



LEAKS AND PRESSURE MANAGEMENT

Ipswich Water is implementing a water leakage and pressure management initiative designed to reduce leaks, conserve water and assist in minimizing pipe and main failures to ensure security of uninterrupted water supply across the city.

Leaks

Leakage is an issue for all water providers. Leaks occur for many reasons and a number of these reasons are:

- Age
- Pressure
- Construction damage due to local construction activity
- Soils contracting or expanding due to rain, or lack of
- Corrosion, and many other issues

What is Water Leakage and Pressure Management

Water Leakage and Pressure Management involves the detecting and repairing leaks in pipes, and controlling the amount of water pressure in the distribution system.

This is done by maintaining pressure where it is sufficient, sustaining or increasing it where it is weak or unpredictable, and decreasing pressure where it is excessive. This essentially means the system carries the water needed during peak times, but reduces pressure in off-peak times creating less stress on our pipes and mains.

Modern pressure management devices, such as Pressure Reduction Valves (PRVs) can be used to better manage pressure in the water supply network. These devices essentially control the range of water flows and pressures.

It has also been identified that reducing the pressure of water in the pipelines causes little to no change of water pressure within the household. e.g. water pressure is the same when hosing the garden or having a shower. It is important to note that this is based on standard water pressures.

Community Benefits

The water leakage and pressure management initiative is expected to generate a number of key community benefits, which include:

- Increased water savings
- Increased \$ savings, due to less electricity consumption
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (as less water is pumped throughout the city)
- Reduced water pipe breaks and leaks
- Reduced interruptions to water supply
- Less raw water required to be treated from Water Treatment Plants