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Your submission for this review:

Commenting on Section 4.3: reporting on predicted volumes of water at downstream gauges. Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed WaterNSW Operating Licence. The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) has a close working relationship with WaterNSW, with both parties collaborating before and during flood events to ensure dam management and release strategies are communicated and captured in the Bureau's flood forecasting models. The Bureau subsequently issues Flood Warning products, which communicate to the community flood forecasts, including in areas downstream of dams. The Bureau is the responsible agency for providing flood warnings at forecast locations. These are detailed in the Service Level Specification for Flood Forecasting and Warning Services for NSW and ACT, available from the Bureau's website here: http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/NSW_SLS_Current.pdf. Riverine flood warning services and associated forecast locations are downstream of Warragamba Dam, Burrinjuck, Blowering, Wyangala, Copeton, Keepit, and Burrendong dams, It is recommended further consideration is given to the type of information WaterNSW is required to provide, as part of the Early Warning System, for communication of flood risk. The Bureau is the responsible Agency for the provision of flood forecasts and warnings. The Bureau forecasts include river levels and timing. The Bureau does not provide this information in volume. In addition, an additional source of information or warning, through the EWS, could lead to confusion within the community as different information (river levels and river volumes) would be communicated, as well as for the potential for information and warnings to be issued at different times, and include conflicting information depending on when information and warnings are issued. The Bureau looks forward to continuing to work with WaterNSW during flood events, to collaborate and communicate flood risk in the Bureau's riverine flood warnings.