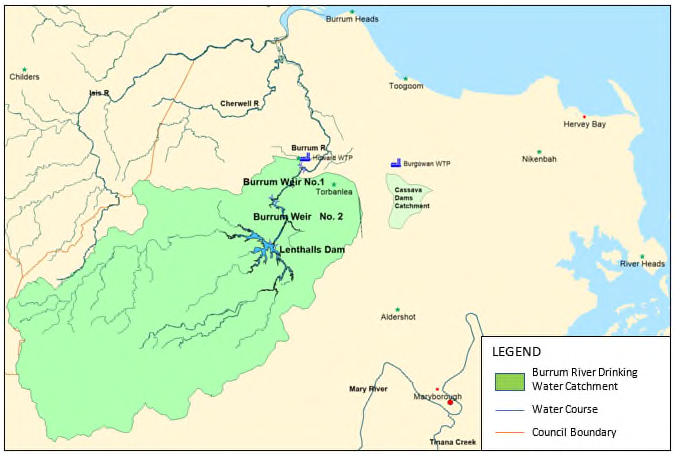
# BURRUM RIVER DRINKING WATER CATCHMENT

## Fact Sheet

### Which Drinking Water Catchment does my water come from?

There are three separate catchments that supply the Fraser Coast community with drinking water. The Burrum River drinking water catchment supplies the community of Hervey Bay and surrounds.

Infrastructure on Burrum River, such as Lenthalls Dam, Burrum Weir No. 2 and Burrum Weir No. 1, captures and stores source water that is treated at the Burgowan Water Treatment Plant and then supplied to residents as drinking water.




**Map of Burrum River Drinking Water Catchment**

### Burrum River Catchment

- The Burrum River catchment and Lake Lenthall are located approximately 40 kilometres west south west of Hervey Bay and are situated at the confluence of Logbridge, Doongul, Harwood, Duckinwilla and Woolmer Creeks.
- The upper freshwater section of the Burrum River ends at Burrum Weir No. 1 and covers and approximate area of 709 square kilometres.
- Lake Lenthall is situated in the middle of Wongi State Forest and supports a variety of significant and environmentally sensitive flora and fauna including:
    - Black breasted Button Quail (*Turnix melanogaster*)
    - Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
    - Wallum froglet (*Crinnia tinnula*)
    - Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)
    - Endangered vine forest (Regional Ecosystem 12.5.13)
- The Burrum River catchment has cultural and heritage significance for both local indigenous communities and early pioneering settlers.

### Land Uses

Land uses in the Tinana Creek drinking water catchment are:

- Rural residential
- Plantation forestry
- Cattle grazing
- Agriculture
- Native forest – conservation

### Water quality challenges in the Burrum River drinking water catchment

Contamination of source water in our drinking water catchments can have a major impact on drinking water quality. Fraser Coast Regional Council undertakes catchment management activities to help prevent contamination, which in the Burrum River catchment can come from a variety of sources:

- Sediment/soil runoff and erosion of riverbanks can cause high turbidity levels
- Animal faeces (from cattle and other animals) can introduce pathogens
- Pathogens and chemicals from primary and secondary recreation (i.e. swimming and boating)
- Chemical contamination from herbicides and pesticides
- High nutrient runoff from fertilisers - can increase the growth of aquatic weeds including Salvinia (Salvinia molesta) and Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), which can choke waterways and clog water supply infrastructure. High nutrients can also contribute to increased algal blooms and outbreaks of the toxic blue-green algae.
- Domestic septic systems from properties can introduce pathogens, nutrients, and chemicals.