

**WSPP**

Water Service Providers' Partnership



# Rathdowney Drought Response Plan

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# Contents

Introduction .....	3
About Rathdowney.....	4
Drought Response Plan: Rathdowney .....	5

## 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.

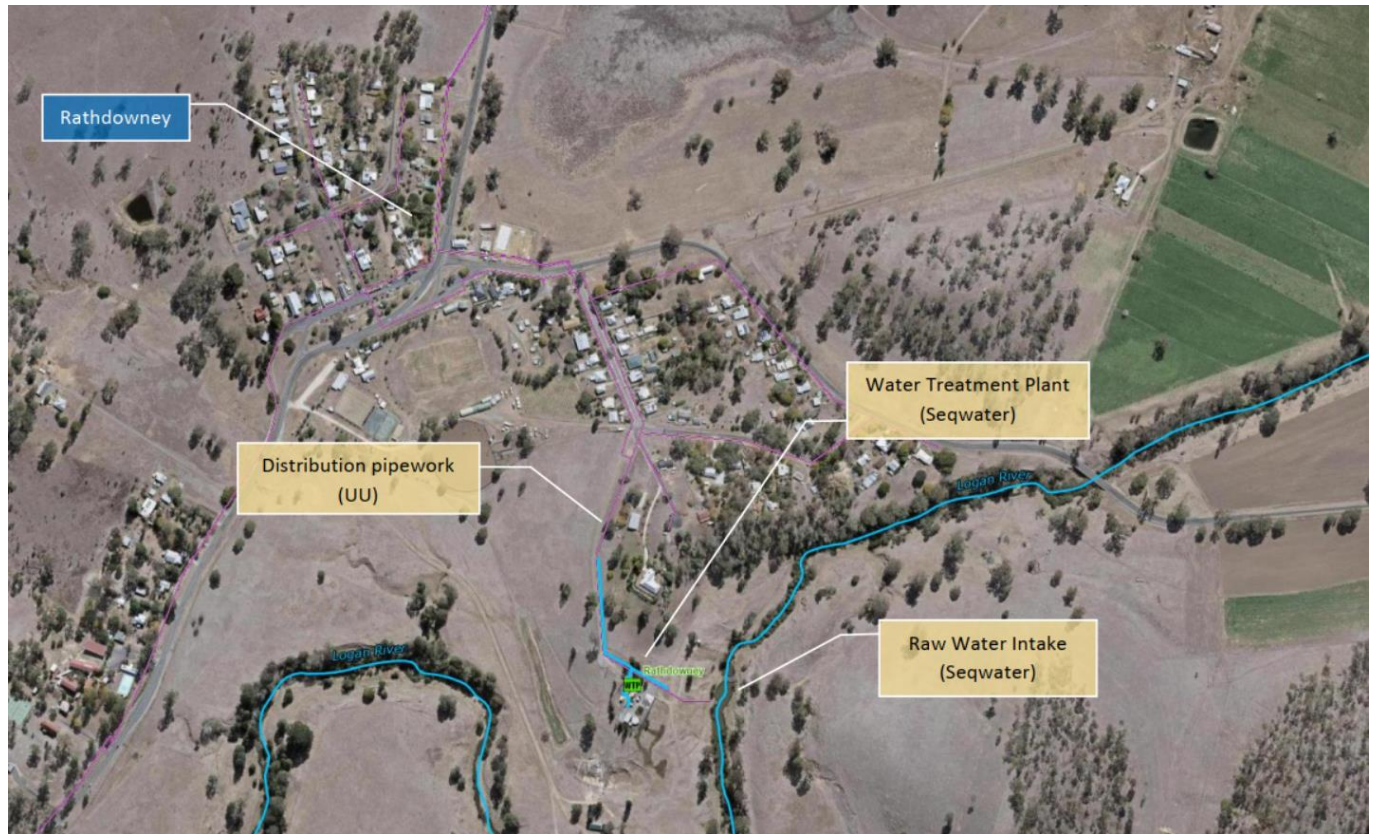
Each of these off-grid communities have their own local water source and management of this water is supported by a Drought Response Plan, which outlines how water will be managed when local supply becomes limited, to ensure levels of service are met.

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 Rathdowney, taking water from the bulk water supply system and delivering it to households and businesses in Rathdowney as well as the rest of the Scenic Rim, Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset local authority areas.

## About Rathdowney

Rathdowney is located within the Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRRC) local government area. The primary water source for the town is the Logan River supported by releases from Maroon Dam (refer Figure 1).



**Figure 1 Rathdowney Water Supply Overview**

Source: Seqwater Spatial

The Logan River is part of the Logan River Valley Water Basin. The Logan River 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 Logan River and Seqwater holds a water entitlement (high priority allocation) of 80 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 / medium priority allocations) 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 Rathdowney, including a local Tanker Filling Station. The Treatment Plant has a capacity of 0.36 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 Rathdowney. Urban Utilities also own a Tanker Filling Station that it is generally available for customer use. The water purchased from the Tanker Filling Station is included in the volume provided by the Treatment Plant and/or carted to the Plant during drought, and as such may be limited at times (this is described further in the Drought Response Plan).

## Drought Response Plan: Rathdowney

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 dam levels 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 Rathdowney to maintain the supply.

The Urban Utilities Tanker Filling Station is located near the Fire Station (2-4 John Street, Rathdowney). Generally, the Tanker Filling Station is available to provide treated water for local off-network households and commercial carters.

