

# PROPOSED NEW WATER RESERVOIR FOR ESK

March 2022

You can rely on us to keep things flowing, and from time-to-time we need to upgrade your local water network.

As part of this commitment, we're proposing to install a new water reservoir, subject to development approval, to improve the reliability and resilience of the water supply network servicing the Esk township.



Image 1 - Location map showing the proposed reservoir site at 104 Highland Street, Esk and the pipeline route to Ipswich Street

## About this project

The proposed new water reservoir will meet the future needs of the area and improve water pressures in Esk.

The reservoir location at 104 Highland Street, Esk, was selected for its elevation which will improve network flow and pressure.

The reservoir is located on a section of the property that has already been cleared of vegetation, on which a shed has been built.

The project includes:

- Construction of a 1.5 ML reservoir; and
- Construction of pipeline totalling approximately 1500 metres along Highland Street to Mack Street and Ipswich Street, connecting the reservoir to the existing water supply network.

The design allows for a second reservoir within the site's cleared area to address future water needs as the town expands and water demands increase.

The proposed pipeline (trunk mains) will be located underneath the road reserve mostly along the southern side of Highland Street to Ipswich Street.

This will minimise the impact on Highland Street residents.

Preliminary site investigations of the reservoir site have been undertaken including ecological, geotechnical, and cultural heritage assessments.

### Next steps

To support the proposed project, a development application was submitted to Somerset Regional Council in February 2022.

The Esk community will be invited to comment as part of this process.

During this time, we will provide you with an opportunity to meet the project team to discuss the proposed reservoir and pipeline.

Subject to development approval, the reservoir and pipeline construction is proposed to commence around September 2022 and take approximately eight months to complete, subject to weather and site conditions.

The proposed new Esk reservoir is planned to be in operation early to mid 2023.

### About the environment

Partially screened from Highland Street with existing trees and vegetation, the proposed reservoir will be located on the already cleared part of the property.

An ecological assessment report prepared in October 2020 confirmed that the site contains koala habitat.

To minimise impact on koala habitat and maintain connectivity through the site, the location of the reservoir has been selected to minimise the need for tree removal, as well as minimise disturbance to the surrounding bushland and its inhabitants.

As part of Urban Utilities' ongoing commitment to environmental leadership, we will complete replanting at the Esk Reservoir site over landscaped areas.

If the number of removed trees cannot be fully replaced within the Esk Reservoir site, we will undertake voluntary offset planting at an offsite location approved by Somerset Regional Council.

More information on how the community can participate will be provided in March 2022.

Protocols for our staff and contractors while working on site amongst koalas and other wildlife will be developed.

A High Risk Species Management Plan will be developed that will incorporate controls to ensure koala community at that location is protected ie koala spotter-catcher to monitor vegetation clearing and during construction.

### For more information

If you would like more information about the proposed project or register your interest to meet the project team, please email [community.feedback@urbanutilities.com.au](mailto:community.feedback@urbanutilities.com.au)