

Recreation Management Framework

SOURCE



STORE



SUPPLY



Kayaking at Hinze Dam



Recreation area at Lake Baroon

Seqwater – delivering Australia's most secure water supply

Seqwater ensures a safe, secure and reliable water supply for almost three million people across South East Queensland. We are also responsible for flood mitigation and catchment management, as well as providing recreation facilities and irrigation services to rural customers.

We are one of Australia's largest water businesses managing more than \$9 billion of traditional and climate-resilient water supply assets, with operations extending from the New South Wales border to the base of the Toowoomba ranges and north to Gympie.

An important part of ensuring a high-quality supply is managing the health of our region's catchments, which cover more than 60 000 hectares of land throughout South East Queensland. We take a whole-of-catchment approach to water quality management, also minimising our environmental impact. This involves improving catchment biodiversity and working towards more sustainable land use, in partnership with our neighbours.

Background

We provide a range of recreation facilities in the areas adjacent to our dams, making up more than 50 per cent of the region's green space (excluding land designated for conservation) and attract more than two million visitors each year. Seqwater provides a variety of water-based and on-shore activities, while striving to balance the ongoing health of catchments and the quality of the region's water supply.

Collectively these water storages provide a 'recreational landscape' of regional significance.

Seqwater is the only major bulk water provider in Australia that manages 'open' catchments, allowing the community to enjoy lakes and catchment land while ensuring quality bulk drinking water supply for South East Queensland.

Recreation on Seqwater lakes and land must be managed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the core role of these assets – providing a safe, secure and reliable water supply.

Many land use decisions are, for all practical purposes, irreversible because of the social and/or financial costs involved. It is important that we make responsible decisions now to ensure a sustainable future.

The protection of our catchments and lakes requires careful consideration and planning. While there is strong demand for increased recreation opportunities, this must be balanced with the protection of a precious resource and the ongoing provision of drinking water to a growing population.

Seqwater recognises the importance of recreation to the community and encourages the responsible enjoyment of our natural areas.

Seqwater has developed the Recreation Management Framework to guide decision making and frame policy decisions.

Seqwater's natural areas

Seqwater owns or manages approximately 60 000 hectares of land across South East Queensland. This provides recreation users with a diversity of choice and experiences to enjoy.

The protection of our natural areas has always been to enhance the natural environment and minimise the risks to water quality. Opportunities for outdoor recreation are not only limited by available space, but also by the other values and uses that exist for these sites.

Our Recreational Management Framework recognises that recreation in natural areas is a legitimate use, however not all activities can be provided or accommodated at every site, nor it is desirable to do so. Recreation opportunities occur on private land, in national parks and state forests, and in local council areas. A key foundation of the implementation of the Recreation Management Framework is the collaboration with other key stakeholders and agencies who manage recreation to ensure a regional approach to recreation planning.

The purpose of the Recreation Management Framework is to ensure that recreation can continue to meet the demands of a growing population while protecting the core role of the natural areas—providing a safe, secure and reliable water supply

Overall direction

Seqwater's objective is to:

Manage access to recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and water quality

This objective will be achieved through the application and implementation of a number of key principles:



1. Minimise risks to water quality through:

- > understanding and effectively managing the recreation impacts on water quality
- > ensuring compliance with Seqwater's Water Quality Policy
- > educating stakeholders and the community.



2. Ensure environmental sustainability through:

- > acknowledging and protecting the natural and cultural values of the landscape
- > partnering with key agencies.



3. Diversity in the range of outdoor recreation activities, locations and settings through:

- > planning for a range of activities geographically across the SEQ region
- > maintaining a range of natural settings
- > collaborating with a number of key agencies tasked with land management.



4. Ensure all use consistent with Seqwater's asset and land management practices through:

- > ensuring assets are fit for purpose and are adequately maintained
- > implementing appropriate management structures
- > establishing consistent land management agreements.



5. Facilitating sustainable recreation through:

- > partnerships and engagement with key agencies and representative bodies from the recreation sector
- > strategic and management planning
- > effective communication and education
- > management of existing and future infrastructure requirements.



6. Engage with external regulating agencies through:

- > partnerships created to assist with enforcement strategies
- > communication and planning with regulating agencies.

