

## Rain delivers buggy water to SE Qld dam

Heavy rain in south-east Queensland since the start of the year has delivered more than five months of precious water to the region, but there is a downside.

Authorities are warning of high bacteria levels in one of the dams.

SEQWater spokesman Mike Foster said the capacity of the three dams servicing the Brisbane area - Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine - rose 0.26 per cent overnight to 24.86 per cent.

But water quality testing on Friday revealed higher than recommended bacteria levels in Somerset Dam, he said.

"When we get heavy rainfall, because we have irrigators, farmers, animals and cows, all that residue gets washed into our system," Mr Foster told AAP.

"We are asking that people don't swim or ski in the dam over the next five to seven days.

"The recreational area is not closed, and there's no impact on either the quality or quantity of the drinking water available."

Mr Foster said the dams were still getting good inflows from the recent falls, and were expected to reach 25 per cent on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Queensland government has now extended disaster relief to nine western shires hit by severe storms and flooding between December 22 and 30.

Acting Emergency Services Minister Andrew Fraser said Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) were now in place for the shires of Aramac, Diamantina, Ilfracombe, Jericho, Winton, Barcaldine, Flinders, Isisford and Longreach.

The areas suffered an estimated \$4 million worth of damage.

The announcement follows NDRRA declarations for flood affected areas on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, and in south-west and far north Queensland.

More low-risk prisoners have also been sent to join the clean-up effort at Beaudesert, south of Brisbane.

Acting Corrective Services Minister Robert Swarten said the second team of 12 would be accommodated at the nearby Palen Creek Correctional Centre while they assist the operation.

"A team from the Charleville work camp is already in the Beaudesert area working to repair boundary fences on farms to prevent livestock from wandering," Mr Swarten said.

"It is hard work that has to be done by hand. It involves removing mud and debris from the fences, re-erecting fences where possible and rebuilding fences where necessary.

"Many of the people affected are elderly and would not be able to complete the work without the help of the work camp prisoners."

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting light to moderate falls in south-east Queensland on Friday and light falls are also expected in the region and the Darling Downs next week.

Forecaster Craig Mitchell said moderate to heavy downpours would continue across the state's north.

"We've still got an active monsoon trough across the north-west of the state through to the Burdekin coast, so we are seeing quite an extensive area of showers and thunderstorms with rain areas through that southern tropics," Mr Mitchell said.

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