



SEQ CODE

CONSULTATION REPORT FOR UPDATE TO GRAVITY SEWERAGE CODE REQUIREMENTS

June 2019



Contents

1. Overview.....	3
2. Purpose	3
3. Consultation.....	4
4. Public submissions	4
5. Future changes to the Code.....	5
6. Conclusion	5
Appendix A – Advertisement.....	6
Appendix B – Key advertised changes.....	7



1. Overview

The *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* required the SEQ water service providers to develop a SEQ Design and Construction (D&C) Code¹ that “provides for technical standards relating to the design and construction of water [supply and sewerage]¹ infrastructure in the SEQ region”. The SEQ Code was gazetted on 1 July 2013.

The SEQ Code is based on the five infrastructure Codes produced by Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) with amendments to suit SEQ requirements and preferences. The amendments are necessary because the WSAA Codes include phrases such as “in accordance with the water agency’s requirements” throughout. The SEQ Code specifies the requirements of the SEQ “water agencies”. This is standard practice throughout Australia, with Sydney Water, Hunter Water and the Melbourne Retail Water Authorities having their own customised versions published by WSAA.

When the SEQ Code was gazetted in 2013, the requirements for gravity sewerage infrastructure were based on the WSAA Code WSA02–2002. In 2014 WSAA published a new version of the Gravity Sewerage Code (WSA 02–2014).

In mid-2018, WSAA changed to an eBook format for the latest editions of most of their Codes. Users of eBooks benefit from increased interactivity through technical diagrams and pop-up definitions, efficient navigation, quick and easy discovery of content, editing tools such as bookmarks, notes and highlighting. Viewing Codes and standards on any device, especially smartphones or tablets, will improve access for practitioners in the field. It also ensures users are viewing the most up-to-date versions.

In early 2019, the SEQ service providers produced a draft SEQ Gravity Sewerage Code in an eBook format based on WSA 02–2014. As well as translating the old 2002 Code information into the new edition, the SEQ service Providers undertook a general review and incorporated improvements to provide greater clarity and better infrastructure outcomes.

The SEQ service Providers advertised the proposed revision of the Gravity Sewerage Code in the Courier Mail ‘General Notices’ section on Saturday 9 March 2019. The consultation period extended to 31 days. A copy of the advertisement is in Appendix A.

The new SEQ Gravity Sewerage Code is an eBook. This will be much easier to use than the current Code as the SEQ Amendments are embedded into the eBook. Users can now view the complete integrated SEQ Gravity Sewerage Code as a single document.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of this most recent (March 2019) public consultation and to respond to any issues raised in the consultation period by the individuals/organisations who made submissions. It is also to indicate how the Code has been amended in response to those submissions.

¹ Feedback from industry (particularly in relation to the website) indicated a preference to include the words ‘Water Supply and Sewerage’ into the title in order to provide clarity as to what is covered by the technical standards in the Code, and by default what is not covered by the Code.



3. Consultation

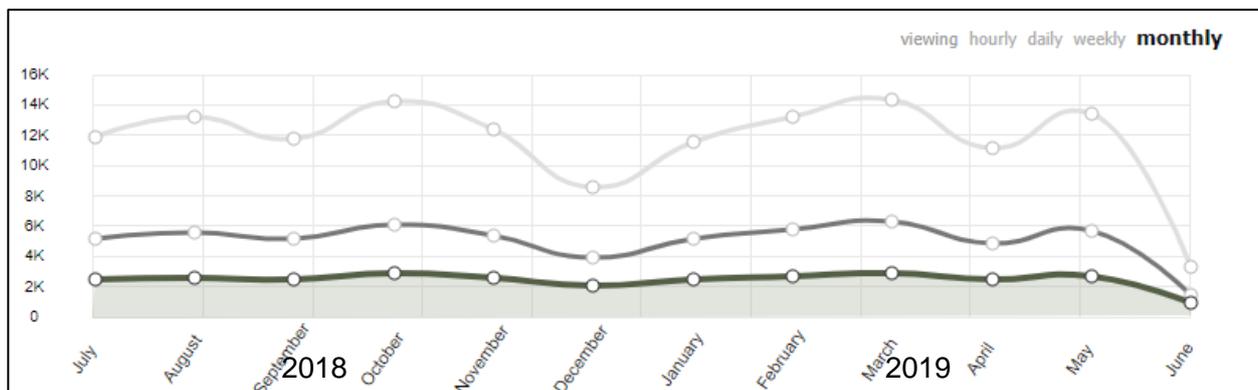
The SEQ water service providers made a significant effort to make known to the water industry that the SEQ Code was being revised and that submissions were welcome.

Consultation included the following.

1. E-mails sent to 800+ individuals/organisations with a potential interest in the SEQ Code at the start of the consultation period.
2. E-mails sent to the CEOs of each local government in the SEQ region plus to the Director General of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
3. Advertisement in Courier Mail 'General Notices' section on Saturday 9 March 2019 at the start of the consultation period. (See Appendix A.)
4. A website with all the key documentation readily accessible. A summary of the key changes between the existing and proposed gravity sewerage requirements was made available via the SEQ Code website. (See Appendix B.)
5. Copies of the proposed Gravity Sewerage Code eBook available on-line and available for viewing at the offices of the SEQ water service providers.
6. A follow-up reminder e-mail to 800+ individuals/organisations a week before the consultation period closed.

