

Cedar Pocket WSS

Scheme Performance Report 2024-25

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1. Introduction

The Scheme Performance Report (SPR) is a key component of Seqwater’s consultation with its customers and is intended to provide useful and helpful information. It provides a wholistic overview of scheme performance including historical water usage, budgeted and actual operational expenditure, forecasting operational expenditure, renewals and annuity fund balances.

Seqwater encourages comments and suggestions on the content of this SPR as this forms a valuable part of the scheme’s operations and planning process. Customers may provide feedback via phone, email or post:



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2. Our Scheme

The Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme was established following the construction, in 1985, of the Cedar Pocket Dam to provide irrigation water for the local dairy industry.

The Scheme is regulated under the Water Plan (Mary) 2024. The water year runs from 1 July to 30 June. The Scheme has no distribution systems, with all irrigators taking their water supply directly from the natural water courses. Releases from the Dam are made manually.

2.1. Our Customers

The following table sets out the distribution of water allocations amongst types of customers.

Table 1: Ownership of water allocations

Customer type	Number of customers	Medium priority (ML)
Irrigators	12	490
Non-Irrigators	1	5
Totals	13	495

Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.2. Working Together

Seqwater has a strong focus on improving customer outcomes, through the implementation of future efficiencies and fostering meaningful engagement. The organisation actively listens to its customers through various engagement strategies, including our annual customer forums, Customer Reference Groups (CRG), and the publication of regular information bulletins.

To ensure that customers can provide feedback regarding their experiences, Seqwater undertakes an annual customer survey. This survey is crucial for gathering feedback from all irrigation customers, to develop initiatives and improvements that make it easier for customers to do business with Seqwater.

This year’s annual customer forum, held in October 2024, was well attended by irrigators and other customers. These forums provide Seqwater with an opportunity to share knowledge and information about the Scheme and its operations. Topics covered include an overview of operational and financial performance for the Scheme, as well as a look ahead that includes forecast expenditure and water availability. The customer forum also allows irrigation customers to interact with Seqwater staff face-to-face, ask questions, and share their views on future scheme opportunities.

Throughout the year CRG meetings were held, where Seqwater discussed the scheme’s performance, operations, and QCA Irrigation Price Review. Summaries of these meetings are published on Seqwater’s website. Feedback from CRG members indicates they value the openness and transparency of these meetings.

2.3. Our Service Targets

Service Targets help Seqwater better understand how our services meet our customers water needs. These have been based on consultation with our customers to develop water supply arrangements to deliver water as efficiently as possible for our customers in the Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme. Table 2 below shows that Seqwater met the agreed performance against the agreed Service Targets over the last two years.

Table 2: Service Targets 2022-23 and 2023-24

Notification		Target	Performance	
			2022-23	2023-24
Planned	Shutdowns planned to exceed 2 weeks	8 weeks	Nil	Nil
	Shutdown to exceed 3 days < 2 weeks	2 weeks	Nil	Nil
	Shutdown < 3 days	5 days	Nil	Nil
Unplanned	Shutdowns will be fixed so at least partial supply can be resumed	48 hours	Nil	Nil
	Interruptions greater than above	> 48 hours	Nil	Nil
	Interruption to supply	Earlier of 24 hrs & end of 1 st business day	Nil	Nil
Planned & Unplanned	Interruptions to supply per water year	6 events	Nil	Nil
Meter Repairs	Faults causing restriction to supply after Seqwater has been notified	1 working day	Nil	Nil
Complaints	Initial response to complaints via post, email, or telephone.	5 working days	Nil	Nil
	Resolution or response to complaint on why it has not been or cannot be resolved within period of receiving complaint	21 days	Nil	Nil

Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.4. Our Water

The announced allocation determines the percentage of nominal water allocation volume that is available in each water year. However, it should be noted that under the Operations Manual, in a water year in which Cedar Pocket Dam overflows, customers may take up to 200% of their nominal allocations.

The following table sets out the announced allocations for the current year plus the historical position since 2007-08.

