

TC Jasper's impact on water supply



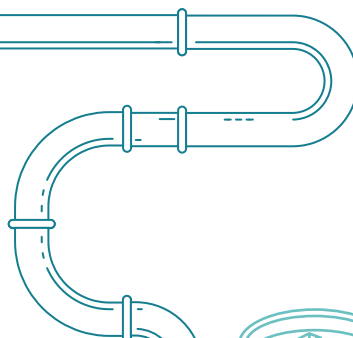
On 13 December 2023, TC Jasper made landfall with 4.2 metres of accumulated rainfall recorded in less than a week, causing over 100 landslips across the Shire.



The flooding and landslips caused blockages in the water catchments, breakages along the water pipeline network, and record high levels of turbidity (caused by excessive sediment and debris) in the water.



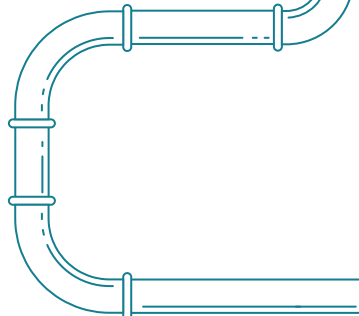
The high turbidity affected the water treatment process by blocking filtration systems resulting in more frequent backwashing (cleaning) and longer treatment times.



Periods of heavy rain following Jasper caused further debris and disruption from the landslips, putting additional pressure on the water treatment process, leading to reduced capacity of the plants, or in some instances a plant shutdown.



If the treated water reservoir levels are low while the treatment plant has stopped or is running at reduced capacity, there is a risk of water interruptions.



Water conservation measures are currently in place across Douglas Shire including water use restrictions for all homes and businesses that use treated water.



With the support of State and Federal Government, Council is working with senior water engineers and infrastructure specialists to implement short- and long-term water security measures.



Work in the water treatment process and on the reticulation systems, when combined with the water conservation efforts of the community, has allowed reservoir levels to be maintained over recent periods of recent heavy rain, and we are seeing greater resilience across our water network.