



Annual Compliance Report 2026

Banksia Beach Water
Treatment Plant &
Borefield

EPBC 2007/3396

Distribution list

Name	Date
Seqwater Manager Operations Northern Region	28/09/2026
Seqwater Coordinator Supply Moreton and Somerset North	28/09/2026
Corporate Publications (External Seqwater Website)	28/09/2026
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	28/09/2026

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Date	Name	Position	Responsibility & Key Changes	Signature
1/09/2026	Sophie Homan	Environmental Officer	Preparation of draft report	Email request to review (internal ref: (D26/152779))
9/09/2026			Distribution of draft report	
24/09/2026	Ashleigh Ellis	Senior Environmental Advisor	Review and endorsement	Email approval (internal ref: (D26/165579))
24/09/2026	Eddie Eugster	Manager Environment	Review and endorsement	Email approval (internal ref: (D26/165588))

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28/09/2026	Greg Watkins	Head of Environment	Email approval (internal ref: (D26/165800))

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Approval Holder	The person to whom the approval is granted
AWS	Alert Weather Stations
BCAA	Brisbane Caboolture Aquifuture Alliance
BEMP	The Borefield Environmental Management Plan, as required under condition 2 and as amended in accordance with condition 4 or condition 5. The BEMP must include detailed management arrangements for ongoing ecological and groundwater monitoring, and reporting to the Department.
BOMP	The Borefield Operating Management Plan developed to provide early indicators of potential environmental impact through the setting of groundwater level and salinity trigger levels and accompanying management responses
CRG	Community Reference Group
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water
Department	The Australian Government Department responsible for administration of the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
EPBC Act	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
GDE	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems that are dependent on continuous, seasonal or episodic access to groundwater either after or before it is expressed above the ground surface.
GDU	Groundwater Development Unit and refers to Bribie Island's large unconsolidated sand mass aquifers. provided water to the Banksia Beach Water Treatment Plant
Minster	The Minister responsible for administration of the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
ML/d	Megalitres per day
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
Northern AWS	National Park Alert Weather Stations
Northern Borefield	The area identified as the northern borefield in the BEMP
Northern SMP	Northern Soil Moisture Probe – positioned within the predicted shallow aquifer drawdown zone as the Impact impact Site site.
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services
Reporting period	1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026
SEQ	South East Queensland
Seqwater	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority
SMP	Soil Moisture Probe
Southern SMP	Southern Soil Moisture Probe – positioned outside of the predicted shallow aquifer down zone as the control site. Control Site
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

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Executive Summary

This Annual Compliance Report summarises the twelfth monitoring period for the Banksia Beach Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Borefield under the approved Borefield Environmental Management Plan (BEMP) and covers the reporting period from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026. This report addresses compliance with the conditions of *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval 2007/3396.

In accordance with the EPBC approval, Seqwater has implemented a range of management plans, procedures and monitoring protocols, including the Borefield Operating Management Plan (BOMP) and the Borefield Environmental Management Plan (BEMP), to protect environmentally sensitive ecological communities, including the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland, and support the long-term sustainable management of the Bribie Island Groundwater Development Unit (GDU).

Groundwater extraction from the Banksia Beach Borefield ceased when the WTP was placed into standby in April 2014. The BEMP was subsequently revised to reflect a reduced monitoring program applicable to extended shutdown periods (greater than 12 months), referred to as cold standby. Under cold standby conditions, groundwater extraction is not occurring and there is no associated risk of seawater intrusion or groundwater depletion. The WTP remained in cold standby throughout the reporting period and no groundwater extraction occurred.

During previous reporting periods, ecological monitoring was undertaken to establish predictive baseline vegetation conditions for groundwater-dependent ecosystems associated with the Banksia Beach Borefield. Analysis of monitoring data collected between 2016 and 2024 confirmed that a predictive ecological baseline had been established using nine years of vegetation, soil moisture and meteorological monitoring data. The analysis demonstrated a strong understanding of natural ecosystem variability and increased confidence in assessing potential ecological responses to future groundwater extraction. Importantly, no evidence of ecological lag effects associated with historical groundwater abstraction was identified. Following establishment of the predictive ecological baseline, and in accordance with the cold standby provisions of the BEMP, soil moisture and groundwater-dependent ecosystem vegetation monitoring concluded at the end of 2024.

During this reporting period, Seqwater did not undertake any activities on Bribie Island that could significantly impact EPBC Act-listed species or Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

Seqwater remains compliant with the conditions of EPBC approval 2007/3396, as outlined in [Section 4, Table 3](#).

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1. Introduction

The Queensland Government initiated a series of water infrastructure projects in response to the Millennium Drought and water supply challenges in South East Queensland (SEQ). In 2006, the *Water Regulation 2002* (Qld) was amended to include bulk water supply objectives to improve water security and support future urban growth across the region. As part of this revision, a target was established to develop an additional 10 megalitres per day (ML/d) of water supply from Bribie Island's deep sand aquifer.

Subsequent aquifer investigations and groundwater modelling studies revealed that sustainable production from the proposed Banksia Beach Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the existing Woorim WTP was limited to 8 ML/d. Following these investigations, the proposed extraction rate was formally approved at a maximum daily rate of 5 ML/d and no more than 1,580 ML/year in November 2007.

The Banksia Beach WTP and borefield were constructed and commissioned in 2007 and 2008 by the Brisbane Caboolture Aquifuture Alliance (BCAA). The Woorim WTP was subsequently decommissioned in 2008 due to infrastructure and water quality issues. The Banksia Beach WTP ceased operations in April 2014 and has remained in cold standby (shutdown greater than 12 months) since that time.

1.1. Environmental Approvals

The proposed Banksia Beach WTP and borefield project was referred to the Commonwealth Government to determine whether the proposal constituted a controlled action requiring assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The proposal was determined to have the potential to significantly impact Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), specifically wetlands of international importance protected under sections 16 and 17B of the EPBC Act. The project was declared a controlled action in May 2007 and assessed through the public consultation process. Commonwealth approval was subsequently granted on 7 April 2008 (EPBC approval 2007/3396).

1.2. Environmental Management Plans

Under the approval conditions, the Borefield Operating Management Plan (BOMP) and the Borefield Environmental Management Plan (BEMP) were implemented to protect ecologically sensitive communities, including the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland, and support the sustainable management of the Bribie Island Groundwater Development Unit (GDU). The BEMP establishes monitoring, management and reporting requirements to protect groundwater resources and associated groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs). The BEMP includes several monitoring programs, comprising the Aquifer Management Monitoring Program, Ecological Monitoring Program and Meteorological Monitoring Program, with applicable monitoring requirements varying depending on the operational status of the borefield.

Following an extensive review, amendments to the BEMP, including the Ecological Monitoring Program, were approved in 2015 to refine the monitoring program and focus on establishing predictive baseline vegetation conditions and determining the natural range of variation in vegetation structure, composition and condition. Following the cessation of groundwater extraction from the Banksia Beach Borefield and commencement of cold standby at the Banksia Beach WTP, the BEMP was further amended in 2016 to reduce the monitoring requirements during extended shutdown periods, including the cessation of the Aquifer Management Monitoring Program, as there is no risk of seawater intrusion or groundwater depletion in the absence of groundwater extraction. Minor reviews of the BEMP have occurred since, with the most recent amendment approved in 2022 to discontinue Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data capture and analysis.

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1.3. Purpose

Under Condition 3 of EPBC approval 2007/3396, Seqwater is required to publish an Annual Compliance Report on its external website addressing the implementation of the Borefield Environmental Management Plan (BEMP). This Report covers the reporting period from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026 and represents Seqwater’s twelfth monitoring period for the Banksia Beach Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Borefield under the approved BEMP.

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2. Current Status

2.1. Monitoring Requirements

In March 2016, the Borefield Environmental Management Plan (BEMP) was amended to account for the cold standby. These changes included:

- Suspending quarterly operational reports;
- Reducing Community Reference Group (CRG) meetings to specific issues;
- Suspending the Aquifer Management Monitoring Program, including Standing Water Level and Electrical Conductivity monitoring; and
- Suspending quarterly assessment of meteorological data.

During the 2021–2022 reporting period, the Department approved the discontinuation of NDVI data capture and analysis. This change was made because NDVI data was found to have no ongoing utility in assessing floristic composition or structural diversity in the wet heath habitats under consideration.

During the 2023–2024 reporting period, a predictive ecological baseline was established in accordance with the Ecological Monitoring Program. The *Annual Vegetation Monitoring Report 2024* confirmed that sufficient data had been collected to characterise baseline vegetation conditions and natural ecosystem variability. Consequently, soil moisture and groundwater-dependent ecosystem vegetation monitoring concluded at the end of 2024 in accordance with the cold standby provisions of the BEMP. Refer to [Section 4.2](#) for further information.

In accordance with the current cold standby provisions of the BEMP, the Meteorological Monitoring Program remained the only active monitoring program during the reporting period. While meteorological monitoring was originally established to support interpretation of groundwater and ecological monitoring data, it continues in accordance with the requirements of the approved BEMP. [Table 1](#) details the Meteorological Monitoring Program requirements.

