

Fact sheet Land management



Managing the health of our catchments is vital to providing a safe, secure and cost-effective drinking water supply.

Did you know South East Queensland's storage catchments cover more than 1.6 million hectares of land? Of this, Seqwater manages 73,500 hectares.

We work in partnership with catchment care groups, landholders and the broader community to achieve better land management and protect water quality. These partnerships work towards a consistent and coordinated approach to managing the land around our drinking water and irrigation supplies.

Weed management

Some weeds are able to reproduce from even the smallest fragments or seeds. Weeds threaten water quality and deteriorate catchment health, and managing them can be time consuming and costly.

Declared plants

A number of plants, such as the Cat's Claw Creeper and Chinese Celtis, are declared pests under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. Pest plants have the potential to cause serious economic, environmental and social impacts. Pest management legislation aims to help protect Queensland's economy, biodiversity and livability through preventing the introduction of new pest plants, stopping the spread of established pest plants into new areas and reducing the extent of existing infestations where possible.

Aquatic weeds

Aquatic weeds like Water Hyacinth, Salvinia and Cabomba are very invasive, often out-competing native species. Weed seeds can be carried from place to place on everything from boots to boats. The type of weed and abundance of infestation is mainly dependent on seasonal influences and inflows following rain.

The rate of growth increases over summer, while floodwaters can introduce new weeds into lakes and dams. Under certain conditions, some aquatic weeds can double in size every four to five days.

Treatment

We use a range of treatment and control methods including herbicides, biological agents (insects or pathogens), slashing and mowing. Often one method isn't enough to control weed infestations, so we use integrated weed management strategies to target species over time.

While declared pest species are always given first priority, we will treat other weed species if they are identified as a priority for the area.

A number of factors are considered when developing weed management programs including the level of invasiveness, location of the infestation in the catchment, the declaration status, environmental and water quality impacts, and our ability to effectively treat the weeds.



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Innovation

It's important we look for new ways to better treat both aquatic and terrestrial weeds in our catchments. In 2015, we started trialing an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for treating floating aquatic weeds such as Salvinia, Water Lettuce and Water Hyacinth on certain lakes.

Where traditional methods don't work, this innovative approach is proving handy for treating weeds in hard to reach places such as shallow water. The UAV is flown remotely by a licensed pilot from the shoreline or a boat.

Revegetation and resilience

Re-establishing dense vegetation along river banks (the riparian zone) improves channel stability and in-stream conditions. Revegetation can also help to reduce erosion and other damage along river banks.

Our revegetation and riverbank stabilisation projects are carried out across the region in partnership with other government agencies, catchment care groups and nearby landholders.

This work can lead to substantial improvements in water quality and it is a good investment for us in delivering a safe and reliable water supply.



Fire and pest management

Our fire and pest management programs aim to protect life, property and the environment in our catchment areas. These programs involve a range of different activities including planned burns, firebreak maintenance, and feral animal baiting.

It's important we work with other agencies and landholders to share resources and coordinate activities to effectively address the risks of wildfires and pests on our land.

Get involved

We all have a part to play in looking after the health of our catchments and there are many ways you can get involved:

- Always use bins provided or take your litter with you
- Walk on tracks to minimise erosion
- Control livestock access to riparian zones
- Give us a call if you spot suspected weeds or pest animals on or near our land
- Volunteer for a revegetation project or with a bush care group in your local area
- Keep boats, paddlecraft and other equipment clean before entering new waters.

For more information

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