

# **Summary of annual reports and financial statements**

Queensland's category 2  
water authorities

2006–07

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## Introduction

As statutory authorities, water authorities are accountable under public sector accountability legislation and regulations, including the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* and the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

A water authority has statutory obligations to provide an annual report and audited financial statements to the Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland in each financial year. The Minister must either table a copy of each annual report in the Queensland Parliament or prepare a summary report for all category 2 water authorities for tabling in parliament.

This report summarises the annual reports and financial statements of the 52 category 2 water authorities (bore water boards, drainage boards and water supply boards) operating in Queensland during the 2006–07 financial year (see location map and index, page 8). The Weengallon Water Authority also appears in the location map and is listed in the index. This water authority was established but did not commence its operations during the 2006-07 year.

This document fulfils the Minister's statutory obligations under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*. It is a public document and available to the community.

Copies of the annual report and audited financial statements for individual water authorities may be obtained from the relevant water authority or from Water Industry Administration, Department of Natural Resources and Water. For contact details, see page 7.

### Number and nature of existing water authorities

As at 30 June 2007, there were 53 category 2 water authorities established in Queensland under the *Water Act 2000* (the Act).

On 27 October 2006, the Weengallon Water Authority was established as part of the implementation of the joint Commonwealth and state governments' Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI). As at 30 June 2007 the Weengallon Water Authority had not commenced its operations.

Category 2 water authorities range in size from those serving several landholders—where landholders share the cost and workload of maintaining the water infrastructure—to those which support several hundred properties, run a multi-million dollar budget, and employ full-time staff. Although most water authorities serve rural communities, a few water authorities also supply water to urban centres.

### Management of water authorities

Whether a water authority has an approved authority area (in which it carries out 'water activities' decided by it) or not, each authority is managed by a board of directors.

Prospective directors are not required by the Act to live within the water authority area but are to be elected or nominated in accordance with the procedures prescribed by a regulation.

Currently, the *Water Regulation 2002* contains the relevant provisions for the conduct of elections either by mail or at a meeting of ratepayers. Subsequent to the election or nomination of persons, all directors must be appointed by the Governor in Council. A director continues holding office after the director's term of office ends until the director's successor is appointed.

The contact person/secretary for each water authority as at 30 June 2007 is listed in this report. However, information and details of board composition may subsequently change as directors' terms of appointment end.

To confirm information please see contact details on page 7.

## **Roles and objectives of water authorities**

A water authority's main function is to carry out the water activities decided by the authority; if the authority has an 'authority area' (e.g. water supply area, drainage area), its main function is to carry out those activities for the authority area.

Water activities carried out by water authorities in rural Queensland may include water supply for domestic and stock purposes and irrigation. Some authorities also provide coordinated drainage systems and underground water supply improvement or replenishment.

In addition to maintaining or upgrading the infrastructure they control, water authorities are involved in a variety of other projects including implementation of sugar industry related water infrastructure and studies of local catchments.

The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI), which is supported by Commonwealth and state government funding, provides assistance to landholders in some bore water supply areas for rehabilitating bores and replacement of open bore drains with polyethylene pipe.

## Establishment of new water authorities

The formation of a water authority may be initiated by a group of landholders who perceive the benefit of establishing a permanent group within a statutory framework. However, prospective members of a proposed authority are encouraged to consider the obligations and costs of forming an authority, as well as its benefits.

This assessment would also involve evaluating other alternative institutional arrangements which may be more appropriate in achieving the proponents' objectives. Prior to the water authority being established, public notice of the proposed establishment must be provided.

A water authority is not required to have an authority area but each water authority must have a board of directors. The legislative framework for establishing water authorities, which is included in chapter 4 of the *Water Act 2000*, allows a water authority to operate with autonomy and responsibility.

That framework provides for:

- efficiency in carrying out water activities by the application of commercial principles
- appropriate governance arrangements and accountability requirements
- community involvement in making and implementing arrangements for using, conserving and sustainably managing water.

Water authorities are established by regulation under the Act. Each authority is a body corporate with perpetual succession. A water authority may enter into contracts in its own right; buy, hold or sell property; and sue and be sued (in its corporate name).

A water authority is given power under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* and the *Land Act 1994* to acquire land for carrying out works and any other purpose within the authority's main functions.