Table 3: Announced allocations history

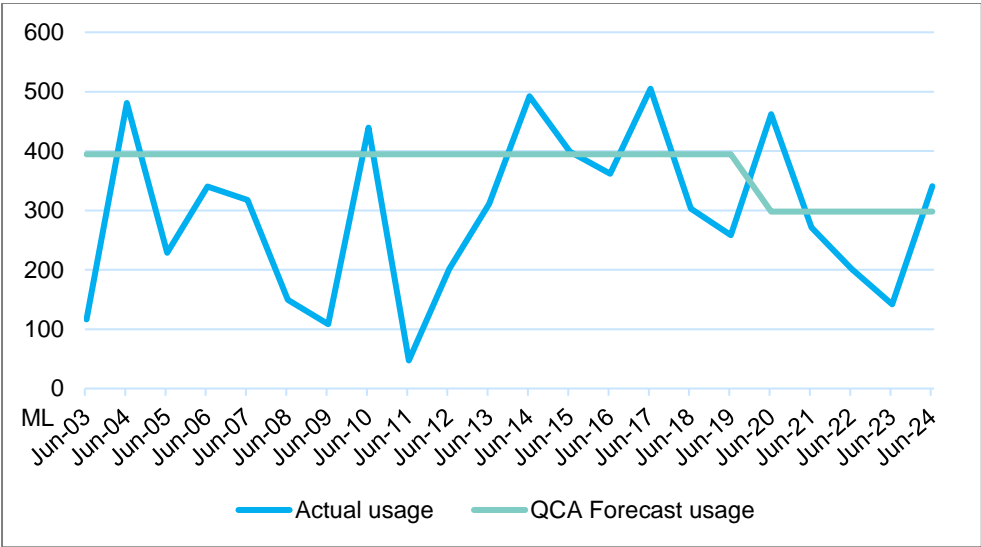
Year	MP %	Year	MP %	Year	MP %
2007-08	38-100	2013-14	100	2019-20	100
2008-09	100	2014-15	99-100	2020-21	84-100
2009-10	100	2015-16	100	2021-22	96-100
2010-11	100	2016-17	100	2022-23	100
2011-12	100	2017-18	96	2023-24	70
2012-13	100	2018-19	100	2024-25	57.4%-100%

Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.5. Water Usage

The chart shows the actual water usage per year from 2002-03 to 2022-23. It also shows the average water usage over the 21-year period.

Figure 1: Cedar Pocket WSS Annual Water Usage 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2024



Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.6. Seasonal Water Assignments (Temporary Transfers)

A seasonal water assignment (Temporary Transfer) allows two customers to transfer available water to each other within a water year. The following chart sets out the volumes of temporary transfers by year from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2024.

Since 1 July 2020 if customers in the Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme have

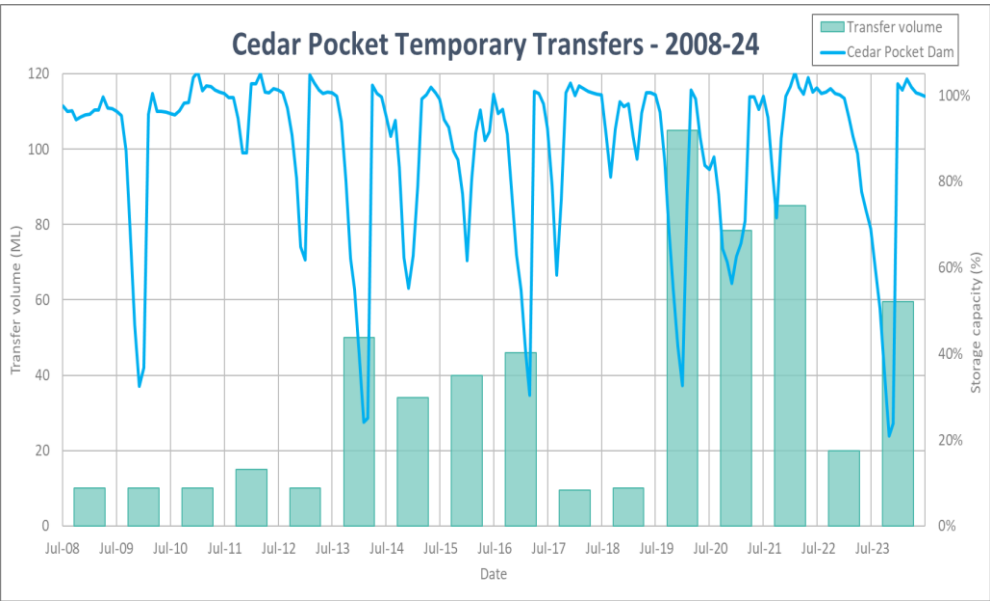
declared the sale price of their temporary transfer at time of application, then Seqwater has published the price on its website.

Providing publicly available, meaningful and high-quality market activity information allows better business planning and risk management for water users in this scheme. The information published is generic information and all personal information is withheld.

You can find all the temporary trade information that Seqwater hold for your scheme on our website.

The following chart sets out the annual volumes (ML) of water traded in the Cedar Pocket WSS from the 2008-09 water year.

Figure 2: Temporary transfer (seasonal assignment) volume (ML) Traded 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2024



Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.7. Our Operations

The table below sets out the bulk water assets, owned and operated by Seqwater, that comprise the scheme.

Table 4: Bulk water assets

Dams	Weirs	Off-stream storages	Other bulk water assets
Cedar Pocket Dam	Nil	Nil	Downstream measuring flume Customer water meters

Source: Seqwater (2024)

Cedar Pocket Dam started the 2023-24 water year at 69.4capacity (509.96ML) and finished at 99.8%% capacity (733.65ML)

The annual inspection of Cedar Pocket Dam took place in November 2023. A sink hole was found down stream of the spillway in January 2024, followed by two record floods. The sink hole has been filled and is being monitored and has been reported to Dam Safety.