Table 1. BEMP Meteorological Monitoring Program Requirements

	Monitoring Location / Data sources	Monitoring Type	Monitoring frequency
Weather Stations	Banksia Alert Weather Stations and Northern Alert Weather Stations ¹	Temperature, Relative Humidity, Rainfall, Wind Speed, Wind Direction	Data compiled monthly
	Bureau of Meteorology (Redcliffe and Beerburum site)	Temperature, Relative Humidity, Rainfall, Wind Speed, Wind Direction	Recordings can be compiled for reporting via Bureau of Meteorology website

¹In accordance with Section 7.3 of the approved BEMP, if one AWS is unavailable, local climatic data can continue to be collected through the remaining AWS. Bureau of Meteorology data may also be used where available.

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3. Compliance Designation

The compliance designation against each Condition of EPBC approval 2007/3396, *Variation to Conditions Attached to Approval Letter*, dated 10/04/2015, for this reporting period is provided in **Table 3**. It includes the compliance designation along with a summary of supporting evidence. Additional compliance details are available in the following sections. A description of the compliance designation terminology used in **Table 3** is provided in **Table 2**. These descriptions have been extracted from the Commonwealth of Australia [Annual Compliance Report Guidelines 2023](#).

Table 2. Compliance Designation Terminology Used in Table 3

Compliance Designation Term	Description
Compliant	Achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.
Partial Non-compliance ¹	Designated when the requirements of a condition have been undertaken as specified, but minor interruptions occurred due to unforeseen circumstances, such as equipment failures. These interruptions are intermittent and do not substantially compromise the intent or objectives of the condition.
Non-compliant	Designated where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.
Not Applicable	Designated where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period.

¹Designation included after the Department's Environmental Compliance Division advised Seqwater to report monitoring data gaps as partial non-compliance on 23/11/2023.

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4. EPBC approval 2007/3396 Compliance Table

Table 3. EPBC approval 2007/3396 Conditions of Compliance Table

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance Designation	Evidence / Comments
1	The approval holder must submit for approval by the Minister a BEMP designed to protect the ecological character of the Moreton Bay Ramsar wetlands. Once approved, the BEMP must be implemented. The approved BEMP must be published on the approval holder's website, with a location and/or metadata that enables easy discovery by relevant web searches, within one month of approval by the Minister . The approval holder must notify the Department within five business days of publishing the BEMP on its website. The BEMP must remain on the website for the period the approval has effect.	☒ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Not Applicable	The approved BEMP is available on Seqwater's website (Corporate Publications) and continues to be implemented by Seqwater. See Section 4.1 for further details.
2	In accordance with the yield identified in the BEMP , the approval holder must limit groundwater extraction from the Northern Borefield to no greater than an annual average of 4.32ML/day, at a maximum daily rate of 5ML/day and totalling no more than 1580ML/year, subject to the requirements of conditions 1, 4 and 5.	☒ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Not Applicable	The Banksia Beach WTP has remained in cold standby since April 2014. No groundwater extraction from the Northern Borefield occurred during this reporting period.
3	The approval holder must maintain accurate records of all measures taken to implement the BEMP according to the conditions of this approval, and must make these records available to the Department on request. Within 3 months of every anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a Compliance Report on its website addressing implementation of the BEMP . The approval holder must also notify any	☒ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Not Applicable	This Annual Compliance Report satisfies the requirement to publish an annual Compliance Report within 3 months of the 1 September anniversary date. Records continue to be maintained in accordance with the BEMP, and no non-compliances were identified during the 2025–2026 reporting period.

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	non-compliance with this approval to the Department in writing within 10 business days of becoming aware of the non compliance. The approval holder must continue to annually publish the Compliance Report until such time as agreed in writing by the Minister . Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or be used to verify compliance with the conditions of the approval.		Further details on the implementation of the BEMP are provided in Section 4.2 .
4	If the approval holder wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the BEMP , the person taking the action must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of the BEMP. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. If the Minister approves the revised plan, that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved. All revised plans approved by the Minister must be published on the approval holder's website within one month of their approval by the Minister .	☒ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance ☐ Non-compliant ☐ Not Applicable	The approved BEMP, including amendments approved by the Department on 20/05/2022, continued to be to be implemented during the reporting period. No activities were undertaken outside of the scope of the approved BEMP.
5	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of the relevant matters of environmental significance to do so, the Minister may request the approval holder to make specific revisions to the BEMP and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. Once approved, the revised plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan, the approval holder must continue to implement the originally approved BEMP , as specified in the conditions.	☐ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance ☐ Non-compliant ☒ Not Applicable	No Ministerial requests for revisions to the BEMP were received during the reporting period.
6	Upon the direction of the Minister , the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the	☐ Compliant ☐ Partial Non-compliance	No Ministerial requests for an independent audit were

