WATER for WARRILL

ENHANCING THE WARRILL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME



HOW IT WORKS

The Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme (WVWSS) was established in 1961 following the construction of Moogerah Dam near Aratula.

Under the Scheme, water is released from the Moogerah Dam and flows north along Reynolds Creek and Warrill Creek, downstream to the Bremer River.

A series of weirs act as distribution points for irrigators in six zones (Zones A-F), supporting horticulture, grain and fodder production across approximately 8,000 hectares of farmland.

The system also provides for urban and industrial needs.

Seqwater owns and operates the infrastructure in the scheme under the authority of the Resource Operations Licence for the Warrill Valley water supply scheme.

The Scheme is regulated under the Water Plan (Moreton) 2007.

RELIABILITY LIMITING PRODUCTIVITY

The WVWSS has 396 bulk customers, of which 262 are irrigators who hold 19,676ML of medium priority (MP) and 200ML of high priority (HP).

In drought years, announced allocations for MP water have been as low as 5-71%* in the drought year of 2008-09 – exactly the seasonal conditions in which agribusinesses need water the most.

Reliability of supply is the critical factor required to give business owners the confidence to invest in new infrastructure to expand farm production and boost value-added processing in the region.

** Source: Seqwater Warrill Valley WSS Scheme Performance Report 2024-25*

MORE INFORMATION

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THE SOLUTION

Water for Warrill's Stage 2 investigations identified a clear opportunity to overcome the challenge: capturing floodwater and storing it locally could deliver a step change in water reliability, productivity and economic growth for the Warrill Valley.

At the centre of this opportunity is a new off-stream storage, designed to capture high-flow events and make water available when it is needed most.

The Stage 2 assessment identified:

- SEVEN POTENTIAL SITES FOR A NEW OFF-STREAM STORAGE HOLDING UP TO 12,000ML
- A PATHWAY TO UNLOCKING UP TO $30 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN APPROXIMATELY 8,000ML OF NEW ON-FARM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
- EFFICIENCY GAINS THROUGH TARGETED AMENDMENTS TO THE MORETON WATER PLAN

Together, these initiatives have the potential to deliver:

- A 15-20% INCREASE IN THE RELIABILITY OF WATER AVAILABLE TO IRRIGATORS
- AROUND $250,000 PER YEAR IN ADDITIONAL INCOME PER FARM
- A LONG-TERM ENTERPRISE VALUE INCREASE OF $3 MILLION OR MORE.

+16% medium-priority announced allocation performance from a 12,000 ML off-stream scheme storage (48.9% → 64.6%)



PORTFOLIO APPROACH

New storages form part of a broader, integrated water system approach that combines:

- **Flood harvesting**
- **Existing scheme water**
- **Targeted amendments to the Moreton Water Plan**
- **Exploring future opportunities such as recycled water**

This portfolio approach ensures water can be supplied at different price points and reliability levels, supporting a wide range of agricultural and industrial uses.

TARGETED WATER PLAN AMENDMENTS

1 OUTCOMES & MEASURES

Amended Water Plan to set measurable strategies for its general outcomes

2 ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW OBJECTIVES

Reset node F mean annual flow objective (81% → ~80%) to permit flood harvesting that also cuts Ipswich flood peaks

3 WATER ALLOCATION SECURITY OBJECTIVES

MP objective reset

monthly water-sharing index at least 45%, and minimise time below 65%

4 UNALLOCATED WATER RESERVE

Strategic reserve of up to 20,000 ML for the Warrill Valley (plan currently provides only 100 ML), usable for new entitlements and/or reliability of existing allocations

5 TRADING LIMITS

MP permanent trading limits +1,500 ML in zones A–E (Protocal change)

6 MONITORING & MODEL

Seqwater, DLGWV and DETSI urgently co-invest in flow monitoring and IQQM refinement to enable flexible trading, transfers and HP/MP conversion during the next plan's life

7 ONE PACKAGE

Progress the changes as an integrated set. Individually modest, collectively a step change: less pressure on Moogerah, better HP and MP reliability, more effective water without significant new consumptive demand



Bores

Moreton Water Plan

Watercourses

Water licences

Warrill Water Supply Scheme Trading Zones and Bores

0 2.5 5 7.5 10

Kilometres

N

Scale: 1:227,000

