and Wales. Previously, whilst working for the Environment Agency, he established and led the regulatory role for England and Wales taking over from 136 local authorities for some 2,500 reservoirs. He is a past Chair of the British Dam Society and has been a Supervising Engineer under the Reservoirs Act 1975 for 30 years. In 2006, as a Churchill Fellow, he was fortunate to be sponsored to study dam regulation in Australia and New Zealand and present to the ANCOLD conference in Sydney. He has been in full time employment for 55 years and thoroughly enjoys his role.

Siraj Perera:

Siraj has over 30 years' experience in the water industry, ranging from engineering designs and construction to policy development and regulation. Siraj has worked in a number of roles including risk and emergency management, critical infrastructure resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation and dam safety regulation. He established and led the safety regulation of dams and emergency response arrangements for the State of Victoria for over 20 years.

Siraj has contributed to the development and review of a number of Australian National Committee On Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines and is a member of the ICOLD Committee Y - Climate Change. He has presented on dam safety matters at national and international forums. Siraj has Bachelor and Masters degrees in civil engineering from the University of Surrey, England.

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Damien Bryan:

Damien is a Dam Safety Emergency Management Specialist with the WaterNSW Safety and Incident Management Team. He holds a Bachelor of Emergency Management and has been with WaterNSW since January 2019. In his role Damien has been instrumental in the uplift of WaterNSW's Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness Capability, through the review and improvement of Dam Emergency Plans, the facilitation of Dam Emergency Exercises, and participation in Incident Management Teams during emergencies.

Before entering the dams industry Damien served with the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) for 15 years, specialising in Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting. During this period Damien was involved in emergency operations in various locations across Australia and in deployed environments overseas.

Damien brings a unique blend of frontline emergency response experience, comprehensive knowledge of emergency management structures, agencies, and regulation, and a clear understanding of the criticality of emergency preparedness in the dams industry.