

Recreation policy Commercial activities



Conducting commercial activities

We are responsible for ensuring a safe, secure and cost effective bulk drinking water supply for South East Queensland. We aim to partner with our neighbours, all levels of government, water service providers and the broader community with a clear objective of a whole-of-catchment approach to source water protection.

We recognise the important role that we play in balancing the ongoing health of the catchments and quality of the region's drinking water supply while providing access to a range of activities at our dams, lakes and parks.

Background

We manage areas of natural catchment and recreation facilities that provide more than 50% of the green space in South East Queensland, outside of national parks.

We are sometimes asked if commercial activities can be conducted at or on our lakes, in designated recreation area and/or on land we own or manage.

Our primary recreation objective is to manage access to recreation opportunities for the public, while managing impacts on water quality and protecting the natural and cultural values of the landscape. We recognise commercial operators can play a role in supporting visitor needs and increasing the public's enjoyment and appreciation of our natural areas.

Challenges in managing commercial operations include the potential for impacts on operational imperatives, visitor amenity, visitor safety, site values and visitor experience. It also requires additional resources to manage and administer the operations. Our intent is that public access is given primacy over commercial activities, while allowing for the operation of limited commercial activities in circumstances that preserve our environment and water quality objectives.

Policy Position

Conducting commercial activities on our sites is generally not permitted. We may consider granting commercial use of our assets in limited circumstances, in alignment with the principles set out in this policy.

1. Operational imperatives

The commercial use of a site/asset must not impact its primary purpose. Our operational requirements will always override any commercial use.

2. Public use takes precedence

Our primary objective in its management of recreation is to manage access to recreation opportunities for the public. Where a proposed commercial use conflicts with or cannot be accommodated without detriment to the public use, the proposal will not be approved. Commercial use of our assets for individual gain is not in accordance with the primary objective of providing access to recreation opportunities for the public.

3. Limited impact

The commercial use of Seqwater's assets must not unduly impact:

- Our core responsibilities and objectives for water quality
- The environment
- Our assets and maintenance obligations
- The primary use of the site
- Local businesses and the community.

When assessing the potential impact, factors including, but not limited to the following will be considered:

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- Noise and other pollution
- Flora and fauna
- Land degradation
- Safety
- Risk
- Flood risk and management
- The ability of the location/asset to support the proposed use.

Some sites are very busy in peak periods and consideration of the impact the commercial activity will have on public access during these periods needs to be explicit in the proposal. The proponent must address the impact of their activities in their proposal for consideration by Seqwater.

4. Alignment with the Recreation Management Framework

To ensure a consistent approach that supports our role as the region's bulk water service provider, we have developed a Recreation Management Framework to guide decision making in regard to recreation management. Any proposals for the commercial use of our assets must align with this framework and be consistent with permitted activities at the nominated site.

5. Demonstrate benefit

When considering proposals for commercial activities, preference will always be given to proposals that assist us to achieve our strategic goals, particularly in relation to the community and environment. It is the responsibility of the proponent to demonstrate to our satisfaction, the benefits their proposal will realise if approved.

6. Compliance and risk management

All proposals must comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements. Proposals must also include a risk management strategy detailing how risk will be managed, mitigated and monitored.

Permit arrangements

The issuing of permits is at the discretion of Seqwater.

Unless otherwise agreed, the approval of a permit does not:

- Grant any exclusivity to the site or the provision of any service or product
- Confer any ongoing occupation rights.

Permits are not transferrable and may be revoked by Seqwater without compensation in specified circumstances. At the end of a permit term, a new application must be made, regardless of whether the activity has previously operated.

All costs associated with preparing and submitting a proposal will be the responsibility of the proponent. Seqwater will not compensate proponents for out-of-pocket expenses should a proposal not be approved.

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