The establishment of a water authority to carry out water activities does not, of itself,

entitle the authority to a water entitlement or a resource operations licence.

As well, a regulation establishing a water authority, or an amending regulation for an established water authority, no longer authorises works to be undertaken by the water authority.

The entity must independently obtain all necessary approvals and permissions before undertaking new works or amending existing works.

The *Integrated Planning Act 1977* now applies to all development proposed to be undertaken by a water authority. A water authority will need to ascertain whether the proposed works (if not already authorised) are 'assessable development' requiring a development permit to be obtained under that Act or whether proposed works are 'self-assessable development' that must comply with applicable codes.

The water activities of a water authority and its ownership of infrastructure bring a water authority within the purview of chapter 3 of the *Water Act 2000*, which requires a water authority to obtain registration as a service provider before commencing to operate. As a registered service provider, a water authority will have additional powers and obligations under the Act.

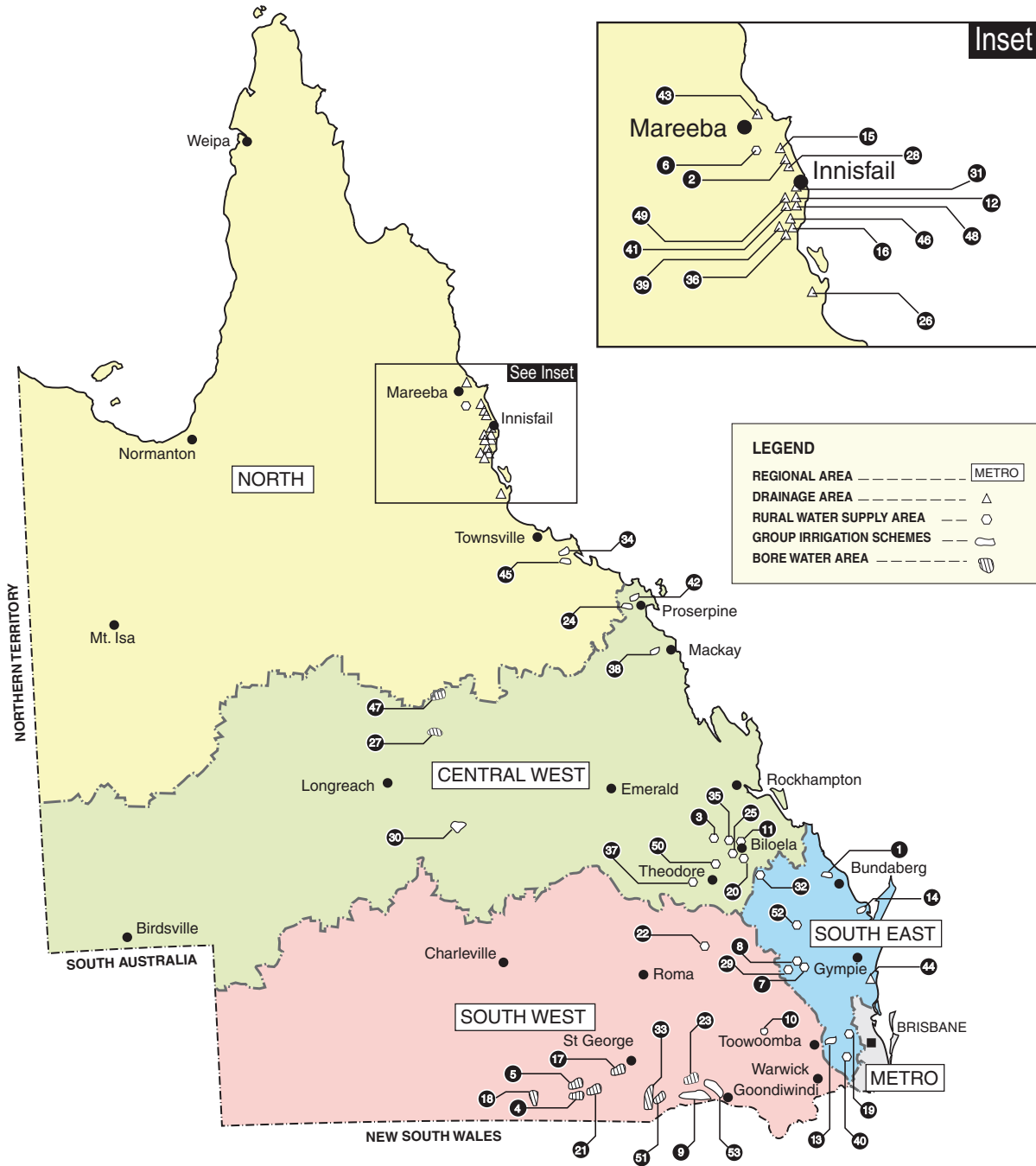
### Enquiries

For more information about water authorities please contact:

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# Location of authority areas



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6 Bones Knob Water Board	17 Eugun Bore Water Authority	28 Matthews Road Drainage Board	39 Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Board	50 Washpool Water Board
7 Boondooma Water Board	18 Fernlee Water Authority	29 Merwood Water Board	40 Roadvale Water Board	51 Weengallan Water Authority
8 Brigooda Water Board	19 Glamorgan Vale Water Board	30 Middle Park Bore Water Supply Board	41 Silkwood Drainage Board	52 Woodmillar Water Board
9 Callandoon Water Supply Board	20 Grevillea Water Board	31 Mourilyan Drainage Board	42 Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board	53 Yambocully Water Board
10 Condamine Plains Water Board	21 Ingie Water Authority	32 Mulgildie Water Board	43 Smithfield Drainage Board	
