



How dams work during heavy rain

Dams are designed to pass excess water from the spillway or gates when they reach capacity.

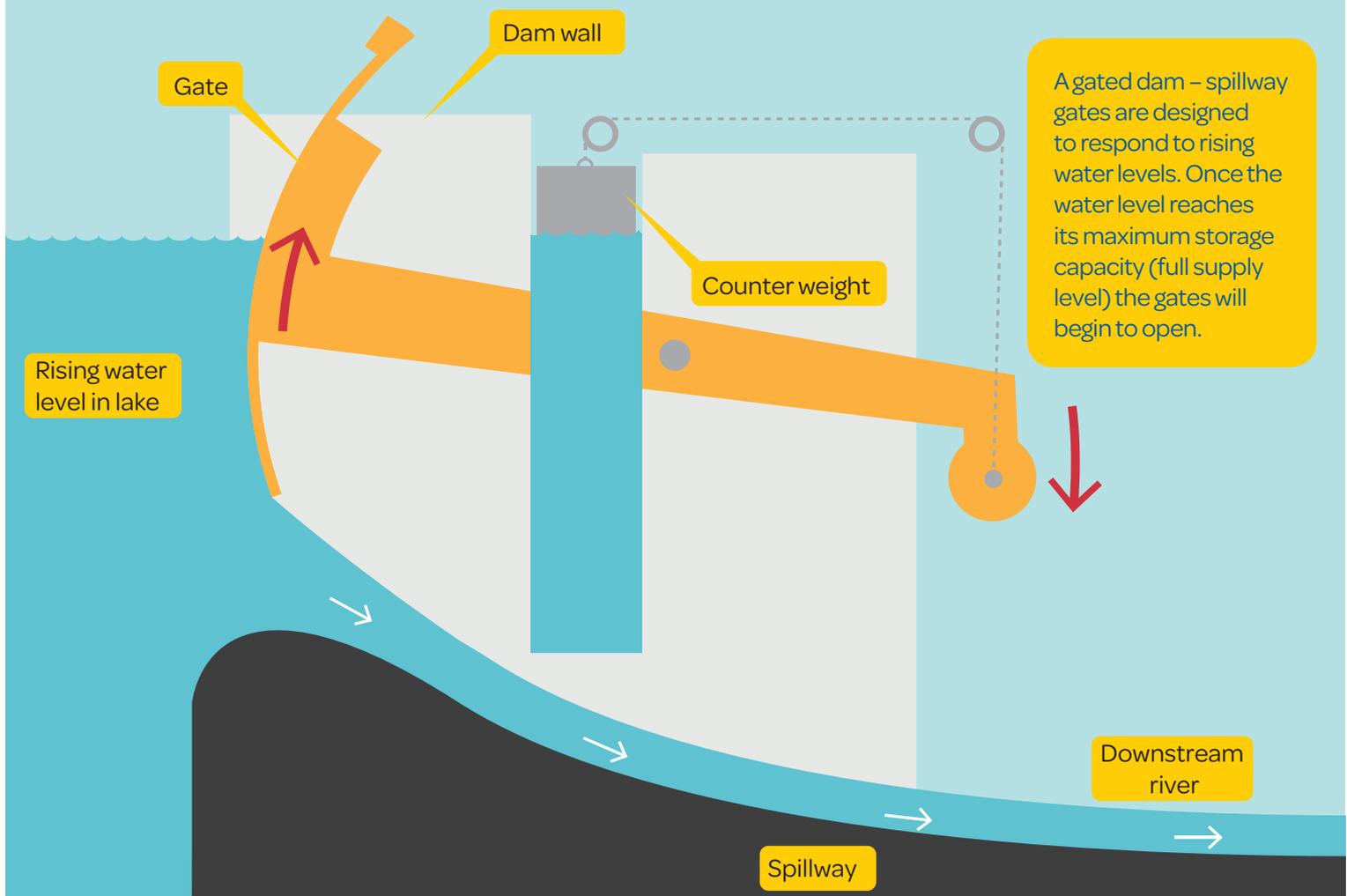
What happens when a dam spills water?

For ungated dams, the spillway allows excess water (outflows) to safely flow over the dam into the downstream river.

The rate of water flowing over the spillway depends on how quickly the dam level rises.

For gated dams, the gates will progressively open as the dam level rises and close as the dam level reduces.

Sunwater monitors weather forecasts to help predict how much water may flow into our dams and to provide communities information about possible outflows from the spillway or gates.



What is Sunwater's role?

During a heavy rainfall event Sunwater will:

- monitor water inflows and outflows to ensure water is safely passing through dam spillways and gates
- operate outlets and maintain water levels in gated dams in accordance with set guidelines
- notify the community when our dams start spilling water via the Sunwater App, Facebook and Twitter, and text messages for immediate downstream residents
- provide regular dam updates to councils and emergency services to help advise downstream communities in emergency situations

All Sunwater dams have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that outlines:

- specific dam hazards such as a flood, earthquake or piping
- how the hazards will be managed during an emergency event
- dam notification and emergency warning triggers for downstream communities

Dams during heavy rain

Sunwater dams are not designed to stop upstream flood waters during times of heavy rainfall.

Dams can only store so much water. While a dam may slow some upstream flood waters, it will not stop flooding in your area. Expecting flood waters to come from your local dam, could mean you miss other important flood warnings relating to a nearby creek, river or stream. Flooding can occur in the downstream river or creek even when the dam isn't spilling water.

Stay informed of dam levels and be notified when dams are spilling water by downloading the free Sunwater App.

