

## SEQ Water Grid

Australia's Largest Urban Water Security Response



### Project Need

In the midst of Australia's worst drought in more than 100 years, the nation's capital cities were imposing strict restrictions on water use to conserve their dwindling supplies. In South East Queensland, the situation had become extremely dire with the region's dam levels falling to below 17 per cent. In response, the Queensland State Government devised the South East Queensland Water Grid, an expansive plan to secure the water supply for the densely populated south-east corner of the state.

### Solution

The Queensland Government set about securing water sources that would adequately serve the community throughout seasonal fluctuations and drought events. Traditional water sources such as dams were coupled with water recycling facilities and a desalination plant located at Coolangatta on the Gold Coast to provide a robust supply. To complete the grid, a network of pipelines was to be constructed to distribute bulk water across the grid to where it is needed most and it was at this stage that Steel Mains was called in to contribute its pipeline expertise and experience. Steel Mains was contracted to supply the pipeline systems used in the construction of the vast network that connected the major water sources in the region. Steel Mains also supplied large diameter pipelines designed to transport treated wastewater for use by major power stations and general industry. In total, Steel Mains supplied over 334km of steel, ductile iron and plastic pipes as well as the associated valves, fittings and pumps required to complete the vital connections. The SEQ Water Grid consists of the Northern Interconnector Pipeline, the Southern Regional Water Pipeline, the Eastern Interconnector Pipeline and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme.

### Achievements

Steel Mains's local manufacturing capacity was a key factor in the successful and timely completion of the project. Steel Mains was able to call upon all of its manufacturing plants to ensure that the project's urgent timeframe and varied product specifications could be achieved. The successful completion of the project has ensured that more than 90 per cent of South East Queensland's drinking water customers have the added security of being supplied from multiple water sources.

**Project:** SEQ Water Grid

**Principal:** Queensland State Government

**Location:** South East Queensland - Australia

**Completion:** December 2008

**Supplied:** 334km of Sintakote<sup>®</sup> MSCL Pipe in sizes ranging: 813mm, 960mm, 1085mm, 1290mm & 1451mm OD Pipe, Fittings, Valves & Pumps