



Our Water Security

Queensland has a dynamic climate with some of the highest and lowest rainfalls in the country. Planning for a secure water supply is essential in this variable climate to support our industry, agriculture and population growth.

Fraser Coast Regional Council and Wide Bay Water are undertaking the Fraser Coast Water Supply Security Strategy recognising that water is our most valuable resource and securing adequate water supplies to meet growing demand is essential.



Our Current Water Supplies

The Fraser Coast region sources its drinking water from the two Burrum Weirs and Lenthalls Dam on the Burrum River, and Teddington Weir on Tinana Creek.

Our water supplies rely on rainfall with dams monitored daily by Council's Wide Bay Water and managed carefully to ensure there is enough water during periods of prolonged dry weather.

To ensure the balance between having water available at all times and the cost to provide water to the community, water restrictions are a widely used method of managing the available water.

Based on current climate and population forecasts, the most recent strategies have identified that our current dams and weirs will provide safe water supply yields for Hervey Bay until at least 2046 and Maryborough until at least 2066.

The Water Supply Security Strategy project will reassess the options available for future water supplies, and when they are required. The Strategy will also produce a Level of Service (LOS) for the scheme.

Water Supply Levels of Service

Water security level of service (LOS) objectives will be Council's targets for long-term water supply security for the community.

LOS objectives commonly include statements about:

- how much water the water supply system will typically be able to supply
- how often and for how long water restrictions might occur
- the possibility of needing an emergency water supply due to a prolonged drought.

The LOS approach helps make sure that the 'bucket of water' available for treatment and distribution is big enough to supply the community's water needs into the future.

LOS objectives provide a basis for water supply security planning, helping to balance the need for water with the cost of supplying it.









Engagement

Council will also seek to understand the value the community places on increased water security by determining the community's expectations on the frequency and duration of water restrictions while also considering the potential pricing impacts.

A representative engagement panel will be recruited via expressions of interest from the community from 30 November 2020 to 10 January 2021. The panel will be selected in January and three workshops will occur from January to March 2021 to explore the impact of water restrictions on the community and businesses, ideal frequency and duration of water restrictions, willingness to pay for water and water saving actions and water usage behaviours.

Through the Fraser Coast Water Supply Security Study, Council seeks to determine a water security LOS objectives that is reflective of community expectations. As such, this study is to place significant emphasis on consultation with the broader community to determine the communities desirable LOS, the impacts that LOS have on the community and the willingness for the community to fund this LOS.

Timeframes

							
SEP - DEC	DEC - JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	MAR	APR - MAY
Understanding our current capacity	Community Panel Recruitment	Community Panel Workshop 1	Options Assessed for increasing capacity	Community Panel Workshop 2	Community Survey	Community Panel Workshop 3	Reviewing Community Input and Reporting

Further Information

For further information visit Council's Engagement Hub, or contact us on (07) 4124 5455 or hbo@cardno.com.au.

Next Steps

If you are interested in being a member of the Community Panel for this project apply via Council's website.

