Wivenhoe Small Hydro

About the power station
Wivenhoe Small Hydro is located at Wivenhoe Dam, 75 kilometres northwest of Brisbane, in South East Queensland. It is positioned beneath one of Wivenhoe Dam’s five spillway slots and can operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This clean, green power generation facility captures water released for other primary purposes. The water passes through a butterfly-type turbine inlet valve and into a 4.7 megawatt (MW) Francis turbine.

It produces electricity at 6600 volts, which is increased to 33,000 volts through an on-site transformer that feeds into Queensland’s electricity grid.

The 4.7 MW facility was commissioned in December 2002.

Water supply
Wivenhoe Dam is owned by Seqwater, which is the major supplier of untreated water to local government and industry in South East Queensland.

The dam consists of a 59-metre-high, 2.3-kilometre-long earth and rock embankment built across the upper reaches of the Brisbane River.

Environment
Hydro-electric generation (using the energy of moving water to drive generators) is one of the cleanest and most efficient methods of producing electricity.

Wivenhoe Small Hydro uses water released for other purposes and, therefore, has no effect on the flow of water downstream.

During operation, the hydro does not emit any greenhouse gasses.