

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 March 2019

SEQ asked to be more water wise

South East Queenslanders are being asked to start looking at ways to be more water wise.

Seqwater Chief Executive Officer, Neil Brennan, said a community education campaign was set to start this week with the Water Grid combined dam level expected to fall to 70% capacity.

“The combination of hot, dry conditions, high water use and little or no rain has seen dam levels fall steadily,” Mr Brennan said.

“The Bureau of Meteorology predicts below average rainfall for autumn with warm conditions continuing into April.

“It’s time to start the conversation with SEQ consumers about being more water wise – especially with consumption per person hitting heights we’ve not seen since before the Millennium Drought.”

Householders will start to see waterwise hints for around the house and in the garden from next week on social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn as well as on Seqwater’s website at seqwater.com.au/waterwise.

Mr Brennan said average water use across SEQ for January and February was 211 litres per person per day or almost 25 litres per person higher than the same time last year.

“In January, water use across SEQ peaked at a record 239 litres per person per day; the highest it’s been since before the Millennium Drought.,” Mr Brennan said.

“There are some simple things we can all do that don’t impact on our lifestyle but could make a big difference.”

Mr Brennan said the Water Grid, including the Gold Coast Desalination Plant and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, provided SEQ with one of Australia’s most secure water supplies.

“The Grid allows drinking water to be moved across our region from the Gold Coast to Brisbane, up to the Sunshine Coast and out to Redlands,” he said.



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Mandatory restrictions will not be required unless dam levels fall below 50% capacity. Based on current modelling the earliest restrictions could be required is April 2020, or after the next wet season.

Seqwater will continue to closely monitor weather forecasts, catchment conditions and dam levels, and operate the Water Grid as required to best manage the region's water supply.

Tips on how to be water efficient are now available at www.seqwater.com.au/waterwise or from your water retailer and include:

- Checking our household plumbing for leaks
- Not watering in the heat of the day
- Remembering to put your pool cover on when it's not in use

ENDS

About Seqwater

Seqwater ensures a safe, secure and reliable bulk drinking water supply for 3.1 million people across South East Queensland, and supplies water for irrigation to about 1,200 rural customers. Seqwater also provides essential flood mitigation services and manages popular lake recreational areas visited by more than two million people each year. The organisation is one of Australia's largest water businesses, with operations extending from the New South Wales border to the base of the Toowoomba ranges and north to Gympie.

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