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	conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister . The independent auditor and audit criteria must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. The audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister .	☐ Non-compliant ☒ Not Applicable	received during this reporting period.
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4.1. EPBC Approval 2007/3396 – Condition 1

Compliance Designation – Compliant

Following the *Variation to Conditions Attached to Approval* Letter in August 2015, Seqwater implemented the approved BEMP, which was published on Seqwater's website in September 2015.

The BEMP was subsequently amended in March 2016 to incorporate changes associated with the Banksia Beach WTP cold standby. The revised BEMP was published on Seqwater's website in March 2016.

In July 2021, Seqwater requested the removal of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data capture and analysis from the approved BEMP. This request was approved by the Department on 20 May 2022 and the revised BEMP was issued as Revision 13 (13/04/2021).

The approved BEMP remains available on Seqwater's website ([Corporate Publications](#)) and continued to be implemented in accordance with **Condition 1**.

4.2. EPBC Approval 2007/3396 – Condition 3

Compliance Designation – Compliant

This Annual Compliance Report, covering the reporting period from 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026, satisfies the reporting requirements of **Condition 3** by addressing implementation of the BEMP and being published within 3 months of the 1 September anniversary date. Records relating to implementation of the BEMP continue to be maintained, and no non-compliances occurred during this reporting period.

4.2.1. Meteorological Monitoring Program

The Meteorological Monitoring Program, outlined in **Section 7.3** of the approved BEMP, remained the only active monitoring program during the reporting period.

The Northern (National Park) Automatic Weather Station (AWS) has been offline since April 2025 due to ongoing reliability and site access issues, culminating in a complete station failure. Throughout this period, meteorological monitoring has continued through the Banksia AWS, which records rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and wind direction. Additional meteorological information has also been available from nearby Bureau of Meteorology monitoring stations, including Redcliffe and Beerburrum.

The approved BEMP recognises that local climate monitoring can continue where one AWS is unavailable, with data from the remaining AWS providing ongoing local climatic information. Accordingly, the operation of the Banksia AWS ensured local meteorological data collection was maintained throughout the reporting period.

The Banksia Beach WTP has remained in cold standby since April 2014, and no groundwater extraction has occurred. While meteorological monitoring was originally established to support interpretation of groundwater and ecological monitoring data, the approved BEMP continues to require implementation of the Meteorological

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Monitoring Program. As there is currently no associated groundwater or ecological monitoring being undertaken at the site, the Banksia AWS remained operational throughout the reporting period solely to meet the requirements of the approved BEMP. The outage of the Northern AWS is not considered to have materially affected implementation of the Meteorological Monitoring Program, as no associated monitoring programs were reliant on this data during the reporting period.

4.2.2. Ecological Monitoring Program

The Ecological Monitoring Program, outlined in Section 7.2 of the approved BEMP, was implemented to establish predictive ecological baseline vegetation conditions and improve understanding of natural variation in vegetation structure, composition and condition.

The achievement of a predictive ecological baseline was reported in the 2024 Annual Compliance Report based on findings documented in the *Annual Vegetation Monitoring Report 2024*. As reported in the 2024 and 2025 Annual Compliance Reports, a predictive ecological baseline had been established, and sufficient data has been collected to characterise vegetation condition and natural ecosystem variability using a comprehensive dataset spanning nine years (2016–2024).

Consequently, soil moisture and groundwater-dependent ecosystem vegetation monitoring concluded at the end of 2024 in accordance with the cold standby provisions of Section 7.2 of the BEMP.

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5. Conclusion

Seqwater has not extracted groundwater from the Banksia Beach Borefield since the Banksia Beach WTP ceased operations in April 2014. No activities were undertaken by Seqwater on Bribie Island during this reporting period that could significantly impact EPBC Act-listed species or MNES.

The Banksia Beach WTP remained in cold standby throughout the reporting period and no groundwater extraction occurred. There are currently no plans to return the facility to operational service, as the asset is not required for water supply augmentation or drought response.

Following the establishment of a predictive ecological baseline, soil moisture and groundwater-dependent ecosystem vegetation monitoring concluded at the end of 2024 in accordance with the BEMP. The Meteorological Monitoring Program remained the only active monitoring program during the reporting period.

Seqwater remains compliant with the conditions of EPBC approval 2007/3396.

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