

# Central Highlands Water Security Action Plan 2022-25

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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES – THE  
TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LANDS WHERE WE LIVE  
AND WORK, AND WE RECOGNISE THEIR CONTINUING  
CONNECTION TO LAND, WATER AND COMMUNITY.  
WE PAY RESPECT TO ELDERS – PAST, PRESENT AND  
EMERGING – AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANT ROLE  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIL ISLANDER PEOPLE  
PLAY WITHIN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGION.

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# Introduction

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COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLIES TO ENABLE POPULATION GROWTH AND PROMOTE INDUSTRIES THAT ALLOW OUR COMMUNITIES TO FLOURISH.

## **Background**

Townships in the Central Highlands have experienced significant change to the demand on their water supply systems in recent years, with varying demographic movement, and future expansions in transport and mining potential impact to the water security of the region.

## **Purpose**

The Central Highlands Water Supply Security Strategy 2022-2042 provides a framework for how to best manage our water sources and secure additional water for the region. It considers the options available for future water supplies, and when they are required.

Council are also looking to provide better security for existing schemes and allow for climate change.

This strategy relates to water sources only and does not consider the treatment plants or pipelines within the networks.

# Water Supply Security Pillars

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Priorities are structured under the five pillars:

- 1 DEMAND MANAGEMENT**

Increase water efficiency in our communities through both wise use and reduction of water use. This will in turn reduce or postpone the need to build more dams, drill more boreholes or seek alternative water sources.
- 2 SECURE ALLOCATION**

Council has a set water allocation each year from sources managed by Sunwater / RDMW. Applying for increased allocations and investigating alternative sources will ensure that council is able to meet growth demands in our communities
- 3 IMPROVED MONITORING**

Improved monitoring of water sources provides information to support council in sound decision-making. This helps council make more informed decisions on pumping from these sources and on water restrictions which might be required during periods of extended drought.
- 4 SYSTEM AUGMENTATION**

Upgrade works that allow council to monitor, pump, treat and pipe potable water supply.
- 5 ADVERSE SUPPLY PLANNING**

Adverse water supply planning will outline what actions council will take based on set triggers such as dam water levels to conserve town water source.





# Pillar 1: Demand management

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## DESCRIPTION

Increase water efficiency in our communities through both wise use and reduction of water use. This will in turn reduce or postpone the need to build more dams, drill more boreholes or seek alternative water sources.

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
<b>1.1 Implement water efficiency devices</b>	Investigate water efficiency incentive scheme	Present a report to Council for consideration on how to incentivise water efficiency in the region	June 2024
<b>1.2 Managing water tariffs</b>	Review water tariffs	Full cost pricing review	June 2025
<b>1.3 Community education initiatives</b>	Develop an education program	Education program developed and communicated with community	June 2024
<b>1.4 Demand management and restrictions</b>	Develop a CHRC Demand Management Plan	Develop Demand Management Plan with trigger levels for water conservation measures and have the plan adopted by council	June 2023
	Develop a demand management program	Develop demand management program and implement water restrictions based on Demand Management Plan triggers	June 2024

# Pillar 2:

## Secure allocation

### DESCRIPTION

Council has a set water allocation each a year from sources managed by Sunwater / RDMW. Applying for increased allocations and investigating alternative sources will ensure that council is able to meet growth demands in our communities

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	PEFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
<b>2.1 Secure additional allocation to meet future demands, prior to existing allocation being exceeded in Comet</b>	Secure additional allocation for Comet	Application to DRDMW for additional water allocation for initial demand shortfall in 2023 and balance shortfall will be growth dependant if the full amount cannot be secured in 2023	June 2023
<b>2.2 Secure additional allocation to meet future demands, prior to existing allocation being exceeded in Emerald</b>	Secure additional allocation for Emerald	Application to DRDMW for additional water allocation or purchase from water market	June 2033 - population growth dependant
<b>2.3 Secure additional allocation to meet future demands, prior to existing allocation being exceeded in Springsure</b>	Secure additional allocation for Springsure	Application to DRDMW or additional water allocation	June 2033 - population growth dependant
<b>2.4 Prepare Capella future source investigation report</b>	A planning report to identify all future alternative water sources for Capella	The planning study will consider options of alternative water.	June 2025



# Pillar 3: Improved monitoring

## DESCRIPTION

Improved monitoring of water sources provides information to support council in sound decision-making. This helps council make more informed decisions on pumping from these sources and on water restrictions which might be required during periods of extended drought.

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
<b>3.1 Groundwater bore monitoring</b>	Prepare ground water monitoring for bore schemes	Install ground water monitoring level sensors on bores and integrate this into Council's SCADA system	June 2024
	Implement ground water monitoring for bore schemes	Bore groundwater monitoring incorporated into SWIM database (standard groundwater level SWL and hydraulic conductivity)	June 2025
<b>3.2 Stream gauge monitoring</b>	Capella catchment monitoring	Install stream gauge in Capella catchment and automatic water level reader in harvesting channel and send data to CHRC SCADA system	June 2024
	Rolleston catchment monitoring	Install stream gauge at Rolleston offtake and send data to CHRC SCADA system	June 2025
	Dingo catchment monitoring	Install stream gauge at Springton Creek offtake and send data to CHRC SCADA system	June 2025
	Primary storage monitoring	Install automatic water level reader in primary storage for each township and send data to CHRC SCADA system	June 2026

# Pillar 4: System augmentation

## DESCRIPTION

Upgrade works that allow Council to monitor, pump, treat and pipe potable water supply.

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
<b>4.1 Automate flood harvesting for Capella, Rolleston and Dingo</b>	Investigate flood harvesting automation	Investigate automation of flood harvesting for Capella, Rolleston and Dingo	June 2024
	Plan and implement flood harvesting automation	Plan and implement for automation of flood harvesting for Capella, Rolleston and Dingo	June 2026
<b>4.2 Pipeline and water treatment plan replacements and upgrades</b>	Pipeline replacements	Replace Tieri to Capella Pipeline (or alternative as identified by Capella Future Source Investigation) and Blackwater to Bluff Pipeline	June 2028
	Treatment plant upgrades / replacements	Upgrade Water Treatment Plants for Capella, Comet, Duinga, Blackwater and Opal Street	June 2028
<b>4.3 Raw water storage augmentations</b>	Investigate raw water storage augmentations	Investigate increasing raw water storage in ground water schemes, Capella, Comet & Rolleston	June 2025





# Pillar 5: Adverse water supply planning

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## DESCRIPTION

Adverse water supply planning will outline what actions council will take based on set triggers such as dam water levels to conserve town water source.

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET
<b>5.1 Formalise contingency supplies for emergency scenarios with government agencies</b>	Negotiate emergency protocols with Sunwater and RDMW	Negotiate with Sunwater and RDMW around emergency protocols and document processes and request amendments to Fitzroy Basin Water Plan and any operational rules during an emergency	June 2024
<b>5.2 Develop an adverse water supply plan</b>	Develop an adverse water supply plan	Adverse water supply plan developed	June 2025
<b>5.3 Investigate the viability of additional groundwater bores</b>	Investigate additional groundwater sources	Identify good groundwater source locations and drill test bores to identify availability and quality of good groundwater augmentation sources	June 2025
	Establish additional groundwater sources if viable to do so	Equip any bores with sufficient quantity and quality as emergency standby bores	June 2026



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