

State code 20: Referable dams

20.1 Purpose statement

The purpose of this code is to reduce the risk to the community from the failure or other impacts of **referable dams** by ensuring appropriate safety standards are utilised in the design, construction, management and maintenance of dams.

Note: Further information regarding **referable dams**, and guidance on how to demonstrate compliance with the performance outcomes of this state code, is available in the Referable Dams Planning Guidance Material, Department of Energy and Water Supply, 2016.

20.2 Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes

Development that is operational work for a **referable dam** should demonstrate compliance with the relevant provisions of table 20.2.1.

Table 20.2.1: Operational work

Performance outcomes	Acceptable outcomes
PO1 The dam is designed and constructed in a manner which: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is in accordance with appropriate dam engineering practices and standards2. minimises the potential for dam failure3. minimises any of the impacts resulting from a failure of the dam4. is appropriate for the site conditions where the dam is located.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.
PO2 The dam will be managed and maintained in a manner which: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is in accordance with appropriate dam engineering practices and standards2. ensures the ongoing safe operation of the dam3. minimises the risk of dam failure4. is appropriate for the site conditions where the dam is located.	No acceptable outcome is prescribed.

20.3 Reference documents

Department of Energy and Water Supply 2017, [Guidance on referable dams planning](#)

20.4 Glossary of terms

Referable dam means any dam which has been failure impact assessed under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, and which has been accepted by the chief executive administering the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* as having either a category 1 or category 2 failure impact rating.

Note: Please refer to the Referable Dams Planning Guidance Material and/or the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* for further information on when a dam is required to be failure impact assessed, and the process associated with failure impact assessment.