When the local area is experiencing dry conditions, demand for water from the Tanker Filling Station typically increases, as residents from nearby off-network households seek to supplement their water supply. As such, from Drought Trigger level 3, commercial water carting companies may be encouraged or required to source their water from elsewhere (such as Beaudesert or the SEQ water grid). Measures may also be implemented to limit the take from the Tanker Filling Station. However, the Rathdowney Tanker Filling Station will remain open for direct use by local off-network households.

### Contingency Supply

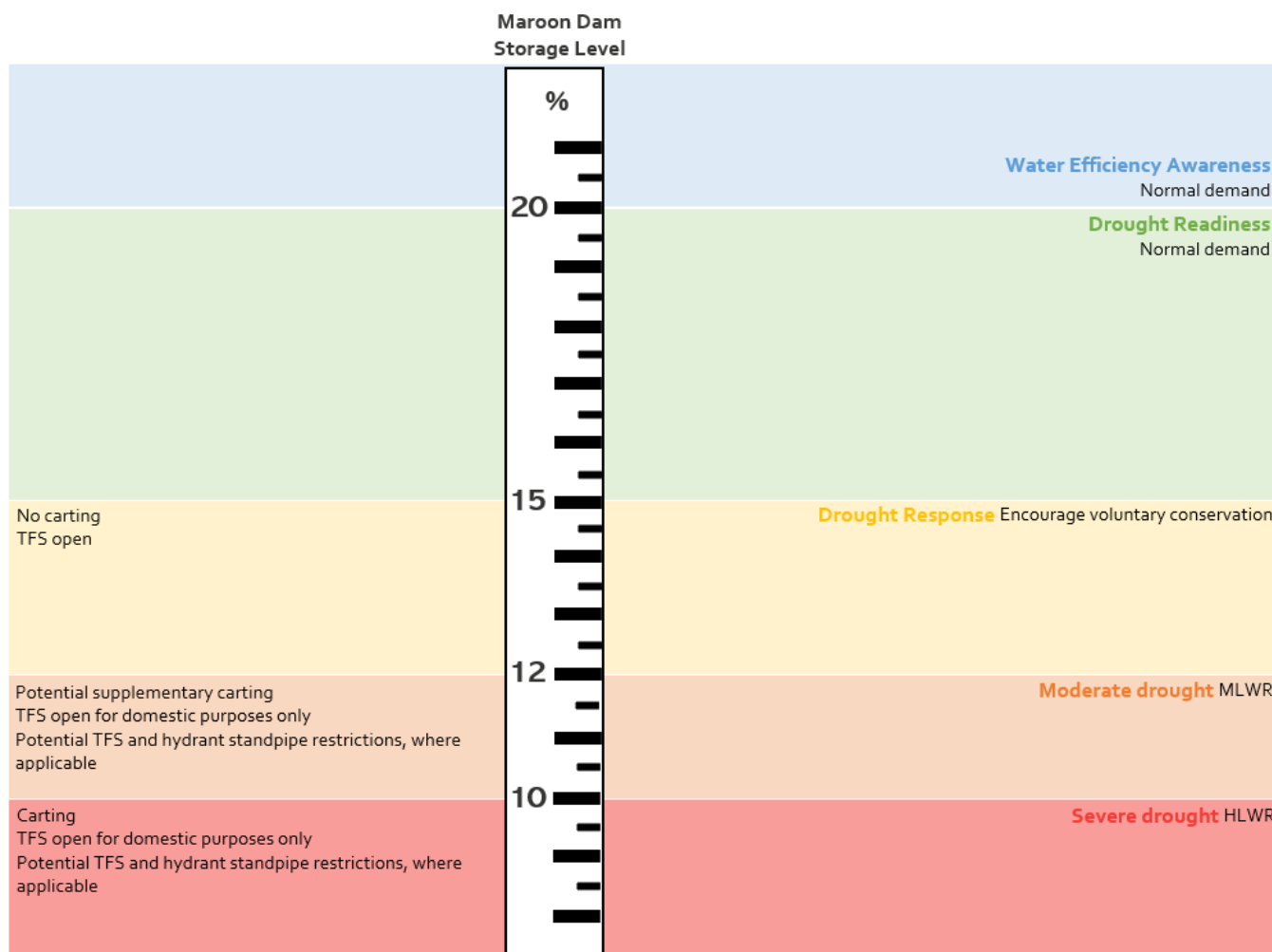
Seqwater commits to tankering up to 160 KL/d if required, and Urban Utilities commits to managing local demand within this volume.

The water carters engaged by Seqwater during drought will source water from the Water Grid and will follow a traffic management plan designed to limit the impact to traffic through the town of Rathdowney.

### Future Drought Response Plans for Rathdowney

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.

**Rathdowney Drought Response**



**Figure 2 Rathdowney Drought Response Overview**

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

**Rathdowney Drought Response**

**Table 1 Rathdowney 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	Above 20% capacity Maroon Dam	Normal demand			Monthly	Non-urban irrigation restrictions/cut-off (for medium priority allocation holders) occur/s at 22%
1 – Drought readiness	20% capacity Maroon Dam	Normal demand			Weekly	
2 – Drought response	15% capacity Maroon Dam	Communications encouraging voluntary conservation			Weekly	
3 – Moderate drought	12% capacity Maroon Dam	Medium Level Water Restrictions  Encourage 140 L/p/d	Potential supplementary carting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TFS and hydrant standpipe restrictions can only be used for domestic purposes</li> <li>Commercial water carters will be encouraged to source water from elsewhere</li> </ul>	Daily	Water for carting will be sourced from the water grid
4 – Severe drought	10% capacity Maroon Dam	High Level Water Restrictions  Encourage 120 L/p/d	Carting up to 160 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.*