

Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme — Queensland's Drought-Built Reuse Network That Now Sits Mostly Idle (A Cautionary Case)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Built in 2005-2008 as a 232 ML/day drought-emergency network feeding recycled water to power stations, with a never-activated potable link to Wivenhoe Dam, Queensland's AUD 2.5bn scheme was mothballed in 2013 after an independent report found its design unsustainable.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Seqwater / WaterSecure, Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Wikipedia](#) — [Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Queensland Government](#) — [Ministerial statement on the recycled water pipeline](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Queensland Parliament](#) — [Joint industry submission to the water infrastructure assets inquiry, citing QAO Report 14 \(2012-13\) and the ATSE report \(2013\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

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