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RESILIENT RIVERS INITIATIVE

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About SEQ's waterways

South East Queensland's (SEQ) relationship with its waterways is unique in Australia. SEQ is the only major Australian settlement built substantially on floodplains. The topography of the region has resulted in 19 relatively short catchments flowing from the nearby Great Dividing Range into the internationally recognised Moreton Bay. The region's open catchments support urban and economic growth through drinking and other water supplies, high-quality agricultural production, globally renowned tourism and leisure facilities, scenic amenity, and world-class fisheries.

“ Our vision... ”

By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region.

What is the Resilient Rivers Initiative?

The Resilient Rivers Initiative is a partnership between Council of Mayors (SEQ), the Queensland Government, water utilities, key regional waterways and catchment organisations and the community. The initiative aims to improve the health of our waterways and Moreton Bay by delivering more coordinated catchment management to protect our water and keep soil on our land and out of the waterways. The initiative recognises that we can deliver more together than alone.

What are the goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative?

- To promote partnerships with strong leadership to deliver a coordinated approach to catchment management in SEQ.
- To keep soil on our land and out of our waterways.
- To help protect our region's water security so it can support the current and future population of SEQ.
- To improve the climate resilience of our region.

Who is working on the Resilient Rivers Initiative?



What are the challenges?

The capacity of SEQ to continue to grow its population, its economy and employment is directly linked to the capacity of its waterways to support this growth and maintain the quality of life for which the region is renowned. SEQ delivers more than its share to Australia's economic growth, with a gross domestic product of \$170 billion, half that of Queensland. The future growth of this vital region will be determined by the decisions being made now, at all three levels of government, about our catchments.

The last decade has been one of climatic extremes for SEQ. The record drought years followed by devastating floods have highlighted the importance of enhancing the resilience of the region's waterways and water security in SEQ. The communities of SEQ are very aware that they live in a catchment and the economic and social impacts of droughts and floods have been highly significant.

Security of our clean drinking water; healthy productive farming lands; the tourism icon of Moreton Bay as well as the Gold and Sunshine Coast beaches; and infrastructure such as the Port, roads, bridges and pipes - is the ultimate objective. It is time for co-ordinated action.

What will the initiative do?

The Resilient Rivers Initiative will deliver on four key areas of work:

- Better coordination of existing projects;
- Identification and implementation of agreed new projects;
- Development of a strategy to guide long term coordinated management; and
- Progressive development of more detailed and consistent catchment action plans for all of SEQ's catchments.

The final outcome will be a coordinated program of works that focuses on innovative approaches to achieving our goals, backed by science and local knowledge. There is no one single solution to these issues. It requires a collaborative and multi-pronged approach, across state and local government agencies, water utilities, regional partners and the community.

What actions will we take?

Action plans will be developed by the partnership and may include:

- Catchment restoration activities such as earthworks and revegetation;
- Implementation of best management practices for grazing and horticulture; and
- Erosion and sediment control practices such as swales and barriers to stop soil movement during construction.


Snapshot of projects already underway

Many projects are already underway which aim to keep the soil on the land and out of the waterways, protect our region's water security and make our waterways resilient to extreme weather events. Significant financial investments are made by local, Queensland and Australian governments, Seqwater, water utilities and members of the community to care for catchments and waterways. This initiative will build upon this strong foundation.



50,000 ha protected under Land for Wildlife
with local government support

Queensland Government
\$2 MILLION PER YEAR
Healthy Catchments funding
\$2.4 MILLION PER YEAR
Regional NRM Investment

7,052 hectares of hill-slope and gully erosion management

887km of stream bank flood resilience works



How will we measure on our success?

A key part of the initiative will be measuring the success of on ground change to achieving the goals and targets. Measuring outcomes through the Healthy Waterways annual report card will also better inform future investment decisions.

Before and after a coordinated catchment approach

The Resilient Rivers Initiative was founded on the recognition that a coordinated approach to catchment management is vital to ensure future economic, social and environmental health of the region.

Current

Fragmented approach with overlapping investment



Future

Coordinated approach with optimised investment