11 Coreen Water Board	22 Juandah Water Board	33 Myall Plains Water Authority	44 South Maroochy Drainage Board	

## Table 1: Water authority areas

The table below lists all water authorities established as at 30 June 2007, along with their respective plan reference numbers. The area of each authority is described in the respective plan. Authority locations are indicated on the map on the facing page.

<i>Water authority</i>	<i>Plan</i>
Avondale Water Board	AP4014
Babinda Swamp Drainage Board	AP4045
Benleith Water Board	AP4015
Bollon South Water Authority	AP6513
Bollon West Water Authority	AP7351
Bones Knob Water Board	AP4016
Boondooma Water Board	AP16173
Brigooda Water Board	AP4018
Callandoon Water Supply Board	AP4019
Condamine Plains Water Board	AP13404
Coreen Water Board	AP13403
Cowley Drainage Board	AP4046
Crowley Vale Water Board	AP4022
Dundowran-Nikenbah Water Board	AP7348
East Deeral Drainage Board	AP4047
East Euramo Drainage Board	AP4048
Eugun Bore Water Authority	AP7343
Fernlee Water Authority	AP6941
Glamorgan Vale Water Board	AP16172
Grevillea Water Board	AP4025
Ingie Water Authority	AP7350
Juandah Water Board	AP4026
Kaywana Bore Water Board	AP13400
Kelsey Creek Water Board	AP4028
Koingal Water Board	AP4029
Lower Herbert Water Management Authority	AP4064

<i>Water authority</i>	<i>Plan</i>
Marathon Bore Water Supply Board	AP4030
Matthews Road Drainage Board	AP4052
Merlwood Water Board	AP7342
Middle Park Bore Water Supply Board	AP4032
Mourilyan Drainage Board	AP4053
Mulgildie Water Board	AP13396
Myall Plains Water Authority	AP13401
North Burdekin Water Board	AP7349
Oaky Creek Water Board	AP13405
Orchard Creek Drainage Board	AP4054
Palmgrove Water Board	AP4036
Pioneer Valley Water Board	AP7345
Riversdale–Murray Valley Water Management Board	AP4056
Roadvale Water Board	AP4038
Silkwood Drainage Board	AP4057
Six Mile Creek Water Supply Board	AP4039
Smithfield Drainage Board	AP4058
South Burdekin Water Board	AP6512
South Maroochy Drainage Board	AP4059
Stagnant Creek Drainage Board	AP4060
Taberna Bore Water Board	AP4041
Wanda Creek Drainage Board	AP4061
Warrubullen Drainage Board	AP4062
Washpool Water Board	AP4042
Weengallon Water Authority	AP13399
Woodmillar Water Board	AP4043
Yambocully Water Board	AP4044