Water pressure and leakage management

FACT SHEET

One of the ways Logan City Council is helping to save water

As we all know, South East Queensland continues to be in the grip of the region's worst drought on record. Dam levels continue to fall, prompting the state government and regional councils to implement a contingency plan for saving water and securing a reliable supply for the future.

The South East Queensland Pressure and Leakage Management Project is one of those planned initiatives, and is expected to save 60 million litres of water each day, within two to three years.

Logan Water (a unit of Logan City Council) is committed to saving 4.15 million litres a day by August 2008.

Pressure and leakage management

Pressure and leakage management involves redesigning the water supply network, dividing large systems into smaller, more manageable networks called district metered areas. The district metered areas enable management of network pressure using smart technology to minimise leaks and enable cost effective leakage detection and repair.

An example of high pressure causing a burst pipe and water wastage.

Pressure management not only reduces leaks and bursts; it also reduces the number of interruptions in water supply and extends the life of the pipes in the network.

Smart technology reduces leaks and bursts and ensures the water pressure meets the demand.

Current supply pressure standards will be maintained in the system design; it is only excessive pressure, especially late at night, that will be brought down to suitable levels.

The Logan Water Pressure and Leakage Management Program

The Logan Water Pressure and Leakage Management Program covers the Kimberley Park, Springwood, Marsden and Greenbank water supply zones. The zones will be divided into approximately 40 district metered areas. Logan Water will progressively isolate, test and reduce excessive pressures in these district metered areas over a two-year period, generally working on five district metered areas at a time. The planned program for these activities is:

- Kimberley Park – Jun 07 – April 09
- Springwood – Jan 08 – June 09
- Marsden – May 08 – June 09
- Greenbank – May 08 – July 09

In areas where pressure reduction is applied, Logan Water will install equipment with smart technology that will enable water pressure to increase and decrease according to demand. Pressure will be reduced incrementally over a period of time, and the work will be carried out during low demand periods, such as late night and early morning.

Residents will be informed when work is about to begin in their area. Generally, residents will notice little, if any, effect on day-to-day activities in the home.

Telephone 07 3412 5330
Fax 07 3412 3444
Email water@logan.qld.gov.au
Web www.logan.qld.gov.au

Logan Water

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL

Frequently asked questions

What is pressure and leakage management?

This is a step-by-step program of detecting and repairing leaks and controlling pressure in the system, by decreasing it where it is excessive, maintaining it where it is sufficient, and sustaining or increasing it where it is weak or unpredictable.

Why is Logan Water implementing pressure and leakage management?

Logan Water needs to make sure it is doing everything possible to minimise water wastage. A trial of pressure and leakage management has shown significant water savings can be made by detecting and repairing leaks and reducing pressure where necessary. Therefore, as part of its commitment to securing long-term water supply, Logan Water is investing in making these improvements across the city, to minimise water losses.

What effect will pressure reduction have on my water supply?

The pressure and leakage management program aims to reduce excessive pressure in the system. While some residents may notice some reduction in pressure around the home, this should not affect day-to-day activities. Residents in trials at the Gold Coast reported little or no impact from the introduction of pressure control in their area.

What do I do if I don't have enough pressure?

Logan Water is only seeking to reduce excessive pressure in the system, however, during implementation, pressure may drop below a suitable level. If you find pressure at your property is not sufficient, call Logan Water Operations on 3412 5330. Logan Water can arrange for staff to test the pressure to determine where the problem lies.

What if there is a problem?

If tests show a problem on Logan Water's network, staff will undertake measures to correct the level of pressure. In some cases the problem may be on the customer's side, in which case you will need to get a licensed plumber to investigate and correct the problem. It may be as simple as removing a previously installed pressure reducing valve, or may require more extensive work to upgrade old service lines on your property.

How will this affect home dialysis patients?

The pressure and leakage management program should not affect home dialysis patients. However, all residents on the Home Dialysis Register are being contacted individually to advise them of the project and answer any questions they may have.

How will reduced pressure affect fire-fighting?

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is aware of the pressure and leakage management program, and has been provided with full details of the proposed pressure changes for the city. The changes will not affect fire fighting capacity. To make sure of this, Logan Water is installing equipment with smart technology that can automatically increase pressure with demand. The technology was put to the test in April 2005 when a fire broke out at Eagleby, in one of the Gold Coast's trial pressure management areas. Fire fighters were able to access water at full force to fight the blaze.

For more information, phone Logan Water on 3412 5330.

Telephone 07 3412 5330
Fax 07 3412 3444
Email water@logan.qld.gov.au
Web www.logan.qld.gov.au

Logan Water

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL