WSPP

Water Service Providers' Partnership

Jimna Drought Response Plan

Document number: PLN-00471

Version Date: 21 March 2023

UrbanUtilities

seqwater

WATER FOR LIFE

Contents

Introduction

Urban Utilities and Seqwater work together to supply reliable, affordable and sustainable drinking water to consumers in South East Queensland (SEQ), both now and in the future.

Seqwater owns and operates the region's bulk water supply system including dams and weirs; water treatment plants; and climate resilient water sources. The interconnected SEQ Water Grid forms the majority of the bulk water supply system and enables us to move drinking water to where it is needed. While most South East Queenslanders are serviced by the Water Grid, we also supply drinking water to about 55,000 people living in off-grid communities – rural towns and island communities that are not connected to the Grid, but form part of the bulk water supply system.

Each of these off-grid communities have their own local water source and management of this water is supported by a Drought Response Plan, which outlines how water will be managed when local supply becomes limited, to ensure levels of service are met.

This Drought Response plan outlines drought response measures that will be put in place to respond to drought.

Urban Utilities is the "Water Retailer" for Jimna, taking water from the bulk water supply system and delivering it to households and businesses in Jimna as well as the rest of the Somerset, Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Scenic Rim local authority areas.

About Jimna

Jimna is located within the Somerset Regional Council (SRC) local government area. The primary water source for the town is the "the Big Hole" weir in Yabba Creek, a tributary of the Mary River (refer Figure 1).

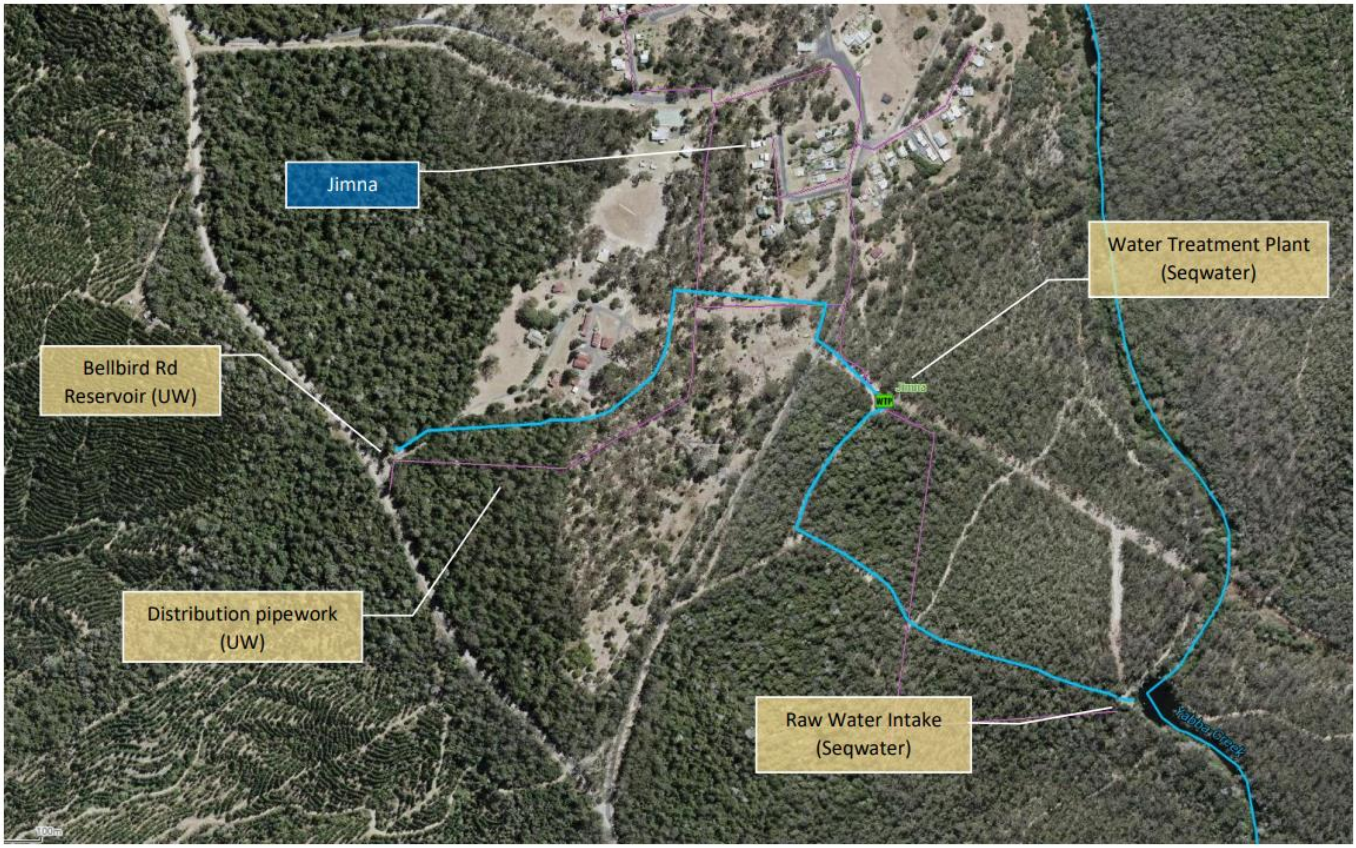

Figure 1 Jimna Water Supply Overview

Source: Seqwater Spatial

Yabba Creek is part of the Mary River Water Basin. The Mary Valley Water Supply Scheme is administered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW), which is responsible for managing water resources across Queensland, including providing sustainable water allocation for the environment, agriculture, industries and population centers. DRDMW manages the water access entitlements from Yabba Creek and Seqwater holds a licence to take 20 ML/annum for the town water supply, as issued by DRDMW. Seqwater cannot divert more than this allocated volume in any year. All other entitlements (including irrigators) that fall under the Water Resource Plan are not included in this Drought Response Plan. DRDMW is responsible for imposing restrictions on these users during drought.

Seqwater treats water from its entitlement using a local Water Treatment Plant, to supply drinking water to the township of Jimna. The Treatment Plant has a capacity of 0.32 ML/day and caters to current and future demand within the planning horizon.

When there is insufficient raw water available for the Treatment Plant to run at the required flow rate, or at all, there is facility available at the Treatment Plant for treated water to be tankered in. The volume of water that tankers can supply to the town is based on potable water demand and the availability and capability of required assets, and can also be limited by potential impact to local traffic and the community.

Urban Utilities is responsible for delivering the treated water to the homes and businesses in Jimna.

Drought Response Plan: Jimna

Water supplies in drought will be managed through a combination of demand management and supplementing supplies with water carting. Specific triggers have been identified for drought response actions (Figure 2 and Table 1) to provide clarity for planning. The actions listed are not intended to be limiting – additional actions may be required for drought response. Seqwater will monitor the level of "The Big Hole" and advise Urban Utilities when each trigger is reached.

Demand Management

This Drought Response Plan outlines measures necessary to sustain water supplies to the local community in times of drought, due to a shortage in their local water supply availability. From this perspective, it is not necessary for the local community to be subject to restrictions that apply to regional drought triggers, however, Urban Utilities will put water restrictions in place if Seqwater has to cart water into Jimna to maintain the supply.

Contingency Supply

Seqwater commits to tankering up to 40 kL/d water when the local supply is not available, and Urban Utilities commits to managing local demand within this volume.

The water carters engaged by Seqwater during times of drought source water from Kilcoy or the water grid and will follow a traffic management plan designed to limit the impact to traffic through the town of Jimna.

Future Drought Response Plans for Jimna

The Drought Response Plan has been developed based on currently available infrastructure. The Drought Response Plan will be updated every 5 years or if there are changes to the local infrastructure.

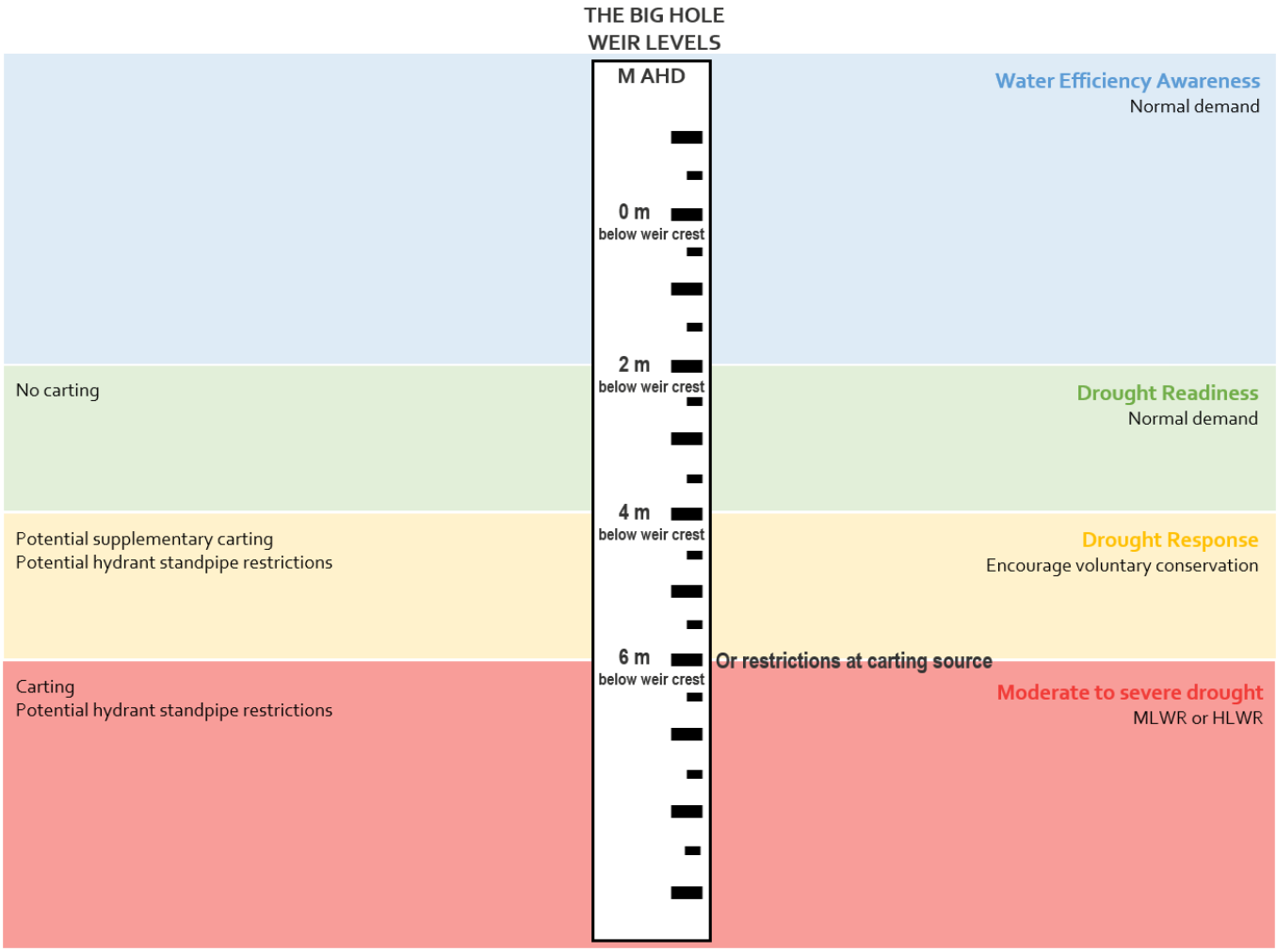

Figure 2 Jimna Drought Response Overview

TFS = Tanker Filling Station, MLWR = Medium Level Water Restrictions, HLWR = High Level Water Restrictions

Table 1 Jimna Summary Drought Response Plan

Level	Trigger (local supply level)	Residential demand management	Water carting volume	Tanker Filling Station (TFS) / hydrant standpipe access	Monitoring local supply availability	Note
Responsibility	**Set by Seqwater**	**Urban Utilities**	**Seqwater**	**Urban Utilities**	**Seqwater**	
Normal operations	The Big Hole water level is higher than 2 m below the weir crest	Normal demand			Monthly	
1 – Drought readiness	The Big Hole water level is 2 m below the weir crest	Normal demand	Confirm carting source. Potential viable locations are from Kilcoy WTP or the water grid.		Monthly	Notified through the monthly Water Security Status Report process
2 – Drought response	The Big Hole water level is 4 m below the weir crest	Communications encouraging voluntary conservation	Potential supplementary carting	Potential hydrant standpipe restrictions	Weekly	
3 – Moderate to severe drought	The Big Hole water level is 6 m below the weir crest and/or water carting source is under water restrictions	Medium to High Level Water Restrictions Encourage 140-120 L/p/d	Carting, up to 40 kL/d	As above	Daily	

Note: Drought exit will be staged as water supply achieves the level of each preceding drought trigger level, with removal of actions at each level as appropriate.