

Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme Landholder newsletter

March 2025

The construction of Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) was completed in late 2023. It is the largest piece of new bulk water infrastructure delivered in Australia since the Queensland Government completed Wyaralong Dam in 2011.

The weir provides 86,000 ML of medium priority (MP) equivalent water each year for agricultural, urban and industrial use. It supports irrigation for grain, fruit and nut crops as well as livestock production, and offers greater water security for the region.

The structure includes an innovative turtle passage to allow two threatened native species of turtles to safely cross the weir, and a fish lock to allow fish to navigate the weir.

What's happening at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu)?

Our environmental program ensures we comply with approval conditions required by the Australian and Queensland governments, including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

The program includes four focus areas:

- feral pest management
- water quality monitoring
- fish monitoring
- turtle nest protection.

An update on the focus areas, as well as details for upcoming landholder information sessions, is provided in this newsletter.

Feral pest management

Our Feral Pest Management Plan aims to help reduce feral pest numbers and protect vulnerable turtle species.

Since Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) became operational, we have worked with relevant landholders to conduct camera trap surveys in and around turtle nesting sites on the Fitzroy and Mackenzie rivers.

Landholder information sessions

Sunwater is holding two sessions to enable landholders to receive an update about our environmental monitoring program and water lettuce, and ask questions about our activities, land access and other property related matters.

Session 1

When: 6pm-7.30pm, Wednesday 2 April
Where: Duaringa Hotel, 20 Edward St

Session 2

When: 6pm-7.30pm, Thursday 3 April
Where: Gogango Hall, 12 Wills St

Please RSVP by **Friday 28 March** to customerengagement@sunwater.com.au if you would like to attend an information session.

Data from last year's surveys is being used to plan priority sites for this year's activities, which are expected to start between April and June 2025. If we have an access agreement with you and need access, we will notify you before work starts.

Turtle nest protection

Last year, we established measures to protect and support the vulnerable Fitzroy River Turtle and the critically endangered White-throated Snapping Turtle.

These measures included:

- identifying turtle nest locations
- trapping and tagging these turtle species
- collecting monitoring data of the movement of turtles in the Fitzroy River.

In late 2024, our staff and contractors received training from recognised experts in the protection of Fitzroy River Turtle and White-throated Snapping Turtle nests.

We will restart turtle nest protection for the White-throated Snapping species in late March 2025, so you may see our team out and about on the river in the coming months.

Fish monitoring

We continue to monitor and tag fish upstream and downstream of the weir to assess population diversity and the effectiveness of the fish passages located at the weir and the Fitzroy Barrage.

In late 2024, we held guided tours of the Fitzroy Barrage fishway for the community as part of Rockhampton Regional Council's Fitzroy River Barrage Open Day.



Sunwater staff monitoring fish populations

Water quality monitoring

We continue to conduct monthly water quality monitoring within the Fitzroy River catchment from Boolburra and Apis creek crossings downstream to Rockhampton.

We have been working closely with Central Queensland University to build upon our current understanding of water quality. Blue-green algae, microalgae, nutrients and other water quality parameters are being closely monitored to assess opportunities for improved monitoring and management options for the weir.

Negotiating access to your property

Thank you to everyone who has already met with us to discuss land access matters. If we need access to your property for our environmental program, we will be in touch to seek your written consent. This is referred to as a land access agreement.

If you haven't heard from us but are willing to provide access or have questions about our activities, please get in touch with our Customer Support team on 13 15 89.

Water lettuce update

In 2024, water lettuce was found upstream of the weir. We are working closely with stakeholders including the Department of Primary Industries and local councils to implement a biocontrol program to reduce water lettuce in the upper catchment.

For our customers

Customer Advisory Committee (CAC)

CACs provide customers and stakeholders with a forum for collaboration and consultation with us on a range of strategic and operational matters.

We previously indicated that we would seek nominations for membership for the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme CAC in the second half of 2024. This process has been delayed so we can work with individual customers on their readiness to take water.

Expression of interest - conversion of MP water allocations

In December 2024, we invited existing MP allocation holders to express an interest in converting MP allocations to high priority in zones D and E. This period has now closed and the available 1500 ML is being converted.

Phone: 13 15 89

Email: customersupport@sunwater.com.au

Live chat: [sunwater.com.au](https://www.sunwater.com.au) (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)

Post: PO Box 15536, City East QLD 4002

Fax: 07 3036 6482

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