

## January 2024 Newsletter

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January, we held our first educational seminar of the year. Mr Hamish Butler, Executive Director, Water Planning, South Region and Mr Brian Latham, Senior Policy Officer from the QLD Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, presented about the ongoing Moreton Water Plan Consultation. [A copy of the presentation can be downloaded here.](#)

During the seminar, attendees were informed that the Water Act 2000 and Water Regulation 2016 currently serve as the guiding water legislations for public servants. The existing Moreton water plan, last updated in 2007, is now due for revision, with the public consultation process unfolding in two phases: the current phase and another in approximately 12 months when the draft plan will be open for review.

Hydrological experts within the department will conduct thorough research to formulate the new draft water plan, including an assessment of the potential impact of climate change on future water availability. It is important to note that the plan primarily addresses water quantity and allocation, ensuring availability for environmental, drinking water, agriculture, and industrial purposes based on water allocations or needs. Water quality, however, falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Science.

Responding to audience inquiries, Mr. Butler revealed that, in addition to existing dams and groundwater sources, the government plans to meet future water demands by constructing another desalination plant rather than a new dam. While recycled water is currently utilised for industrial purposes, a decision on its use for drinking water has yet to be finalised. Regarding Enoggera dam and creek, the use of the dam as a recreational facility means that it likely limit its use as a drinking water source outside exceptional circumstances. Water allocations from the creek are currently on a per area basis and planned to be changed to a maximum per litre basis.

The Gap Sustainability initiative will prepare a submission to seek an assessment of the environmental flow needs, focusing on enhancing biodiversity in Enoggera Creek, aligning with the potential future Platypus population. Our submission will also ask how the safety of residents along the creek is being considered given the increased likelihood of stationary weather events with intensive rain periods and flooding such as in February 2022. We will also ask how the Department considers the impact of developments and sealing of surfaces for roads, industry or housing on waterflows. Sealed surfaces reduce the ability for rainwater to soak into the soil likely contributing to flash flooding risk, and reduction in ground water. Additionally, we will seek information on the relationship between water quantity and water quality, especially during drought conditions, when water quality may rapidly decline, exacerbated by the introduction of dust and debris into the creek during storms.

**Member survey:** Please complete this short three-question [survey](#) so that we can identify which day of the week and time is most suitable for our seminars and working group meetings.

**Member T-Shirts:** If you are interested in a The Gap Sustainability Initiative branded T-Shirt, please email us at [info@thegapsustainability.org](mailto:info@thegapsustainability.org). The t-shirt is free for paid members.

### **Upcoming events and activities:**

In February, we will hold a working group event, while in March our next seminar will be hosted by the Energy Working group and focus on how to achieve energy independence in your household. Specific dates will be confirmed soon!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE:**

If you have not yet done so, please consider becoming a member. The membership fee for FY24 is \$20 to cover costs such as website maintenance, administration, project costs, and facilitated meetings. To become a member or renew your membership, please head to our [website](#) or use our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to [info@thegapsustainability](mailto:info@thegapsustainability) for the membership registry.

**FUNDRAISING:** TGSi now is an official fundraising team with **Containers for Change**. Please consider donating your refund to our cause by using our Member ID: C10826699.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website [www.thegapsustainability.org](http://www.thegapsustainability.org). We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

**Yours sincerely,** The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee