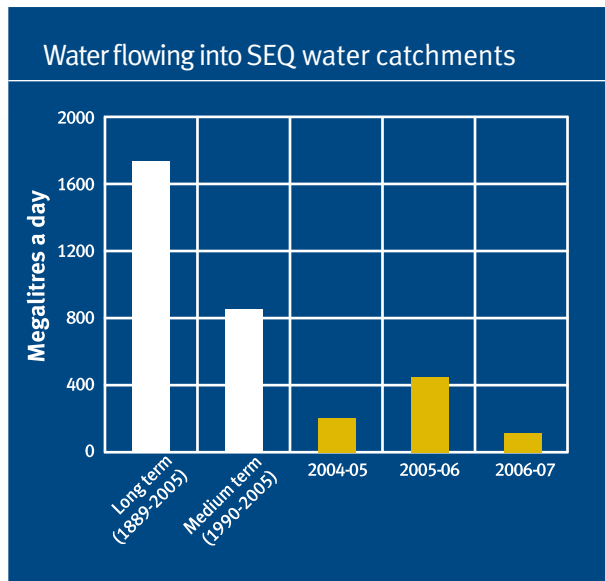


The facts

Understanding water supplies in SEQ

Severe drought

SEQ is currently experiencing the worst drought in more than 100 years. The amount of water flowing into dams and other water storages across the region is at the lowest-ever recorded point.



Climate change

There is a very real prospect of continuing irregular rainfall due to natural climate variability and long-term climate change. And whilst understanding the effects of population and demand is comparatively easy, those of climate change are more difficult. As the size and nature of the change is not certain, SEQ must be prepared for the fact that existing dams may produce less water than in the past.

Managing demand

The Queensland Government is ensuring the best use of all available water by supporting councils in their work to better regulate water pressure and possible leakages. Business, industry and householders are being encouraged to reduce water demands. The aim is to reduce SEQ water use by around 22 per cent by 2026.

A single solution to the long-term water needs of SEQ does not exist

It is clear that without additional water supplies for SEQ, there will be numerous negative impacts - even with new supplies and better use of water. As a region, we all need to think smarter about how we use water.





Water flowing into SEQ water catchments

Water flowing into the Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams between April 2006 and March 2007 was less than 5 per cent of the normal average.

This reduction is due to dramatically different rainfall patterns across the region in recent times. It is compounded by the fact that when rain does fall, the ground is so dry that not as much water actually flows into the dams.

A megalitre is equal to one million litres. This is about as much water as in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.



The Queensland Government's response

In response, the Queensland Government has developed a range of measures to secure our water supplies for the future. We will be making water from other sources (such as seawater), building new water storages, and moving water around more effectively.

