

## **2024 MAJOR AMENDMENT - WATER NETSERV PLAN LEGACY RURAL CONNECTION AREA**

### **What is the issue?**

Some Urban Utilities customers in rural and rural residential areas receive their drinking water via trickle-feed systems. Trickle feed systems are historic, low pressure water pipe networks which do not meet current standards in the SEQ Code.

Technically, a landowner planning to build a house on a vacant lot with trickle feed pipes along its frontage is be required to go through a 'non-standard' connection due to lower water pressure. This non-standard process increases connection fees and requires more information to complete the water connection approval process.

Where the existing trickle feed pipe network is clearly designed and built to service existing lots, Urban Utilities will adopt a simpler water approval process and apply standard application fees as long as all other connection policy criteria are met.

The proposed additions to the connection policy (the new Rural Legacy Connection Area and associated mapping) aims to achieve this purpose.

Urban Utilities has mapped the area where this policy will apply. The map forms part of the major amendment package.

### **Is the Rural Legacy Connection Area still part of the Drinking Water Connection Area?**

Yes.

### **Can new subdivisions rely on trickle feed systems?**

No. The SEQ Code which is referred to in Urban Utilities' Connection Policy does not support subdivisions relying on new existing trickle feed systems.

The intention of the Legacy Rural Connection Area is not to support the establishment of 'new' trickle feed systems in these areas. Rather, the intention is limited to existing lots serviced by existing trickle feed pipes.