

# Planning for the Future of the South-East Queensland Bulk Water Supply Grid – A Complex Challenge



# Introduction



- This presentation provides an overview of how Seqwater have approached planning for the bulk water supply grid
- In particular through the example of a specific project – the Network Assessment Project (NAP)
- The grid has been in place for 10 years, but it has taken some time to develop our approach to this point
- Connecting many sources, treatment plants and networks has created a complex system which is difficult to analyse
- The role of the treated water network has changed and we have had to develop new planning methods

# Presentation Overview



- History of the grid and SEQ water industry
- The role of the grid and how it is operated
- Planning criteria
- Planning for each performance “limit state”
- Integrated needs assessment
- Conclusions

# History of the grid



- Was created in response to the Millennium Drought to improve water security by providing ability to share water between regions
- Prior to that water sources, treatment and transport were the responsibilities of individual Local Governments
- 11 water treatment plants and sources including Gold Coast Desalination
- Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme
- Interconnector pipelines between sub-regions

# Overview of the grid



## Legend

- Northern Pipeline Interconnector
- Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme
- Southern Regional Water Pipeline
- Eastern Pipeline Interconnector
- Network Integration Pipeline
- Other bulk water pipelines connecting the SEQ water grid
- Local government boundary

- Reservoirs
- Water Treatment Plants (WTP) – connected to grid
- Water Treatment Plants (WTP) – off-grid
- Water Treatment Plants (WTP) – other
- Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme
- Desalination plant

### Water Treatment Plants (WTP)

- 1 Amity Point WTP
- 2 Atkinson Dam WTP
- 3 Banksia Beach WTP
- 4 Beaudesert WTP
- 5 Boonah Kalbar WTP
- 6 Borumba Dam WTP
- 7 Canungra WTP
- 8 Capalaba WTP
- 9 Dayboro WTP
- 10 Dunwich WTP
- 11 East Bank (Mt Crosby) WTP
- 12 Enoggera WTP
- 13 Esk WTP
- 14 Ewen Maddock WTP
- 15 Hinze Dam WTP
- 16 Image Flat WTP
- 17 Jimna WTP
- 18 Kenilworth WTP
- 19 Kilcoy WTP
- 20 Kirkleagh WTP
- 21 Kooralbyn WTP
- 22 Landers Shute WTP
- 23 Linville WTP
- 24 Lowood WTP
- 25 Maroon Dam WTP
- 26 Molendinar WTP
- 27 Moogerah Dam WTP
- 28 Mudgeeraba WTP
- 29 Noosa WTP
- 30 North Pine WTP
- 31 North Stradbroke Island WTP

- 32 Petrie WTP
- 33 Point Lookout WTP
- 34 Rathdowney WTP
- 35 Somerset Dam (Township) WTP
- 36 West Bank (Mt Crosby) WTP
- 37 Wivenhoe Dam WTP

### Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme

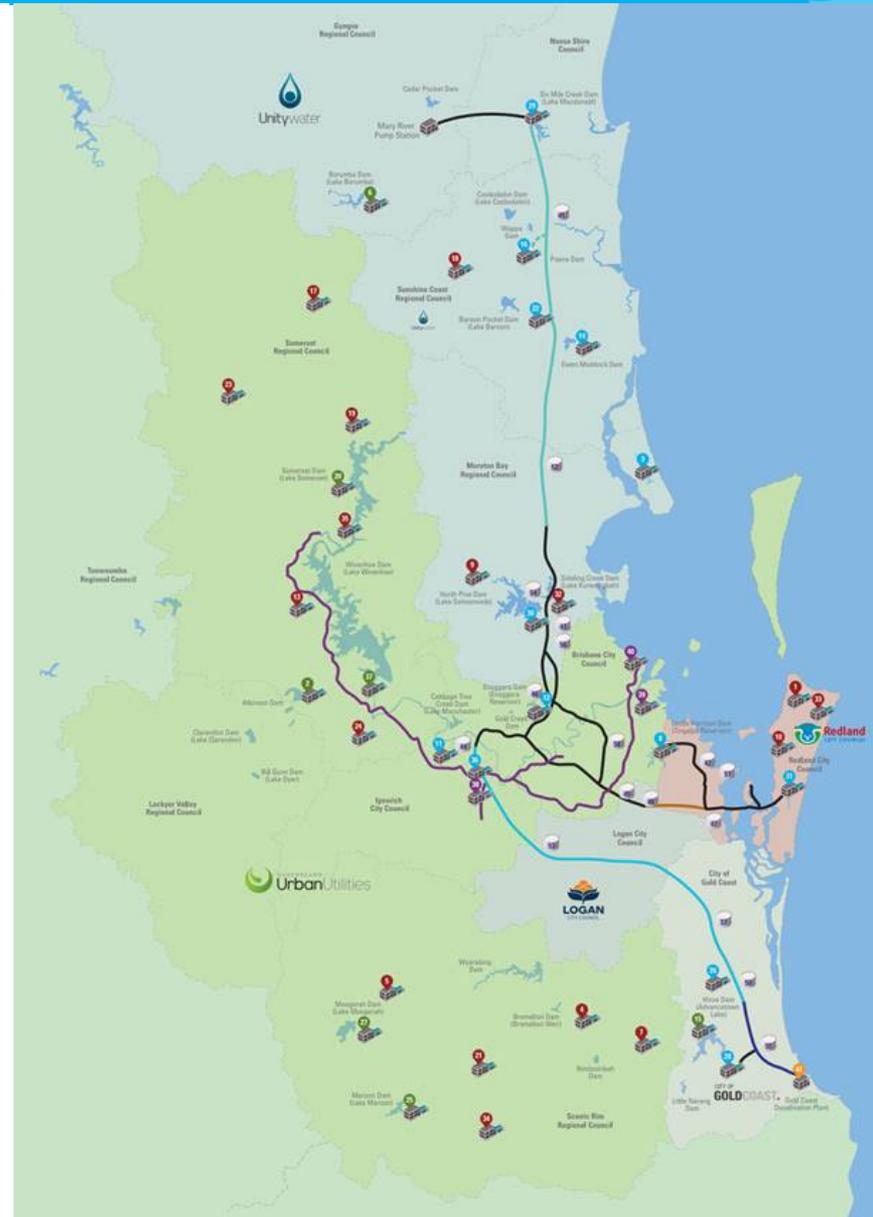
- 38 Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP)
- 39 Gibson Island AWTP
- 40 Luggage Point AWTP

### Desalination Plant

- 41 Gold Coast Desalination Plant

### Reservoirs

- 42 Alexandra Hills Reservoirs
- 43 Aspley Reservoir
- 44 Camerons Hill Reservoir
- 45 Ferntree Reservoir
- 46 Green Hill Reservoirs
- 47 Heinemann Road Reservoirs
- 48 Kimberley Park Reservoirs
- 49 Kuraby Reservoir
- 50 Molendinar Reservoir
- 51 Mt Cotton Reservoir
- 52 Narangba Reservoirs
- 53 North Beaudesert Reservoirs
- 54 North Pine Reservoirs
- 55 Robina Reservoir
- 56 Sparkes Hill Reservoirs
- 57 Stapylton Reservoir
- 58 Wellers Hill Reservoirs



# The role of the grid and its operation



- The grid is the bulk water supply system that sources, treats and transports water to the Water Service Provider (retailer) reticulation
- Allows water to be shared across the region, by moving water from where there is excess capacity to where there is a deficit
- When dams are full it is primarily operated to minimise operating cost
- When dams are falling the philosophy is to draw them all down together – needs the grid to support dams that are lower

# The role of the grid and its operation



- The grid can also be used to share capacity during peak demand and emergency situations.
- Each source and/or treatment plant does not necessarily have to be 100% reliable as the grid provides some redundancy/ resilience – efficiencies can be gained where appropriate
- The grid operation also influences water quality (disinfection residual) and certain operations are made to maintain or improve it.

