

The Water Grid- Who Does What?

Seqwater

Seqwater provides water for the growing population of South East Queensland.

This water that comes directly from the catchments, water storages, and treatment plants are part of an incredible journey that ensures the sustainable quantity and quality of the region's water supply needs.

The role of Seqwater and the water journey, can best be described in three simple words – Catch, Store and Treat.

Seqwater catches the rain that falls as part of the water cycle. This rain falls across more than 1.2 million hectares of catchments and rivers. The water eventually flows into 25 dams, 49 weirs, 14 bores and aquifers and off-stream storages.

This water is then treated to drinking water standard at treatment plants across the region.

After collecting this water the next part of the journey involves Seqwater treating it at 46 water treatment plants, using some of the most advanced water treatment technologies available.

The treated water is then ready to continue its journey via LinkWater pipes and local council water companies to homes and industry.

Did you know that these 25 dams, 49 weirs and 14 bores and aquifers that catch and store the water along with the 46 treatment plants that treat the water can supply as much as 90 per cent of South East Queensland's drinking water supplies.

WaterSecure

WaterSecure makes pure water. But how? At the Gold Coast Desalination Plant, water from the sea is turned into pure fresh drinking water by a special process called "reverse osmosis", which removes the salt from seawater. The end result is water so pure we have to add minerals back into it! We also add a little bit of chlorine to keep the water clean and a little bit of fluoride to make your teeth strong and healthy, before the water is piped to people on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. When the plant is running at full speed we make enough drinking water every day for 665,000 people!

We also make pure water at three Advanced Water Treatment Plants – two near the mouth of the Brisbane River and one near Ipswich. We take used water that would have gone into the Brisbane River and recycle it using reverse osmosis just like in our desalination plant, but we also use two other special processes – micro filtration and advanced oxidation – to make sure the water is completely pure. This water goes to power stations and when it doesn't rain and our dams get low again it will be put into Lake Wivenhoe so that we will always have

enough water to drink. At full speed our plants could recycle enough water every day for more than a million people! And by not wasting water and recycling it like we recycle paper and aluminium cans we are helping the environment!!

LinkWater

LinkWater looks after the big pipes that transport drinking water from the treatment plants and then into huge tanks called storage reservoirs. Most pipes are under the ground but some are above. LinkWater's network of bulk water pipelines stretches from the Sunshine coast all the way down to the Gold Coast.

Pipelines come in many different sizes and are built to last a long time. Many of these pipelines are new but a few are very old and will need to be replaced soon. The oldest pipe in the network was laid in 1892 in Karana Downs. That's 118 years old!! It still supplies water to western Ipswich from the Mt Crosby.

The largest pipe in the network is 1.8 metres in diameter. That's big enough for a tall man to stand up in!
(Suggest graphic of a man standing in a pipe)

A megalitre is equal to 1 million litres of water.

LinkWater moves about 600 megalitres of water per day through the bulk water pipe network to where it's needed most. – this is equal to:

- 300 olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Flushing a toilet 30 million times
- 28 billion ice cubes
- About 114 years in the shower!

The SEQ Water Grid Manager

The SEQ Water Grid Manager is owned by the State Government and makes sure the water from the SEQ Water Grid goes from where it is made or stored to treatment plants to your taps safely, securely and sustainably.

The SEQ Water Grid Manager makes sure the water you drink and use is clean and that there is lots of it so we never run out. To do this, the SEQ Water Grid Manager buys the water from the dams, the desalination plant and the advanced water treatment plants and sells it to the council businesses, so that the council business can supply everyone with water.

Decisions on how much water is needed for South East Queensland are made every day by the SEQ Water Grid Manager. That way we can make sure that your water is safe, secure, sustainable and always available!