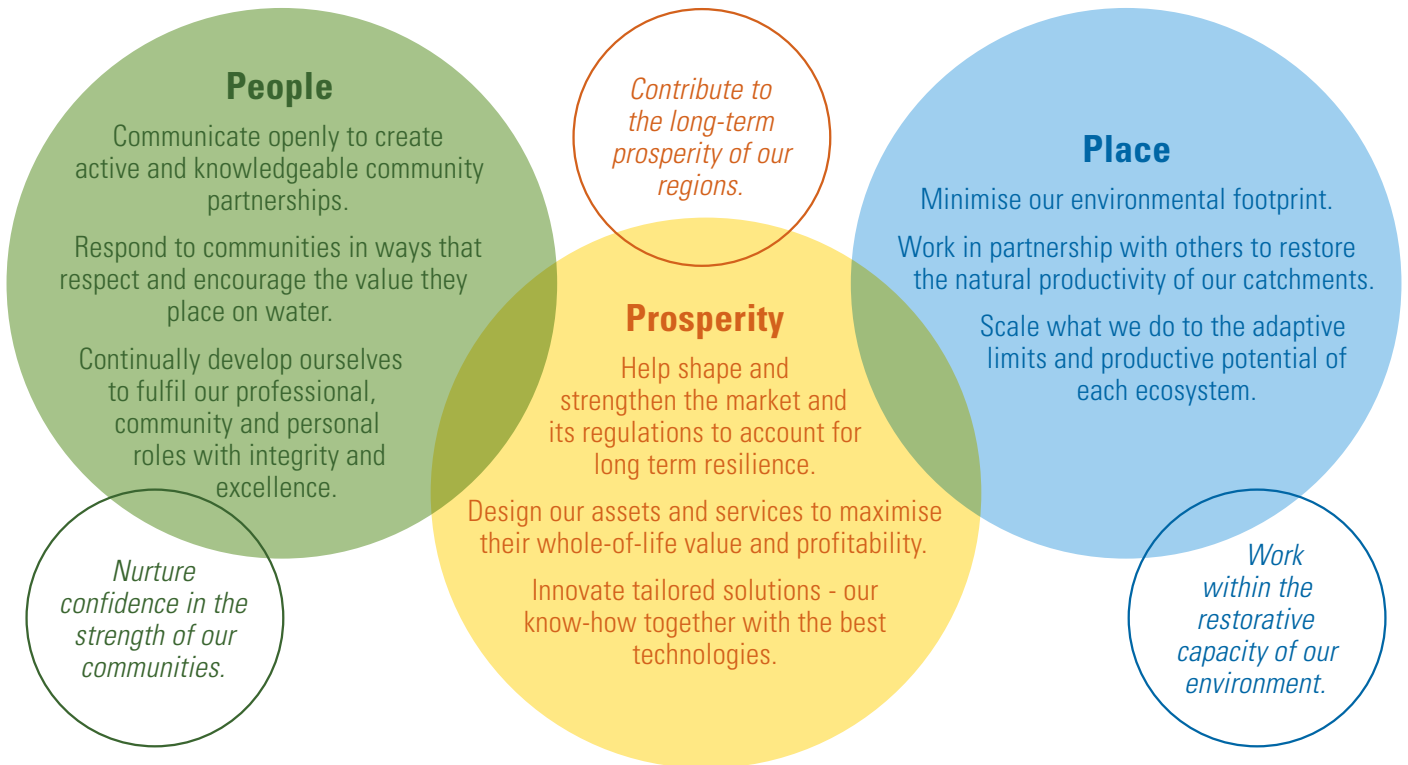


7. Meeting financial management outcomes through:

- > ongoing management and development of commercial revenue streams and cost minimisation strategies
- > developing strategies to fund the development or upgrade of facilities based on a user pays concept where appropriate
- > recognising the financial implication of risk mitigation strategies.

Sustainability

Seqwater's Sustainability Charter underpins this Recreation Management Framework and influences the management of our natural areas.



Sustainability Principle	Action
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Protect the natural and cultural values of the landscape. > Manage the impact of recreation within the adaptive limits of the ecosystems of our natural areas. > Minimise the risks to water quality. > Achieve a balance and diversity of recreation experiences and settings. > Provide safe and well maintained facilities.
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Engage and educate stakeholders and the community. > Collaborate with other key agencies tasked with land management and recreation. > Promote and encourage responsible enjoyment of our natural areas > Ensure a safe, secure and reliable water supply
Prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Manage recreation opportunities to ensure that the community's enjoyment of the natural areas is the primary objective. > Proactively manage facilities and seek innovative ways to sustain investment in infrastructure to support community needs and expectations.

