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Detection dogs trained to sniff out underground water leaks

IN A Queensland first, two four-legged furry recruits will be used by Queensland Urban Utilities to sniff out hidden underground water leaks.

Springer spaniels Halo and Danny graduated after more than eight months of rigorous training, including a stint at Mount Crosby.

Queensland Urban Utilities spokesperson Michelle Cull (pictured left), said the duo's super sensitive noses would be an invaluable asset.

"We have more than 9000km of water pipes in our network and some of these pipes are located in dense bushland, so it can be difficult to detect a leak," she said.

The dogs are an additional

measure to track down leaks, alongside technology already in use such as listening devices and sensors.

"What makes Halo and Danny so impressive is that they are able to differentiate between water leaking from a pipe underground and all other types of water on the surface. Once the dogs detect a potential leak, we will send our field crews to further investigate and repair it."

The dogs were first trained by Steve Austin in Sydney, then moved into the care of handler Dennis Gannaway (pictured right) who taught them how to use their skills in the real life situations and to work as a team from his Mount Crosby property.

