

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.

**This includes high priority water converted to medium priority.*

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

High flows, high activity

With the recent wet weather and high flows at the weir, our team has stepped up water quality monitoring.

This is standard practice for our team during the wet season. It helps us understand how increased run-off affects the health of the river and catchment. We are currently reviewing the latest results, which will be published on our website with our annual compliance reporting.

Our year-round water quality monitoring program continues to help us identify and manage potential impacts from agriculture on the Great Barrier Reef and catchments.

For our Rookwood customers

Land Management Code of Practice

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

Sunwater submitted a LMCOP amendment to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in December 2025. This followed a meeting with Fitzroy Basin Association, Advance Rockhampton and the Department of Primary Industries in August 2025 where we reviewed the effectiveness of the LMCOP regarding recognition of current best practice and its practicality and achievability for water users.

Learn more in our [fact sheet](#).



Community information session

We're holding two information sessions on Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) operations and our environmental monitoring program, and to give community members a chance to chat with our local team. Catering will be provided.

Session 1: 6pm-7.30pm, Wednesday 25 March, Gogango Hall, 12 Wills Street

Session 2: 6pm-7.30pm, Thursday 26 March, Duaringa Hotel, 20 Edward St

Please RSVP by **Wednesday 18 March** to community@sunwater.com.au to help us plan catering.

Turtle monitoring and nest protection

In its first year, the turtle nest protection program successfully protected 77 nests of the endangered Fitzroy River and White Throated Snapping turtles. A total of 900 hatchlings emerged from 1088 eggs, in line with the expected hatchling success rate. Importantly, no eggs in these protected nests were eaten by predators.

Female turtles start laying eggs when they reach maturity, which is typically around 15 years for Fitzroy River turtles and 20 years for White Throated Snapping turtles. Protecting these turtles and their nests is key to their survival.

During 2025, the most prolific predators of turtle eggs in the Lower Fitzroy were native species. Outside our nest protection program, the team found 124 nests eaten by echidnas, water rats, goannas and water dragons. Unfortunately, evidence of this disturbance is sometimes the only way to find where turtles are nesting; the aim this year is to protect the nests in these newly identified areas.

If your property adjoins the river and you would like to support our turtle conservation efforts by enabling access for nest protection work (via the river), please contact our team at RookwoodEnvironment@sunwater.com.au

Water lettuce update



A mature female White Throated Snapping turtle

High water flows over Christmas have prevented a water lettuce bloom at the weir. This has meant the weevil breeding facility was not needed during the 2025–26 wet season. The team has used this time to improve weevil habitats at the facility and ensure they are ready to seed water lettuce with the weevils when flows slow down.

Fish monitoring

We observed strong movements through the fish lock in November and December 2025. Many small and medium species were recorded, including southern saratoga, fly-specked hardyhead, bony bream, barred grunter, black catfish, Hyrtl's tandan, eastern rainbowfish, golden perch, leathery grunter, sleepy cod, sooty grunter, spangled perch, longfin eel, flathead gudgeon, and glassfish.



An electro fishing boat to support fish monitoring

Feral pest management update

We're planning more feral pest aerial control in May and October 2026. 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

Social Impact Management Report submitted

In December 2025, we submitted the fifth and final Social Impact Management Report (SIMR) for Rookwood Weir (Managibei Gamu) to the Office of the Coordinator-General. This reporting requirement was part of the Coordinator-General's conditions of approval for the project and was completed over a five-year period beginning at the start of construction.

The Year Five SIMR outlines the project's social, cultural and economic impacts, including community engagement, employment, training and ongoing collaboration with Traditional Owners.

You can read the full 2025 SIMR [here](#).

For more information:

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

