

# South East Queensland Water Grid

*The water grid is a critical part of the government's strategy to manage growth in south-east Queensland. It connects dams, weirs and other new water sources throughout the region.*

*The Western Corridor Recycled Water Project is connected by 200 kilometres of underground pipelines.*



## What is the South East Queensland Water Grid?

The South East Queensland Water Grid is a network of pipelines that is able to move water from areas of water surplus and transport it to areas that face a shortfall.

The water grid allows the coordinated use of all major bulk water sources in the region, including the:

- Wivenhoe/Somerset/North Pine system
- Hinze Dam
- Gold Coast Desalination Plant
- Western Corridor Recycled Water Project
- Wyaralong Dam and the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam

The project includes about 450 kilometres of pipeline, two new dams, upgrades to existing dams, a desalination plant and three advanced water treatment plants.

## Western Corridor Recycled Water Project

The \$2.5 billion Western Corridor Recycled Water Project is the largest recycled water scheme to be constructed in Australia and the third largest advanced water treatment project in the world. It has the capacity to provide up to 232 megalitres of purified recycled water a day to the region's supply.

The project includes more than 200 kilometres of pipeline and three advanced water treatment plants at Bundamba, Gibson Island and Luggage Point.

The Western Corridor Recycled Water Project provides purified recycled water to power stations, future industrial customers and, potentially, agricultural users. It will also supplement the region's drinking water supply through supplying Wivenhoe Dam when dam levels fall to 40%.

## Gold Coast Desalination Project

The Gold Coast Desalination Project, located at Tugun, can provide up to 133 megalitres of water a day of new drinking water to residents and businesses in south-east Queensland. The desalination project includes a desalination plant, marine intake and outlet tunnels and a 25 kilometre pipeline to connect the plant to the South East Queensland Water Grid.

The project is employing the most advanced reverse osmosis process available in the world today. Reverse osmosis produces drinking water by removing dissolved salts and other minerals from seawater. This is achieved by forcing salty water through a very fine membrane under high pressure and supplies clean, safe drinking water which is not climate dependant.

Desalination technologies have been used successfully for many years. There are 7,500 desalination plants in operation around the world.

## Southern Regional Water Pipeline

The Southern Regional Water Pipeline is a 94 kilometre two-way pipeline that will move water between the Gold Coast, Beaudesert, Ipswich, Logan and Brisbane.

The \$900 million project is designed to help manage the region's existing and long-term water requirements.

The pipeline can transport water between Wivenhoe Dam, Hinze Dam, the Gold Coast Desalination Plant and future water sources, to where it is most needed in south-east Queensland.

The pipeline is able to move up to 130 megalitres of water a day, ensuring water can be distributed to the most drought affected areas on the grid. It assists in meeting the extra water demands from residential and industrial growth in Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Gold Coast and Beaudesert.

Potential new water sources, such as Wyaralong Dam, will be incorporated into this network when complete.



*The Gold Coast Desalination Plant can produce up to 133 megalitres of pure water a day.*

## Northern Pipeline Interconnector

The Northern Pipeline Interconnector will be about 100 kilometres long and will have the capacity to transport 65 megalitres per day between Sunshine Coast water supplies and the South East Queensland Water Grid.

In addition to supporting the emergency drought provisions, the new pipeline will have the capacity to move surplus water to support the demand from growing residential suburbs.

Stage one of the pipeline has connected Lander's Shute Water Treatment Plant to the Morayfield reservoirs, where it links with the Caboolture and Brisbane water network.

Stage two will continue from Lander's Shute Water Treatment Plant to the Noosa Water Treatment Plant.

This project will allow for future two-way capacity allowing water to be supplied to the areas most in need.

## Eastern Pipeline Interconnector

The Eastern Pipeline Interconnector is a bulk water transfer pipeline that can deliver up to 22 megalitres per day to the water grid. The project involves a new reservoir, a pipeline and pump station. The pipeline and associated works are being operated as part of the water grid.

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## South East Queensland Water Projects



This map of the South East Queensland Water Grid is indicative only.

- Completed Pipelines
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Proposed Pipelines
- Existing Pipelines
- Pipelines under construction

- Western Corridor Recycled Water Project
- Southern Regional Water Pipeline and Pipeline to Desalination Plant

- Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 1
- Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 2

- Northern Regional Pipeline
- Alternative Supply to Local Townships

- Eastern Pipeline Interconnector
- Water harvesting into Hinze Dam

- SEQ (Gold Coast) Desalination Plant

A Queensland Government  
**Water Project**

- Existing Dam
- Upgrade Existing Dam
- Proposed Dam
- Advanced Water Treatment Plant
- ▲ Water Storage Facility

Queensland Government

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## Dams and storages

The South East Queensland Water Grid includes a new dam at Wyaralong, two storages and the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam.

The proposed Traveston Crossing Dam is located about 27 kilometres upstream of Gympie in the Mary River catchment. Stage One could deliver up to an additional 70,000 megalitres a year.

The Wyaralong Dam will be located on Teviot Brook, approximately 14 kilometres north-west of Beaudesert in the Logan River catchment. The dam will create a yield up to 21,000 megalitres per year, when operated in conjunction with Cedar Grove Weir on the Logan River.

The Hinze Dam, at the Gold Coast, is also being expanded. The new dam wall is being raised 15 metres and will almost double the dam's water storage capacity.

Upgrades to the Cedar Grove Weir and Bromelton Off Stream Storage were completed in 2008. The Bromelton project has the capacity to supply an additional 5,000 megalitres a year to the South East Queensland Water Grid.



## Did you know?

1ML = 1 megalitre

1 megalitre = 1 million litres

10 megalitres = 4 Olympic-size  
swimming pools



## How is the water grid managed?

The South East Queensland Water Grid Manager is a statutory authority that controls bulk water supply in the region. The Water Grid Manager's role is to distribute water to where it is needed most and coordinate the use of inland and coastal dams, desalination and recycled water sources.

The Water Grid Manager sells water to each of the region's 10 local governments. It also sells water to urban and industry water users in south east Queensland such as power stations and rural irrigators. Bulk water is sold under a pricing scheme approved by the Queensland Government.

## Further reading

South East Queensland Water Grid Manager  
[www.seqwgm.qld.gov.au](http://www.seqwgm.qld.gov.au)

WaterSecure  
[www.watersecure.com.au](http://www.watersecure.com.au)

Department of Infrastructure and Planning  
[www.dip.qld.gov.au](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au)

Waterwise  
[www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise)

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