

# Fact sheet Our Catchments



## Catchment health

Ensuring a high quality bulk drinking water supply begins at the source – South East Queensland’s catchments.

There are a number of pressures placed on South East Queensland catchments. Unlike many other water utilities in the country where drinking water catchments are closed to communities, industries and services, Seqwater relies on large open catchments which we do not own or manage.

South East Queensland’s catchments cover more than 1.2 million hectares of land. Seqwater only owns around 65,000 hectares of this land, so it is vital we work in partnership with our neighbours, catchment land owners and the broader community to achieve better land management and water quality outcomes.

Seqwater strives to embed water management in urban and rural land use planning. This is achieved through positive improvements in land use planning, development controls, and land management processes for the protection of water assets, and the enhancement of water quality and water productivity from its drinking water catchments.

Catchment pressures include:

- deforestation and land clearing (resulting in erosion)
- high run-off as a result of poor stormwater management and modified stream and channel networks
- intensive industries (animal husbandry, livestock management, chemical)
- horticulture/agriculture
- pollution (man-made litter, sewerage, chemicals)
- pest flora and fauna (resulting in habitat destruction and erosion).



Seqwater undertakes strategic catchment planning to minimise and manage risk to water quality.

We develop long term management plans in partnership with our catchment communities and regional stakeholders to ensure a consistent approach to managing the land around our drinking water and irrigation storages. The plans identify and prioritise management actions and strategies to maintain or enhance the source water quality.

As well as strategic management, we have a team of 40 rangers and catchment officers, who manage and maintain our catchment land and the recreational use of our sites.

They undertake duties including fire management, illegal access monitoring and management, pest and weed control, as well as managing public access to our very popular lakes and picnic areas. This work significantly improves the habitat of endangered species of flora and fauna.

A healthy catchment is the first step to ensuring a high quality water supply for our region. We all need to do our part to ensure we keep our waterways healthy.

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## What can you do to help?

- Leave facilities as you found them.
- Clean up your local waterway and/or park. Participate in a clean-up event such as Clean Up Australia Day.
- Place litter in bins provided or take home and dispose of appropriately.
- Assist in revegetation projects being held in your local area.
- Be aware of where domestic pets are prohibited.
- Protect local wildlife by being a responsible pet owner.
- Do not release or put plants, fish or animals into a body of water they did not come from. This is an important step to prevent the spread of introduced species of plants and animals into our waterways.
- Maintain on-site wastewater systems.
- Report pollution incidents or suspicious activity.
- Wash down boats and paddlecraft to prevent weed contamination.
- Walk on tracks provided to minimise erosion.



## For more information

To book a tour, or to speak to a member of our community education team, contact:

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