

# Maintaining dam safety with **MAXITOOOL AUSTRALIA**

Potential process dam failures have become a focal point of the mining industry following the devastating tailings dam collapse at Brazil's Brumadinho iron ore mine. This incident and other domestic failures have sparked scrutiny of the possible risk and consequences to tailings storage facilities in Australia. Many mining companies have begun to conduct self-audits to identify potential hazards within their facilities.

Dams can pose a risk of failure when their structures are subjected to excessive physical pressure from liquid and solid product. Since solid product is heavier than water, a dam that is full of solids will apply considerably greater pressure to its structure than if filled with water.

In addition to the risk to public safety, process dam failures can have irreversible environmental impact due to high levels of heavy metals, silt, chemicals or radiation. Dredging the solids from a dam or reservoir can significantly reduce the amount of physical stress on a dam, as well as removing the bulk of any environmental contaminants that it may hold.

Even if a dam does not pose a risk of failure there are several advantages to removing the solid product. These include, but are not limited to:

- Restoring water storage capacity.
- Reprocessing tailings to extract any remaining product.
- Reducing risk of silt run-off due to weather events.

Dredging works can be performed as a one off, or periodically as part of an effective proactive maintenance strategy.

MAXITOOOL Australia are a multi-service dredging and water management contractor. We have been in operation over 10 years and mainly service the Australian and PNG mining sector. Projects have also been completed in rivers, marinas, wastewater facilities and more. Our expert team of engineers and operators can deliver specialised solutions for any onshore dredging, hydro-mining, dewatering or water management projects.



Dredging

Bathymetric Surveying

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72-74 Swallow Road  
EDMONTON QLD 4869



P +61 7 4255 8615  
M +61 488 392 908  
E [dredging@maxitool.com.au](mailto:dredging@maxitool.com.au)  
W [maxitool.com.au](http://maxitool.com.au)

**Certainty in Safety – Certainty in Quality – Certainty in Value**