Figure 3: New rotork valve installed Cedar Pocket Dam



Source: Seqwater (2024)

Figure 4: Sink Hole Cedar Pocket January



Source: Seqwater (2024)

2.8. Our Water Prices

2.8.1. Irrigation water charges for 2024-25

Seqwater’s responsible Ministers issued the Seqwater Rural Water Pricing Direction Notice (No. 1) 2023 which sets the rural irrigation water prices and associated fees Seqwater must charge from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

The table below shows the Cedar Pocket tariff group’s discounted price that irrigators are paying (includes 15% discount), the QCA approved cost reflective prices.

Table 5: Cedar Pocket WSS irrigation regulated prices and cost reflective prices (Nominal \$/ML)

Tariff Type	Your Price 2024-25 \$/ML	Cost Reflective Price 2024-25 \$/ML	Subsidy 2024-25 (%)
Fixed (Part A)	29.42	375.15	92
Volumetric (Part B)	39.79	77.72	49

Source: Seqwater 2024, Rural Water Pricing Direction Notice (No. 1) 2023 and Queensland Competition Authority, Final Report, Rural Irrigation Price Review 2020-24 Part C: Seqwater, January 2020.

2.8.2. Non-Irrigation water charges for 2024-25

Seqwater sets the non-irrigation water price using the costs adopted by the QCA in their 2021-24 irrigation price review adding a return of capital and return on capital values.

Table 6: Non-irrigation process (Nominal \$/ML)

Tariff Type	Non-irrigation Price 2024-25 \$/ML
Fixed (Part A)	941.09
Volumetric (Part B)	79.53

Source: Seqwater (2024)

3. Our Expenditure

3.1. Our Operating Costs

Seqwater's costs are subject to review by the QCA at the end of each price-path, which commenced on 1 July 2020 for four years to 2024. The following table sets out Seqwater's detailed actual expenditure compared to the 2023-24 target costs which was extrapolated from the expenditure recommended by the QCA in the 2020-24 price review.

Also shown is the detailed expenditure recommended by the QCA for 2024-25. Explanations of material variations are set out in the following table.

Table 7: Operating costs budget and actuals for 2023-24 and operating costs budget 2024-25 (\$Nominal)

Expenditure Item	2023-24		2024-25
	QCA Cost Target (\$)	Actual (\$)	QCA Forecast (\$)
Direct operating costs			
Labour	68,955	62,186	71,093
Electricity	393	316	401
Repairs & Maintenance	28,679	3,319	16,761
Other	16,299	31,052	29,439
Rates	7,439	37,221	7,625
Dam Safety Inspections	2,786	4,950	0
Total Direct operating costs	124,551	139,044	125,319
Non-direct operating costs			

Expenditure Item	2023-24		2024-25
	QCA Cost Target (\$)	Actual (\$)	QCA Forecast (\$)
Operations	62,253	60,567	63,809
Non-infrastructure	2,230	2,716	2,286
Insurance	7,524	12,585	7,712
Total non-direct costs	72,008	75,869	73,808
Total operating costs	196,559	214,912	199,127

Source: Seqwater (2023) QCA Final Report, Seqwater Irrigation Price Review 2020-24 (February 2020)

3.2. Our Annuity

The balance of the renewal annuity funds is recorded in the Asset Restoration Reserve (ARR). These funds are reserved for renewals projects in the Cedar Pocket Water Supply Scheme. The ARR accounts for 2023-24 for this scheme is presented below.

Table 8: Cedar Pocket WSS ARR (\$Nominal)

Asset Restoration Reserve	2023-24 (\$)
Opening Balance 1 July	-161,278
Interest for year*	-7,051
Revenue – irrigation	4,883
Revenue contribution above cost reflective price	0
Expenditure for year – non-metering**	0
New billing and water accounting system	0

Asset Restoration Reserve	2023-24 (\$)
Expenditure for year – metering	0
Closing Balance 30 June	-163,447

Source: Seqwater (2024)

* The interest rate is based on the Queensland Competition Authority's recommended weighted average cost of capital (WACC) of 4.37% post-tax nominal.

4. Our Renewals

4.1. 2023-24 renewals

The following table sets out the renewal projects that were undertaken in 2023-24.

Table 9: Renewal projects 2023-24

Asset	Project description	Actual cost (\$'000)
Scheme	Development of new water accounting & customer online portal	3

4.2. Forecast renewals

Seqwater has an Asset Portfolio Master Plan (APMP). The renewals projects for irrigation schemes in the APMP were reviewed by the QCA during the 2020-24 price review and were found to be prudent and efficient.

At this time, there are no renewal projects forecast for the next 5 years, with the exception of the development of the water accounting database. This forecast is updated each year.