Figure 1 shows visits to the SEQ Code website (www.seqcode.com.au) during 2018/19. The top line shows total monthly page views. The middle line shows the total number of unique visits. The bottom line is 'audience size'. There was no significant peak in interest during the consultation period.

Figure 1 – Website visits



In addition to the above numbers, six people registered on the website hosting the Gravity Sewerage Code eBook.

4. Public submissions

During the consultation period, four people made submissions with suggestions for improvement. Each suggestion was considered by a steering committee with representatives from each of the five SEQ service providers. All of the suggestions were of a minor nature. Where appropriate, changes were adopted. There were no common themes between the four submissions.

SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code



The Gravity Sewerage Code has now been revised and corrects errors that crept in to the draft version that was advertised. It represents best appropriate practice, and faithfully addresses the issues raised in the submissions.

5. Future changes to the Code

Industry consultation will not end when the new eBook version of the Gravity Sewerage Code is brought into effect.

The *Restructuring Act* allows for amendments to the Code that are to correct minor errors, or are not a change of substance without the need to readvertise the Code in SEQ newspapers, etc. The *Restructuring Act* also allows for amendments of a stated type where those statements form part of the Code.

Products on the Accepted Infrastructure Products and Materials (IPAM) Lists are changed on a regular basis as product suppliers approach the service providers to have their products accepted. It would be impractical to advertise in SEQ newspapers every time there is a change to the Accepted IPAM Lists.

Likewise, the ADAC drafting standards change on a regular basis and it would be impractical to advertise in SEQ newspapers every time there is a change to the Asset Information Standard document.

The SEQ service providers remain open to suggestions for changes to the SEQ Code. Developers, consultants, suppliers etc. are welcome to use the [Document Improvement Request Form](#) on the 'Contact Us' page of the SEQ Code website to suggest improvements to the Code. Alternatively, industry can approach any of the five service providers directly with suggestions for improvement. The service providers meet regularly to review the SEQ Code and to consider suggestions for improvement.

6. Conclusion

The SEQ service providers would like to thank all those individuals/organisations that made submissions on the advertised Code.

The new eBook version of the SEQ Gravity Sewerage Code will come into effect on 1 July 2019.

The SEQ service providers intend to also make an eBook version of the SEQ Water Supply Code available in July 2019. There will be no major changes to water supply infrastructure requirements. The eBook will be based on the same WSAA Code (WSA03-2011) as the current requirements. The change to an integrated eBook version of the Water Supply Code is to improve the access and usability of the Water Supply Code.



Appendix A – Advertisement

The advertisement below appeared in the Courier Mail ‘General Notices’ section on Saturday 9 March 2019. The consultation period extended to 31 days.

Revision of SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code

Do you have a role in designing or constructing water supply and sewerage infrastructure in South East Queensland? Have you been using the ‘SEQ Code’ since it was gazetted in 2013?

City of Gold Coast, Logan City Council, Redland City Council, Queensland Urban Utilities and Unitywater are in the process of revising the *Sewerage Code* element of the SEQ Code and welcome your comments.

The next edition of the *Sewerage Code* will be an e-book. It will be available for purchase from www.wsaa.asn.au/shop prior to its requirements coming into force on 1 July 2019.

Submissions on the draft *Sewerage Code* will be accepted until 5 pm Tuesday 9 April 2019.

Visit www.seqcode.com.au/consultation for more information.


**CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.**


LOGAN
CITY COUNCIL


QUEENSLAND
UrbanUtilities


Redland
CITY COUNCIL


Unitywater

0314-02



Appendix B – Key advertised changes

The message below was linked to the SEQ Code website during the consultation period.



SEQ Sewer Code Pre-Publication Version Commentary

Purpose of this document

To provide general information regarding the main differences in the Pre-Publication SEQ Sewer Code, when compared to the Current SEQ Sewer Code.

General Differences

The Pre-publication version of the SEQ Sewer Code refers to the WSAA WSA02 2014 as the base Code, whereas the current SEQ Sewer Code refers to the WSAA WSA02 2002 base Code.

→ This means that clause Code structure (including Clause numbering and titles) will generally be different between the two documents.

Part 0 – Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Additional Maintenance Structure terms definitions have been added, including *Maintenance Chamber* and *Rodding End*.

→ As a result, definitions for Maintenance Holes, Maintenance Shafts, Terminal Maintenance Shafts and Terminal Entry Points have been updated.

Additional term and definition for *Certifying Construction Engineer* has been added.

Part 1 – Planning and Design

Clause 5.2.9 Disused Sewer elaborates on SEQ-SP requirements for disusing sewers.

Planning and design requirements for expanded range of Maintenance Structures have been included.

Greater clarity regarding acceptable curves in sewers are provided in the following clauses:

- Clause 5.3.8.1 - *Horizontal Curves in Sewers*
- Clause 5.6.7 - *Vertical Curves in Sewers*
- Clause 5.6.8 - *Compound curves*

Part 2 – Construction

Various clauses include references or requirements for the *Certifying Construction Engineer*.

Please Note:

The differences identified above are not exhaustive. It is recommended that Code users review closely the requirements stated in the SEQ Sewer Code Pre-Publication version, and provide any comments/feedback for SEQ Network consideration.

20190228 - SEQ Sewer Code Public Consultation CommentaryPage 1 of 1