

AWA Catchment Management Specialist Committee

Catchment Management Governance – Website Template	
Jurisdiction:	Queensland
Author:	Kim Markwell, Chris Manning and Greg Greene
Date provided:	28/08/2023
Institutional arrangements summary	<p>There are 23 major catchment areas in Queensland. The management and planning of Queensland waters crosses a range of jurisdictional groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government • Local Governments • Water Service Providers • Natural Resource Management Groups <p>State Government <i>Water allocation</i> Queensland’s regulatory framework for the management of water resources is established in the <i>Water Act 2000</i>. The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water has a lead role in allocating water for use within a catchment, regulating the quality of drinking water treatment and overseeing the storage and distribution of water.</p> <p><i>Water quality</i> The <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (EP Act) and Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019 (EPP Water and Wetland Biodiversity) sets the requirements for the protection of Queensland’s water environments. The Department of Environment and Science leads the management and regulation of the environment, including the maintenance of water quality, aquatic biodiversity and habitats. The Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy 2019 is used to guide how Water Quality (WQ) offsets can be used to achieve the water quality outcomes.</p> <p>The State Government also coordinates regional land use and infrastructure planning, floodplain management planning and regulating works within waterways, amongst other matters.</p> <p>Local Government The State Planning Policy (SPP) makes sure the state's 17 interests in planning, which includes water quality, water supply and biodiversity, are protected and delivered as part of local government planning across Queensland. Local government use the SPP when making or amending their local planning instruments. Some local governments, particularly in</p>

regional Qld also own and operate water and wastewater service providers (see below as well).

Water Service Providers

The Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 applies to all drinking water service suppliers. There are 174 registered service providers state-wide, ranging from very small, remote providers to large utilities serving millions of people in South East Queensland. Water service providers are required to have a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) in place and comply with the plan and any conditions placed upon the plan. Queensland Health has powers to direct water service providers to take certain actions when there is a risk to public health. The Public Health Regulation 2018 sets standards for drinking water based on the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011.

Queensland's dams, weirs, treatment plants and other infrastructure are generally owned and operated by government owned corporations such as Seqwater (South East Queensland) or Sunwater (regional Queensland), or by local government in regional Qld. In some circumstances, this infrastructure is owned by mining companies.

In South East Queensland there are five providers of water and sewerage services across the 11 local council areas, who buy treated bulk water from Seqwater and provide water to homes and businesses. Outside of South East Queensland, local councils are responsible for providing these services to households and businesses. Some areas have local water boards which carry out a range of local water activities, including water supply.

Other local governments who are not classified as a water service provider have a key role in helping to protect drinking water catchments.

Natural Resource Management Groups

In Queensland there are 12 independent not-for-profit natural resource management groups that have been established to deliver sustainable outcomes and conservation for their regions. These groups work in partnership with water service providers and all levels of Government to achieve outcomes for their respective catchments. Natural Resource Management Plans are used to guide the strategic investment and activity in natural resource management across the different regions.

Coordinated Approach

There are a range of programs, plans and organisations which are in place in Queensland to help coordinate water planning and management including:

- Local governments across Queensland have organised into Regional Organisations of Councils to provide a united voice and discuss matters of significance to its region. In SEQ this collective is known as the Council of Mayors (SEQ) and it was established to deliver better regional funding, policy and collaborative outcomes for the communities of South East Queensland. There

	<p>are 17 other ROCs across Qld all working to achieve better outcomes for their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queensland Regional Water Alliances Program (QWRAP) provides a mechanism for regional collaboration and the exploration of alternative arrangements for managing water and sewerage services in regional Queensland. It is a collaboration between the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Queensland Water Directorate (Qldwater) and the Queensland Government, with 56 councils engaged across nine participating regions. • The Resilient Rivers Initiative was launched in 2014 to set the direction for a coordinated approach to catchment management in South East Queensland. Signatories include the Council of Mayors (SEQ), Queensland Government, Seqwater, Healthy Land and Water, Unitywater and Urban Utilities. Catchment Actions Plans are developed and used to guide investment and delivery of priority catchment actions. • In the Reef region the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan outlines management actions for rural and urban land uses to help improve the quality of water draining to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
Primary legislation	<p>Water Act 2000</p> <p>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</p> <p>South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act 1994</p> <p>Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019</p> <p>Public Health Act 2005</p> <p>Public Health Regulation 2018</p> <p>Planning Act 2016</p> <p>State Planning Policy (2017)</p> <p>Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy 2019</p>
Supporting documents (incl standards and guidelines)	<p>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011</p> <p>National Water Quality Management Strategy</p> <p>Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Guidelines (2018)</p> <p>Queensland Monitoring and Sampling Manual (2018)</p>
State Government organisations	<p>Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water</p> <p>Department of Environment and Science</p> <p>Queensland Health</p> <p>Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning</p> <p>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</p>
Water Service Providers	<p>South East Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seqwater • Urban Utilities • UnityWater

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan City Council • City of Gold Coast Council • Redlands City Council <p>Elsewhere in Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunwater • Local councils, water boards and other water service providers - refer to https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/water
<p>Natural Resource Management Groups</p>	<p>Burnett Mary Regional Group Cape York NRM Desert Channels Group Fitzroy Basin Association Gulf Savannah NRM Health Land and Water NQ Dry Tropics Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday) Southern Gulf NRM Southern Queensland Landscapes Terrain NRM (Wet Tropics) Torres Strait Regional Authority</p>

<p>References/Links</p>	<p>Details on Queensland’s water system and water service providers can be found at: https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/water</p> <p>Information on Seqwater can be found at: https://www.seqwater.com.au/</p> <p>Information on Sunwater can be found at: https://www.sunwater.com.au/</p> <p>General information on catchment and water planning in Queensland can be found at: https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/water/catchments</p> <p>Information on protecting the water quality of Queensland waters can be found at: https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/management/water/caring-for-water</p> <p>Information on Queensland Health’s role in protecting drinking water quality can be found at: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/industry-environment/environment-land-water/water/quality</p> <p>Information on the State Planning Policy can be found at: https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/state-planning/state-planning-policy</p> <p>Details on the 12 Natural Resource Management Organisations across Queensland, and the Regional Groups collective, can be found at: https://www.nrmrq.org.au/</p> <p>Information on the Council of Mayors (SEQ) can be found at: https://seqmayors.qld.gov.au/</p> <p>Information on the Resilient Rivers Initiative can be found at: https://resilientrivers.com.au/</p> <p>Information on the Queensland Regional Water Alliances Program (QWRAP) can be found at: https://qldwater.com.au/qwrap</p>
<p>Attachments</p>	<p><i>Include attachments that provide further detail for the website, including organisational charts etc</i></p> <p>See above information and links</p>