# Planning criteria



- The role of the treated water network has changed compared to pre-grid times
- Connecting multiple sources, treatment plants and networks together creates inter-dependence
- They can no longer be planned for separately
- The treated water network now plays a role in source reliability (drought), treatment capacity and reliability, and whole of system reliability.
- For the bulk supply network at least, maximum flow is no longer necessarily peak demand

# Planning criteria



- Criteria need to be defined to measure how the bulk supply network performs in these new roles
- We created 4 performance “limit states”:
  - Peak demand – traditional peak day and MDMM
  - Water security – having enough source water through a range of climatic conditions (LOS criteria and drought response)
  - Reliability/resilience – keeping system failures to an acceptable level
  - Water quality – maintaining adequate disinfection

# Planning for peak demand



- The bulk supply system needs to be capable of providing mean day maximum month (MDMM) demand
- Some local areas also need to meet peak day/hour
- Bulk water balances are performed first to determine the balance of treatment production
- Hydraulic modelling to assess how the network performs for those bulk water balances
- Any improvement needs identified

# Planning for water security



- Water balance modelling for the grid including storages using the Regional Stochastic Model (RSM) to determine probable performance for a range of climate conditions
- Assess against regulated Levels of Service Objectives (need to pass 1 in 10,000 year drought and not enforce restrictions more than once in 10 years)
- Develop a drought response contingency plan in case drought is worse (you don't know until it is too late)
- Test critical operations in the hydraulic model and identify any improvement needs

# Planning for reliability/resilience



- At the moment as an industry we don't have defined criteria for this
- The NAP has analysed individual WTP outages (planned and unplanned) for information and identify any obvious risks
- Water balance and hydraulic modelling were used to assess the consequences of each outage
- The intent is to develop some criteria in future and assess performance against these

# Planning for water quality



- Seqwater operates to the relevant water quality requirements, however the minimum disinfection residual specifications are more relevant to the customer tap than the bulk supply network
- Seqwater does not currently have disinfection residual planning criteria for the bulk supply network
- Assessment was done using water age modelling for various operating scenarios and reviewing the change in age to identify potential issues

# Integrated needs assessment



- Assessments for each performance limit state identified many improvement needs over the next 30 years
- Many of the needs interact with each other – resolving one need may resolve others as well, or make them worse
- Problem has too many variables to be solved using traditional approach (eg MCA)
- Adopted approach divides needs into 5 tiers and solves for Tier 1 first
- Following adoption of Tier 1 strategy, lower order needs will be resolved

# Assessment tiers



- Tier 1 - Source, treatment and major transfer related needs at the whole-of-grid scale as prescribed by the Planning Criteria e.g. LOS and MDMM
- Tier 2 - Transfer and distribution related needs which have the potential to interact with Tier 1 as prescribed by the Planning Criteria e.g. bulk transfer capacity, regional storage
- Tier 3 - Independent localised issues as prescribed by the Planning Criteria e.g. supply reservoir storage
- Tier 4 - Interactive issues for which there are no planning criteria, therefore no definitive requirement to solve it but there is a recognised potential for risk e.g. WTP resilience during 48hr shutdown
- Tier 5 - Interactive issues for which there are no planning criteria, therefore no definitive requirement to solve it, no recognised risk but there is benefit in improving the situation opportunistically through works justified for other reasons identified during the NAP e.g. water quality and WTP resilience during 28d shutdown

# Tier 1 assessment approach



- Tier 1 approach resolves each need chronologically as failure occurs
- Options are identified and the benefit provided to resolving each need quantified
- Benefits are weighted and summed
- Benefit cost ratio for each option indexed and added to indexed qualitative (eg social, environmental impact) ratings
- The most cost effective option selected as preferred and assessment progressed to next point of failure and process is repeated









# Tier 2 approach



- Tier 2 and 3 needs were not resolved within the NAP
- Highly interactive between Seqwater and Water Service Provider networks
- Options will involve actions in either network or both
- Collaborative approach is required
- Tier 2 and 3 needs assembled into planning projects requiring action (local area plans)
- Two of these projects have been completed to date and another is about to commence

# Project outcomes



- A servicing strategy at the bulk supply level was developed, which will allow more detailed planning at the network and facility level to progress
- A program of proposed capital works was developed – source, treatment and network augmentations
- A program of future planning studies was developed
- We now have a process that can be used to assess performance of inter-related system components

# Conclusions



- The role of the treated water network within the grid has changed
- Supply can be balanced in many ways
- For the bulk supply system, the needs of water security, reliability/resilience and water quality also need to be assessed in addition to peak demand
- Many of the needs are highly interactive
- Seqwater and the Water Service Providers need to work collaboratively to plan the interface regions

# Thank you for listening



- Any questions?