

Releasing water



Seqwater moves water around South East Queensland through pipelines to reservoirs. This is how water gets to your service provider which could be your local council (Redland, Logan or Gold Coast City Council), Urban Utilities or Unitywater before it reaches your home or business.

At times, Seqwater must empty sections of pipeline to allow for routine maintenance, emergency repairs and upgrades.

There are valves along pipelines which allow us to isolate smaller sections of long pipelines and this helps minimise the amount of water we need to release. Valves, known as scour valves, are located at low points in the pipelines and often flow onto the land into natural gullies, waterways, or drains. Often, the water being released enters waterways, and flows into creeks, rivers and dams.

Frequently asked questions

How does Seqwater manage environmental impacts?

Seqwater's Environment and Cultural Heritage team assesses water releases and provides advice on the actions required to be compliant with relevant legislation and manage any impacts for nearby plants and animals. This is why Seqwater will often monitor releases, dechlorinate the water, and install erosion and sediment controls. Releasing water from pipelines is a common activity for many water authorities around Australia.

How will I find out about a release near me?

Affected properties are notified of a release of water if access is required onto their property or if flows will be visible for the local community and interest groups.

How much water is released?

Dependant on the section of pipeline to be isolated, different timeframes and volumes of water are released.



Seqwater officers, local council representatives and conservation group at a release of water

Can I use that water?

Once released, the water is not fit for human consumption. This is because Seqwater cannot guarantee water quality once the water leaves the pipeline.

Why don't we give the water to people out west who are experiencing a severe drought?

We believe water is a precious, finite resource. Unfortunately, we cannot avoid the need to release some water to have an empty pipe ready for work.

As much as possible, we consider our options to minimise water loss before making a release. We consider the water quality standards, amount of water being released, location of release, safety to community, truck movements on private property and local streets and cost to transport. Often, these requirements make tankering water unworkable.

Find out more

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