

Fact sheet The water cycle



The water cycle

Water is essential for sustaining life on this planet. The process of delivering quality water to homes and businesses is an interesting journey.

The water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle, describes the continuous movement of water, where water falls from the sky (precipitation), runs off the land (run-off), collected (rivers, creeks and streams), enters groundwater and aquifers (infiltration) and then returns to the sky (evaporation) to follow the cycle again. The water journey is a constant flow through:

1. Condensation – the build-up of water vapour (gas) to form clouds and then into water liquid.
2. Precipitation – the water vapour becomes so heavy in the clouds that it begins to form liquid phase, and falls from the sky. The water can fall from the sky in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.
3. Transpiration – the water is absorbed by the plants root system.
4. Infiltration – water on the grounds surface enters the soil and infiltrates the groundwater and aquifers.
5. Evaporation – the sunlight causes evaporation. This is where the water droplets (liquid) heat up and change form into water vapour (gas). Water vapour rises into the sky where the cycle begins again.

Collection and delivery of water involves the creeks, streams, rivers and catchment areas of south east Queensland.

A priority for Seqwater is to manage the dams and catchments to improve water quality and reduce the need and cost of excessive treatment.



To provide high quality drinking water supply, it is critical that all components of the water story are properly managed, this includes managing Seqwater catchments, storage (dams, reservoirs and weirs) and treatment of the water at all Seqwater water treatment plants.

The water service providers then provide water to homes and businesses in South East Queensland.

For more information

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