

Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme community newsletter



Completed in late 2023, Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) is Australia's largest new bulk water asset since Wyaralong Dam was built in 2011.

The weir provides 86,000 megalitres of medium priority equivalent water each year for agricultural, urban and industrial use. It supports irrigation for grain, fruit and nut crops as well as livestock production, and offers greater water security for the region.

It also features a world-first turtle passage for two threatened native species and a fish lock to allow fish to navigate the weir.

What's happening at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu)?

Weir tours a community success

On Sunday 14 September, we welcomed 120 enthusiastic community members to a fully booked series of guided tours at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu).

With public access normally restricted, the event gave visitors a rare behind-the-scenes look at one of the region's most significant water infrastructure assets, blending engineering excellence with environmental innovation. They were able to walk on the structure, learn about water operations, explore the valve pit, view the fish lock and see the world-first turtle passage.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the day a success.



Community members viewing the fish passage at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu)

Community information session

Join us for an information session on Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) operations and our environmental monitoring program, and have a chat with our local team. A BBQ and light refreshments will be provided.

When: 6pm–7.30pm, **Thursday 30 October**

Where: Gogango Hall, 12 Wills Street

To help us plan catering, please RSVP by **Friday 24 October** to customerengagement@sunwater.com.au or call Customer Support on **13 15 89**, Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm.

Water lettuce update

Earlier this year, we established an onsite facility to breed water lettuce weevils, building on Rockhampton Regional Council's efforts to manage water lettuce using bio-controls. The weevils will be released at strategic locations upstream of the weir over the coming months to ensure rapid population growth and the establishment of a permanent weevil population in the upper catchment.

Following the initial release, we will replenish the weevil population from our facility after spill events to boost weevil population upstream of Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu).

Water quality monitoring

We are continuing our monthly water quality checks within the Fitzroy River catchment, from Boolburra and Apis creek crossings downstream to Rockhampton. As of September, all results have been normal.

We are also supporting a Central Queensland University (CQU) student to undertake a Master Research Program studying the algae present to better understand water quality in the Fitzroy River. In addition, CQU recently replaced our water quality monitoring buoy at Riverslea.



Sunwater team member assisting with substitution of the monitoring buoy

Feral pest management

Earlier this month, we completed our first round of aerial feral pig control near Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu). Our contractor, Tunuba, partnered with Parker Helicopters to carry out the aerial work.

The control area included private properties stretching from Hanrahan Crossing to the junction of the Dawson and Mackenzie rivers. Additional upstream coverage included the Mackenzie River toward Duaringa. Helicopter activity was strictly limited to properties where landholders had given their consent.

We're planning more aerial control next year. If your property is within two kilometres of the Fitzroy River and you're interested in supporting our environmental efforts, please contact our team at RookwoodEnvironment@sunwater.com.au

We also recently finished low risk baiting on selected private properties upstream and downstream of the weir.

These pest control activities help reduce the impact of invasive species on the environment and local communities. They also ensure we meet the requirements set by both the Federal and Queensland governments, including under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Turtle nest protection

Since late July, our team has been helping protect the vulnerable Fitzroy River Turtle and critically endangered White-throated Snapping Turtle. This important work includes identifying and safeguarding nesting sites upstream and downstream of the weir, as well as trapping and tagging turtles to better understand their movements.

So far, we've checked 272 turtles and tagged an additional 42 to support ongoing monitoring efforts. We've also protected 217 eggs.



Fitzroy River Turtle

AWA Regional Technical Event

The 2025 Australian Water Association (AWA) Regional Technical Event was held in Rockhampton in June. Fifty AWA members attended the event, which was co-hosted by Sunwater and Fitzroy River Water.

The morning workshop themed 'Challenges and Celebrating Successes: Shining a Light on the Regions' was held at the Old Art Gallery in the city centre. Operations Manager for the Lower Fitzroy, Melanie Sutton, kicked off the session with a presentation about operating a new asset and scheme at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu).

Other presenters from the Gladstone Area Water Board, Fitzroy River Water and Fraser Coast Regional Council explored a range of topics from skills shortages and workforce housing challenges, to the delivery of critical projects that support communities across the region.



A range of industry stakeholders attended the AWA Regional Technical Event on 18 June 2025 in Rockhampton's city centre and at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu)

For our Rookwood customers

Land Management Code of Practice

The Land Management Code of Practice (LMCOP) aims to ensure that agricultural enterprises that use water from the weir for irrigation are appropriately managed. This helps protect the quality of water that is discharged to the Great Barrier Reef.

In August, we met with representatives of the Fitzroy Basin Association, Advance Rockhampton and the Department of Primary Industries to review the effectiveness of practices within the LMCOP regarding recognition of current best practice and its practicality and achievability for water users. Several improvements to the LMCOP were recommended during the discussions and are now under consideration.

If you want to learn more about the LMCOP, read our [fact sheet](#).

For everyone

Sunwater's public safety campaign: 'Live Dangerlessly'

Last month, we officially launched our 2025 public safety campaign – 'Live Dangerlessly' – aimed at keeping visitors safe around our dams and weirs.

While public access at Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) remains strictly prohibited for safety reasons, some of our other weirs and dams have recreational areas that are available for the community to enjoy.

The campaign is being rolled out across various channels including digital TV, billboards, social media and more. It urges everyone to follow the warning signs and avoid exclusion zones – especially within 200 metres of dams and weirs – where conditions can be unpredictable and hazardous.

Watch the campaign [video](#).



2025 public safety campaign – 'Live Dangerlessly' video

For more information:

☎ 13 15 89 @ customersupport@sunwater.com.au

🌐 sunwater.com.au

