

Summer Preparedness



Summer is the peak season for bushfires, storms, floods and cyclones in Queensland. Ahead of the 2022-23 summer period, Seqwater has undertaken a range of activities to ensure its teams are well prepared to respond to extreme weather and emergency events that may impact the Seqwater network.

Our crews undertake regular training exercises and have a range of robust plans and procedures in place to respond to the risks presented by high rainfall and other hazards.

Seqwater's Flood Operations Centre continually monitors catchment and weather conditions throughout South East Queensland.

The flood storage compartments are available at our gated dams, including the interconnected Somerset and Wivenhoe, to provide flood mitigation for downstream communities in accordance with the State approved flood manuals (as at 27.10.22). For the latest updates visit seqwater.com.au/dam-levels

The full supply level of Wivenhoe Dam has also been temporary lowered until 28 February 2023 to provide additional flood mitigation benefits.

Flood mitigation

Ahead of the 2022-23 summer period, the Minister for Water directed Seqwater (under Section 390 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*) to implement a temporary full supply level for drinking water at Wivenhoe Dam. The water stored in the dam has been reduced by 1.3 metres or around 80% capacity until 28 February 2023. This will allow this extra capacity to be used for temporary flood storage as required throughout summer.

While no dam can flood-proof a community, Seqwater dams will continue to provide flood mitigation benefits for downstream communities. Should heavy rainfall affect the region, weather and dam conditions are monitored 24/7 at our Flood Operations Centre.

Seqwater has comprehensive communication protocols in place which ensure relevant stakeholders are updated

regularly during releases from its gated dams, and when ungated dams are spilling.

A multi-channel warning system keeps communities informed, including SMS and email alerts to residents and social media posts on Facebook and Twitter. The Seqwater App also provides communities living near Seqwater dams, weirs and waterways with emergency preparedness updates.

Seqwater liaises closely with councils, local disaster management groups, State Government and where necessary, emergency services, so they can advise downstream communities and residents of any appropriate action that needs to be taken.

Water Supply

We regularly conduct water quality tests to ensure the water supply is of the highest possible standard. Ongoing investments, risk assessments and regular maintenance means the water supply network is ready to withstand the demands of summer.

The SEQ Water Grid allows us to produce and move drinking water across the region and provides resilience to the drinking water supply when extreme weather or power outages cause challenges at our water treatment plants.

The Gold Coast Desalination Plant stands ready to increase production and supply drinking water to the region, as it has done during previous extreme weather events, should our conventional water treatment plants go offline or need to reduce their production due to raw water quality issues.

South East Queensland's weather can be unpredictable. Our staff stand ready to respond to any extreme weather and emergency events 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Sign up to Seqwater's free dam notification service for email, text or landline or download the Seqwater app.

<https://www.seqwater.com.au/dam-release-notification-service>