

Queensland

Good jobs
Better services
Great lifestyle

Queensland Water Strategy

WATER. OUR LIFE RESOURCE.



Queensland
Government

Water for future generations

Water is essential to the prosperity and health of all Queenslanders and sustains our native wildlife and environment. This critical yet finite resource is the foundation of healthy rivers and communities, future growth, jobs and investment.



The long-term security and efficient use of water are central to our sustainability, and complement our energy transformation to a greener Queensland. Healthy waterways and aquifers not only have thriving plants and animals that support healthy ecosystems, they also support our Queensland lifestyle and well being as they are special places we choose to relax and play. Safe and reliable drinking water for all of our communities underpins the health of all Queenslanders.

Since 2015 we have invested \$5.2 billion in water infrastructure and we have delivered on our plans to support water for agriculture, jobs and industry development as part of our exceptional post-pandemic economic recovery. We have invested in significant water infrastructure projects that will boost economic growth in regional Queensland for generations to come.

For example, the construction of Rookwood Weir and the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline will provide large volumes of water to support increased agricultural production, improve water security for numerous communities, and underpin the future prosperity of current and future industry sectors across Central Queensland.

The Bradfield Panel highlighted the importance of investing in mini-grids to support regional growth and renewable energy zones, which is why we are also constructing pipelines to Warwick and Townsville and assessing the viability of numerous new dams, weirs, pipelines and desalination sites across the state.

We are continuing to invest in our existing water infrastructure by upgrading our dams and modernising our water supply infrastructure to ensure ongoing reliability for existing water customers and safety for communities who live downstream.

The effects of climate change, our growing population and emerging sectors like hydrogen and critical minerals means we need to be smarter than ever before about how we use water. By using water wisely, we will ensure water supply is accessible, affordable, secure and resilient.

We also need to be wise in how we manage our waterways and catchments, plan for different climatic conditions and support innovative solutions so we can meet the needs of future generations and industries across our great state.

We are committed to providing greater access to and ownership of water by First Nations peoples. It's a key platform in our State's Path to Treaty and a recognition of the deep connection of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the lands and water of Queensland.

We also understand that our water customers and Queenslanders want us to be responsible water managers, so we are actively improving our water planning science, increasing our compliance focus and looking to improve our supporting technology and systems.

The Queensland Water Strategy creates a clear path for a Queensland that uses the best science, engineering and technology, benefits from the traditional knowledge of First Nations peoples, fosters an innovative and collaborative water sector and harnesses the creativity of Queenslanders who are working on cutting-edge science and engineering solutions.

To make sure our future vision for Queensland is realised, we will continue to work closely with our partners in the water sector and the community, including local government, businesses, universities, industry sectors and the Australian Government.

I thank the water sector and stakeholders who helped to shape this strategy, and am confident that the strategy, supporting roadmap of initiatives and the upcoming State Water Infrastructure Plan sets Queensland up for a vibrant and sustainable future.

I invite you to embrace the Queensland Water Strategy and work with us to sustainably manage the future of Queensland's water—our life resource.

**HON GLENN BUTCHER MP
MINISTER FOR WATER**

Water is the vital force that sustains our lives, our lifestyle, our landscapes and our livelihoods.

Now, more than ever before, Queensland is prepared for a sustainable and secure water future, ready to propel our state's prosperity as we move to net zero emissions. Water powers our people, planet and economy.

Strategy vision

Sustainable and secure water resources are central to Queensland's economic transformation and the legacy we pass on to future generations.



Healthy waterways, rivers, aquifers and sustainable water management



First Nations partnerships, access and ownership



Water for regional economic prosperity



Safe and secure water supply

Building Queensland's future —our delivery focus



Healthy waterways, rivers, aquifers and sustainable water management

Respond swiftly to climate change, using the best available science to maximise our water resources and sustain healthy, more resilient catchments

- Meeting or exceeding our goals to keep rivers, wetlands and aquifers healthy and support better outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef
- Reviewing 23 water plans across the State to finely balance the share of water for the environment, cultural values and other water uses
- Using climate science and innovation to:
 - » understand and manage risks to water resources
 - » build mitigation into management
 - » strengthen resilience
- Actively monitoring waterways and groundwater levels to improve catchment health
- Delivering compliance plans, audits and effective regulation of the water sector
- Transforming rural water management through smarter metering and optimising water markets
- Boosting and leveraging partnerships with councils, National Resource Management (NRM) organisations, community groups, and industry to build innovation and capacity into decision making
- Delivering Great Artesian Basin bore-capping program to reduce water wastage
- Support recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as Queensland's strong tourism economy which all rely on healthy aquatic environments