Implementation

Implementation of the Recreation Management Framework will encompass the following process.

- **Site-based Recreation Management Plan development.**

- > There is an opportunity to develop these management plans in local clusters. Local cluster groups provide the opportunity to manage water storages and catchments in conjunction with one another, allowing the provision of differing experiences and settings to be catered for, as well as provide spill over areas to manage peak usage and prevent overuse.

- **Effective management of permitted activities, including:**

- > rationalising of under-used or out-dated facilities
- > ensuring the provision of a diversity of recreational settings and experiences
- > promoting community education
- > working through SIPS (Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme) to standardise fishing permit schemes and fish stocking
- > working with Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding the management of boat ramps.

- **Develop partnerships with key stakeholders, including partnerships with:**

- > key enforcement agencies
- > regional recreational planning agencies.

- **Manage recreation risks, including:**

- > managing events effectively and the other uses of the sites
- > implementing effective risk management processes and mitigation measures.

- **Improve communication and education. This may include developing and implementing:**

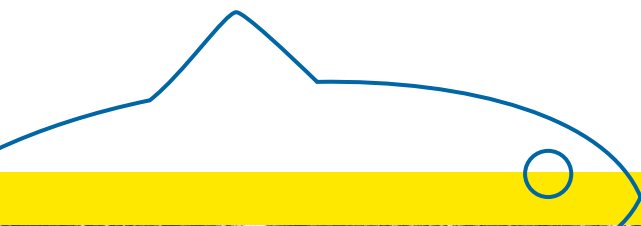
- > information brochures
- > signage
- > interactive online functionality on our website
- > education programs.

- **Improve internal management structures, including:**

- > developing recreation related policy
- > standardising permits and licences

- **Engaging with stakeholders when forward planning, including:**

- > establishing cross/joint funding partnerships
- > monitoring the use, visitor numbers and experience at recreation sites
- > undertaking research into the effects of recreation on the environment and water quality.



Enjoying our natural areas

Respect

Enjoy and respect what makes our natural areas special. Remember that these areas feed our drinking water supply. Please:

- > Leave the facilities as you found them. Do not cause damage to any property, flora or fauna.
- > Respect the fact that other visitors are using the facilities too. Please behave in an orderly, decent manner and keep any noise to a volume that will not cause a nuisance.
- > Place all litter in the bins provided.
- > Leave your pets at home. Dogs and other domestic animals can disturb the wildlife that lives in our natural areas.

Observe

Observe the signs and follow the rules. Understand what you can do where, and when you can do it.

Plan ahead and be prepared for the outdoors.

You should always check the Seqwater website to find out about the recreational area you intend to visit.

Be safe

Dams are part of the natural environment and you need to remember to be careful with local fauna. You are encouraged to carry a first aid kit as mobile phone reception is limited in many areas.

Take care when swimming, skiing and boating on Seqwater dams. Our dams and lakes are part of natural systems and have naturally occurring characteristics that you need to be mindful of. These characteristics change regularly and include changing bacteria levels and water debris above and below the water. This is a very normal and an expected occurrence in any natural system. From time to time it may be necessary for Seqwater to close recreation areas for safety reasons.

Events and organised activities

It's important to ensure that events and activities are managed to limit the impacts to natural areas, minimise the inconvenience to other users of the site, and ensure the safety of all concerned.

If you would like to hold an event or organised activity at any of our sites, you need to obtain permission to do so. Please submit an application at least four weeks prior to the event date to allow it to be assessed and approved in time. Applications can be made to recreation@seqwater.com.au.

Commercial activities

Our primary objective is to manage recreational access to our recreation areas for the public. We do recognise commercial operators can play a role in supporting visitor needs and increasing the public's enjoyment and appreciation of our natural areas.

Seqwater's intent is that public access is given priority, however the operation of limited commercial activities in circumstances that preserve our environmental and water quality objectives will be considered in-line with our commercial activities policy. Where our natural assets are used for commercial gain, a commercial fee will apply.

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SOURCE



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SUPPLY



Ewen Maddock Dam

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