Fact Sheet:
Cathodic Protection

seqwater
WATER FOR LIFE

Protecting water intrastructure

Seqwater operates an extensive network of water infrastructure to provide a safe, secure and cost-effective bulk water supply to South East Queensland – this is the SEQ Water Grid.

The grid consists of more than 600 kilometres of pipeline and allows us to move water to where it is needed in the region – from Noosa in the north to Coolangatta in the south. It transports bulk water from water treatment plants to distribution networks owned and operated by local water retailers and councils.

Every year, we work through a program of small to large scale projects to maintain and improve the water grid and continue to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

Living near pipelines

Water pipelines are located within roadways or easements, on private or state-owned land, in railway corridors and across water courses. If you live near pipelines, you may have noticed sign posts in the ground close to where they are buried.

Easements help protect bulk water infrastructure from damage and interference. An easement allows us to access land that is not ours to repair and improve pipelines and associated infrastructure. From time to time, you may see us working to maintain the bulk water infrastructure in your local area. To find out about work happening near you, visit Seqwater's **Living and working near water infrastructure** webpage.

Cathodic protection

Cathodic protection systems are used to protect metallic structures such as underground pipelines from corrosion. There are two types of cathodic protection – sacrificial and impressed current. Cathodic protection is the process of converting anodic (active) sites on the metal surface of a structure to cathodic (passive) sites. Seqwater currently maintains a number of sacrificial and impressed current systems across the water grid.

Sacrificial: This method connects the metal to be protected to another metal that's more easily corroded. This 'sacrificial metal' then corrodes instead of the protected metal.

Impressed current: This method involves supplying electrical currents (or free electrons) from an alternative power source to the metal to be protected. These currents act as a barrier to prevent corrosion.

Maintenance

As per the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013, cathodic protection systems must be tested every year to ensure they are in working order and pipelines surveyed every five years to meet registration requirements. If you have a pipeline on your property, we may need to access it from time to time for this important maintenance.

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