First Nations partnerships, access and ownership

Partner with First Nations peoples and develop sustainable practices that build on traditional wisdom and provide opportunities for social and economic development

- Forging partnerships to open up more opportunities for First Nations communities to own and access water
- Working closely with First Nations peoples to build cultural values into water planning, as well as share knowledge and grow economic and social benefits
- Ensuring water plans and management systems consider climate change impacts on water availability and incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultural needs and values
- Respecting and recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as traditional custodians who have cared for rivers, country, sea and sky for more than 60,000 years
- Respecting the sensitivity and intellectual property of traditional knowledge and acknowledging the willingness of First Nations peoples to help share future water management



Water for regional economic prosperity

Build water infrastructure to boost established and newer industries, jobs and long-term water security

- Building and investing in dams, weirs and pipelines with \$5.2B invested since 2015
- Supporting industries, including agriculture and mining, as well as critical minerals and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan
- Implementing the Bradfield expert review panel's recommendations
- Delivering the Strategic Water Infrastructure Plan (SWIP)
- Expanding water security, supply and contingency options in South East Queensland
- Implementing regional water supply projects
- Planning for the future pipeline of projects across Queensland through state water infrastructure plans
- Releasing unallocated water to support new and expanding regional economic opportunities
- Continuing to identify and deliver actions to improve the effective and efficient operation of Queensland's water market



Safe and secure water supply

Ensure every community across Queensland has safe and secure water, alongside support to boost resilience and contingency plans even in times of severe drought or floods

- Ensuring no-one runs out of water in at-risk communities and planning for resilience even during times of drought or other natural disasters
- Planning for future water security alongside urban communities and councils including promoting water demand and household waterwise practices
- Engaging community and industry Waterwise initiatives to drive behaviour change and sustainable water use
- Easing cost of living pressure with rebates, incentives, subsidies and grants for local government infrastructure
- Improving dam safety to make sure they're well regulated, safe and secure against climate change and extreme weather
- Delivering the Urban Water Explorer web platform to present data from water and sewerage service providers. This will allow them to monitor water security, demand management, infrastructure and maintenance
- Using climate science and modelling to understand climate change effects on our water resources and to tailor our response

Water is the heart of what we do

From food bowls to grazing lands and coastal catchments to channel country: the planning, infrastructure, science and innovation involved in moving water to homes, farms and businesses is a vital and often unseen service. Securing water for diverse regions and the environment relies on expertise, effective water management plans, and partnerships across our vast state.

9.2M

Population projection by 2073

\$5.2B

Water infrastructure invested since 2015

Water plans for Queensland

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Baffle Creek Basin | Gold Coast |
| Barron | Great Artesian Basin and other regional aquifers |
| Border Rivers and Moonie | Gulf |
| Boyne River Basin | Logan Basin |
| Burdekin Basin | Mary Basin |
| Burnett Basin | Mitchell |
| Calliope River | Moreton |
| Cape York | Pioneer Valley |
| Condamine and Balonne | Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine |
| Cooper Creek | Wet Tropics |
| Fitzroy Basin | Whitsunday |
| Georgina and Diamantina | |

Regional water assessments areas

- Tablelands
- Burdekin
- Bundaberg and Burnett
- Southern and Darling Downs



KEY

- ▲ Dam improvement project
- City or town
- Bore capping rehab boundary
- ▲ Project site
- Great Artesian Basin
- Regional water assessment areas

Working in partnership with the Australian Government and other states to manage the Murray–Darling Basin

FOR MORE DETAILED MAPPING GO TO WWW.RDMW.QLD.GOV.AU

Water fast facts

Maximising the value of our infrastructure and availability of water resources is key

10M ML

Including 7M ML already allocated and 3M ML held for future opportunities

850+

water trades
FY 2022/2023

218,777ML

GAB bore capping water saved annually

41,600

water entitlements in
Queensland as of 2023

Urban water supply—partnership model in action

Water service providers play an important role in supporting our economy, lifestyle and environment

