Protecting Queensland’s waterways

Bulk Water Supply Governance for a resilient South East Queensland

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Resilient water systems

• Appropriate institutional structure and infrastructure
• Clear assignment of policy, service delivery and regulatory responsibilities
• Governance responsive to drought and floods (active management)
Driven by national policy and extreme events
Adaptations occurring from early 1990s to present

Year
2011 floods impact
2001 – 2009 millennium drought
Level in Wivenhoe Dam (% Full Supply Volume)
National Competition Policy COAG Water Reforms
Protecting Queensland’s waterways
Queensland Government
Achieving resilience

Resilience through appropriate:
• legislation and regulation
• service delivery arrangements
• long and short term planning
• drought response
• seasonal flood risk management
• well planned investments
Legislation and regulation

- South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007
- South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009
- Water Act 2000
- Water Regulation 2016
- Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008
- Building Queensland Act 2015
Service delivery arrangements

• Service provision reduced from 18 to 5 service providers

• 1 bulk water supply authority

• Grid established

• Manufactured water assets ★
Drought response

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND
Adaptive Drought Response Approach

- Water Efficiency Awareness
- Drought Readiness
- Drought Response
- Drought Contingency
Integrated regional and catchment planning

- Water allocation and management framework
- Service standards
- Water supply security
- Dam flood operations
- Seasonal weather forecasts
- Dam safety
Active seasonal flood risk management

• Temporary fully supply levels - advice to the Minister
• Advice includes meteorological forecasts, water supply security, impacts on the safety of the dam, compliance with water plans and community disruption
• Advice provided by Department of Environment and Science, Bureau of Meteorology, Seqwater and the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy
Well planned investments

- Water supply (Seqwater and SEQ service providers)
- Building Queensland
Summary

• Appropriate institutional structure and infrastructure
• Clear assignment of policy, service delivery and regulatory responsibilities
• Governance responsive to drought and floods (active management)