

East Bank Flood Resilience Program

The East Bank: A local heritage place

Protecting and preserving our local history

Brief history of the Mount Crosby waterworks

In the mid-1880s, Brisbane's urban growth was outstripping the water available from Enoggera and Gold Creeks. The lack of a sustainable water supply led to the enactment of legislation in 1889, which permitted the city of Brisbane to draw water from the upper reaches of the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby.

In 1890, the Brisbane Board of Waterworks commenced construction of the first water supply scheme at Mount Crosby. As part of this scheme, a pump station and hilltop treated water reservoir were constructed. This was a major undertaking and was completed by mid-1893.

Due to Mount Crosby's distance from any township, residences were constructed for those employed to work at the pump station. Built on the steep slope above the pump station, the area was named 'Works Hill.' As the East Bank precinct progressed, so did the amenities available, including an administration building and blacksmith's workshop.

Works Hill houses

The heritage-listed 'Works Hill' houses were designed by Charles McLay, who also designed Customs House in Brisbane, to form a distinctive residential precinct next to the pump station. The dwellings, including two detached engineer's houses, four duplexes for the firemen (stokers), and a cottage for the Drayman, are one of the few examples of this type of workers housing remaining in Queensland.

Restoration of the heritage-listed houses is currently underway, including flooring repairs, installation of new electrical infrastructure and internal and external painting.

Seqwater plans to realign the existing property boundaries and create separate property titles, in preparation to sell some of the properties in mid-2019, subject to local government approval.



Provided by the Thompson Family to the Mount Crosby Historical Society

Drayman's Cottage

Seqwater is committed to preserving and relocating the Drayman's Cottage as part of the East Bank Flood Resilience Program (EBFRP).

As part of the Master Plan, the Drayman's Cottage will be relocated to the northern side of Stumers Road, near the existing community hall, and will be repurposed for community use.

Restoration works at the pump station

Seqwater is also restoring the historic administration building, former blacksmith's workshop and workers' amenities block at the East Bank Pump Station site, to preserve their heritage value.

Following restoration, the administration building will be repurposed as a public and private meeting space. The space will also be used as an educational facility and will showcase the history of water in South East Queensland.

About the project

Seqwater's East Bank Flood Resilience Program (EBFRP) involves improvements over five years, to reduce flood risks to critical bulk water infrastructure at the historical East Bank Pump Station site in Mount Crosby.

Seqwater has developed a Master Plan for the East Bank Pump Station site and surrounding area to improve flood resilience and protect South East Queensland's water supply, celebrate the area's rich cultural heritage and increase connectivity.

The development application for the Master Plan was submitted to Brisbane City Council in November 2018.

Contact us

For more information about the East Bank Flood Resilience Program or to speak to a member of the project team, phone **1800 771 497** or email communications@seqwater.com.au.