75 water service providers

45,000 km of water mains

2.09M connected properties

36,000 km of sewerage mains

259 sewage treatment plants

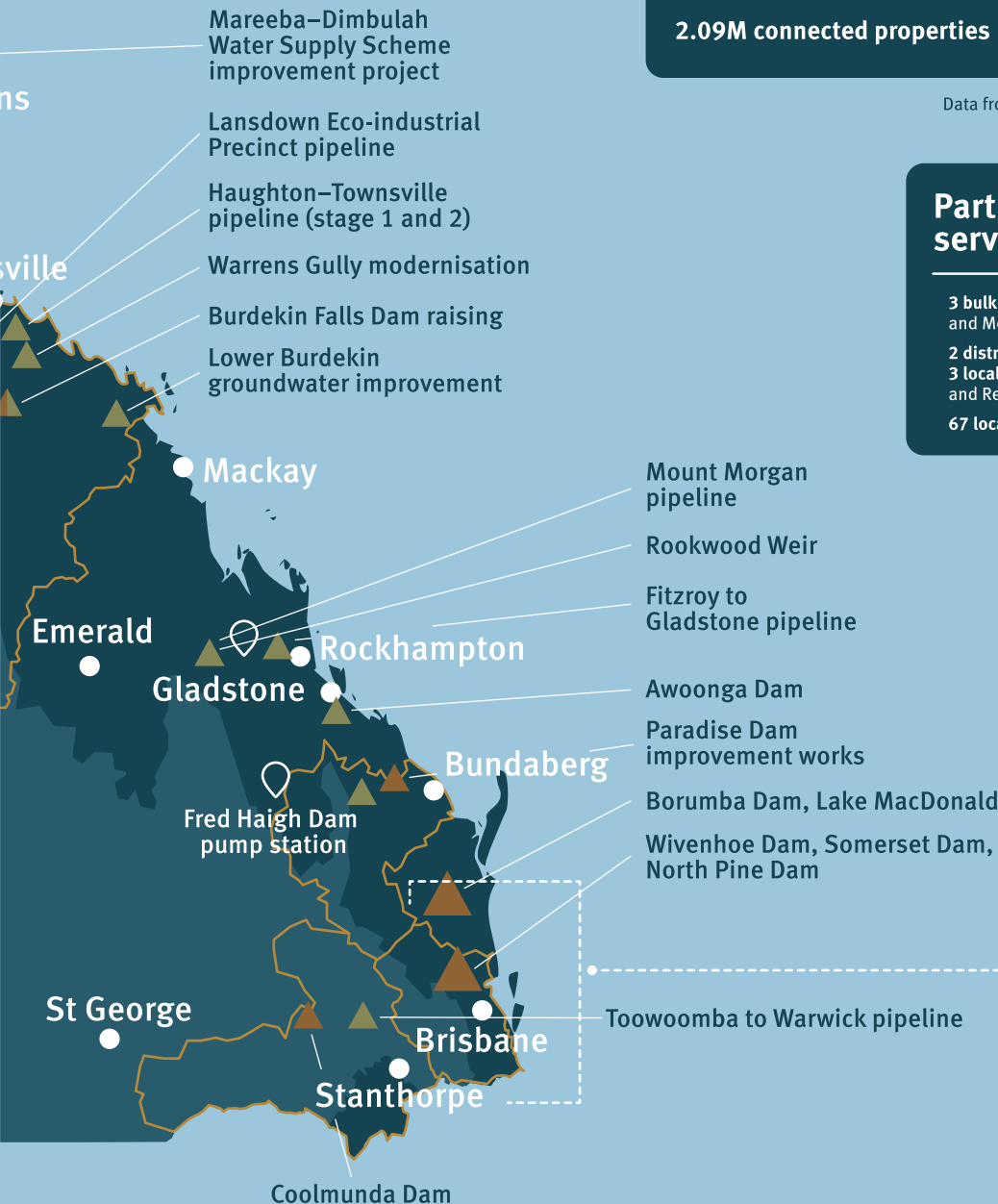
Data from the Queensland's Urban Water Explorer 2022 snapshot

Partners provide urban water services to communities

3 bulk water entities (Seqwater, Gladstone Area Water Board and Mount Isa Water Board)

2 distributor-retailers (Unitywater and Urban Utilities) and 3 local governments (City of Gold Coast, Logan City Council and Redland City Council) in South East Queensland

67 local governments outside South East Queensland



SEQ Water Grid

Our priorities for Queensland water



Value precious water resources through efficient use and re-use alongside effective water planning and management



Increase First Nations' access to and ownership of water, and greater inclusion of cultural values and traditional knowledge in water decisions



Invest wisely in water infrastructure



Maintain safe and secure water supplies



Look after the Reef, waterways, ecosystem health and groundwater, and improve water quality



Build thriving, resilient and sustainable regions with long-term water security in the face of a changing climate and natural disasters



Support innovation, science and continuous improvement through industry engagement



Tackle development challenges, invest in regional skills and share expertise



Secure water for growth and key industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, resources and renewables



Ease cost of living pressures and support water-wise communities

Find out more

Learn more about the strategy at www.rdmw.qld.gov.au

You can also email us at WaterReform@rdmw.qld.gov.au

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Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country. We recognise the ongoing spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with land, water, sea and sky. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, support future leaders, and acknowledge First Nations Peoples' right to self-determination.



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