



Queensland Fire & Emergency Services Water Resupply Information

WATER RESUPPLY INFORMATION

Sustained hot and dry conditions in many parts of Queensland are contributing to a scarcity of water used to suppress bushfires.

These water supplies are also needed to sustain crops, livestock and communities. It is a policy of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to adopt a policy to replenish water that has been used by working with communities and those affected.

During the recent unprecedented fire activity and Drought conditions affecting Central Queensland areas, Emergency Services have needed to access local water supplies such as dams, pools and water containment areas to assisting fighting and containing bushfires in a wide area of the Gladstone Regional Council area.

QFES Water Resupply policy context outlines;

- QFES has a legislative obligation to take water from a property to protect people, buildings, domestic animals or the environment in the case of a bushfire.
- QFES respects and values the importance of water to sustain rural communities and their livelihood.
- QFES recognises that there are sustained drought conditions in many parts of Queensland that contribute to a scarcity of water needed to sustain crops, livestock and communities.
- The drought combined with continued hot, dry conditions also add to bushfire risks in many areas.
- Any water taken by QFES to suppress a bushfire will be replaced at no cost to landholders.
- Helicopters used in Queensland for aerial firefighting can use up to 3,000 liters in each load.

The QFES Water resupply policy outlines;

- Water taken for the purpose of bushfire suppression will be replaced by QFES as soon as reasonably practical after the bushfire.
- Highest priority will be given to replenishment of water supplies needed to sustain human health and quality of life for affected landholders.
- The urgency for replacement of the water advised by the landholder will be considered in scheduling the supply of the replacement water.
- The location and approximate quantity (e.g. number of tanks filled and size of tanks) of water taken will be recorded by crews and advised to the Incident Controller.
- As soon as possible after the bushfire the landholder will be advised of the approximate timeframe for replacement of the water.
- Water will be only be replaced by reputable suppliers holding necessary certification for the carriage and supply of the type of water being replaced (e.g. potable water). QFES will not be directly resupplying water as we do not have the necessary knowledge or certification regarding quality such as health and weed management issues.

This document guides activities of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services only.

It does not guide decision making of any Commonwealth Government agency or entity, any Queensland Government agency or Government-owned entity, Local Government authority, or any association, company or private entity.

How to Access Resupply;

If you feel that this affects your Property and Water supply, Please contact Queensland Fire and Emergency services (QFES) either by

Phone – 0748992200

E-mail – fsq.gladstone@qfes.qld.gov.au

QFES will arrange a visit to the Landholder to discuss requirements including;

- Quality of water taken
- Quantity of water to be replaced as agreed with by QFES and landholder
- Suitable agreed location to resupply water (will need to be accessible to water supplier)
- Rehabilitation of property damage caused by QFES operations during fire event
- Timeline and prioritisation of water resupply
- Completion of resupply request (to be signed by land owner and QFES Authorised person)