

# Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline Project



## Community information sessions

Seqwater recently delivered four (4) community information sessions to support the Toowoomba to Warwick (T2W) Pipeline Project, at the townships of Allora, Warwick, Greenmount and Highfields. These sessions were aimed at providing a forum for community members to engage with the T2W project team and receive updates on the project's scope, schedule, and environmental approvals.

The information sessions also allowed the project team to gather feedback from residents, landowners, and industry stakeholders. The sessions were held over two days and attracted a diverse group of attendees including local residents, council representatives, industry stakeholders and business owners.

This summary outlines the key themes raised during the sessions and provides context on how each issue relates to T2W.

## The following themes were identified as the most common areas of interest during the sessions:

### Project overview, scope and schedule

Community members expressed strong interest in understanding the full scope of the project, including its alignment, construction phases, and expected completion timeline. A recurring topic was the environmental approval process, with several attendees seeking clarity on how long approvals would take and whether the approvals could delay the project.

The project team explained environmental approvals are a necessary step to ensure the project complies with state and federal regulations. Seqwater is committed to transparent communication about approval timelines and will continue to provide updates as the project progresses through each phase.

### Financial implications for local ratepayers

Some attendees expressed concern about the financial burden of the pipeline project, questioning whether costs would be passed on to local ratepayers or affect council budgets.

The project team was able to confirm that the construction costs of the T2W pipeline project will be wholly funded via State Government, not Seqwater or local councils. Some local infrastructure that connects to the T2W Pipeline is being delivered by Toowoomba and Southern Downs Regional Councils, however this infrastructure is not included within the approved State Government budget for this project. Operational and maintenance costs of the new infrastructure will be included within future budgets of Seqwater and local councils.

## **Contract award status and industry interest**

Several attendees, especially from construction and civil engineering, asked about the contract award status. There was interest in engaging local contractors and registering for work opportunities.

The project team noted opportunities for local industry involvement. Seqwater is finalising procurement and will announce the head contractor once appointed. Supporting local suppliers and workforce development remains a key project priority.

## **Delineation between local projects**

Several attendees were unclear about the distinction between the T2W Pipeline and Toowoomba Regional Council's 'Four Communities water supply' project and associated water infrastructure upgrades. Questions focused on funding, scope, and whether the projects were interdependent.

While both projects aim to improve water infrastructure, they are separate initiatives. The T2W Pipeline is a Seqwater-led regional project transferring raw water from Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba and the Southern Downs, whereas the 'Four Communities water supply project' is managed by Toowoomba Regional Council and will deliver a new water treatment plant at Greenmount, supplying four local communities with a new potable water supply and distribution network. The construction of both projects will be funded by the State Government. Seqwater will continue to work collaboratively with local councils to ensure alignment and avoid duplication of efforts.

## **Next Steps**

This most recent engagement has helped identify community preferences for communication, address concerns about the project, and build relationships to be maintained throughout the course of delivery.

Seqwater will continue engaging with stakeholders as the project progresses, with key next steps summarised as:

- Finalising environmental approvals and corresponding consultation processes
- Continuing landholder engagement and alignment refinement
- Head contractor contract award
- Providing regular updates through newsletters, social media, and council briefings.

## **Pipeline alignment and property impacts**

Landowners along the proposed pipeline route raised concerns about the location of the alignment, particularly where it runs adjacent to or through private properties.

Topics included land access, compensation, environmental impacts on farmland and why the pipeline cannot always be located within existing road reserves or rail corridors.

The sessions provided an opportunity for the project team to explain in detail the challenges of designing a pipeline over a vast distance and constraints that impacted its final alignment. Additionally, a number of local residents were able to confirm with the project team the exact location of the pipeline nearby their properties and what can be expected during the construction phase.

## **Water security and Wivenhoe Dam concerns**

Concerns were raised about long-term water security, particularly in scenarios where Wivenhoe Dam levels may run low. Attendees asked how the pipeline would operate under drought conditions and whether alternative sources were being considered.

Our team confirmed that the pipeline is designed to enhance regional water resilience by connecting to existing infrastructure and enabling more flexible water transfers. While Wivenhoe Dam remains the key source water for the pipeline, Seqwater is actively planning for contingencies and drought scenarios to ensure reliable supply.

### **For more information on the project:**

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