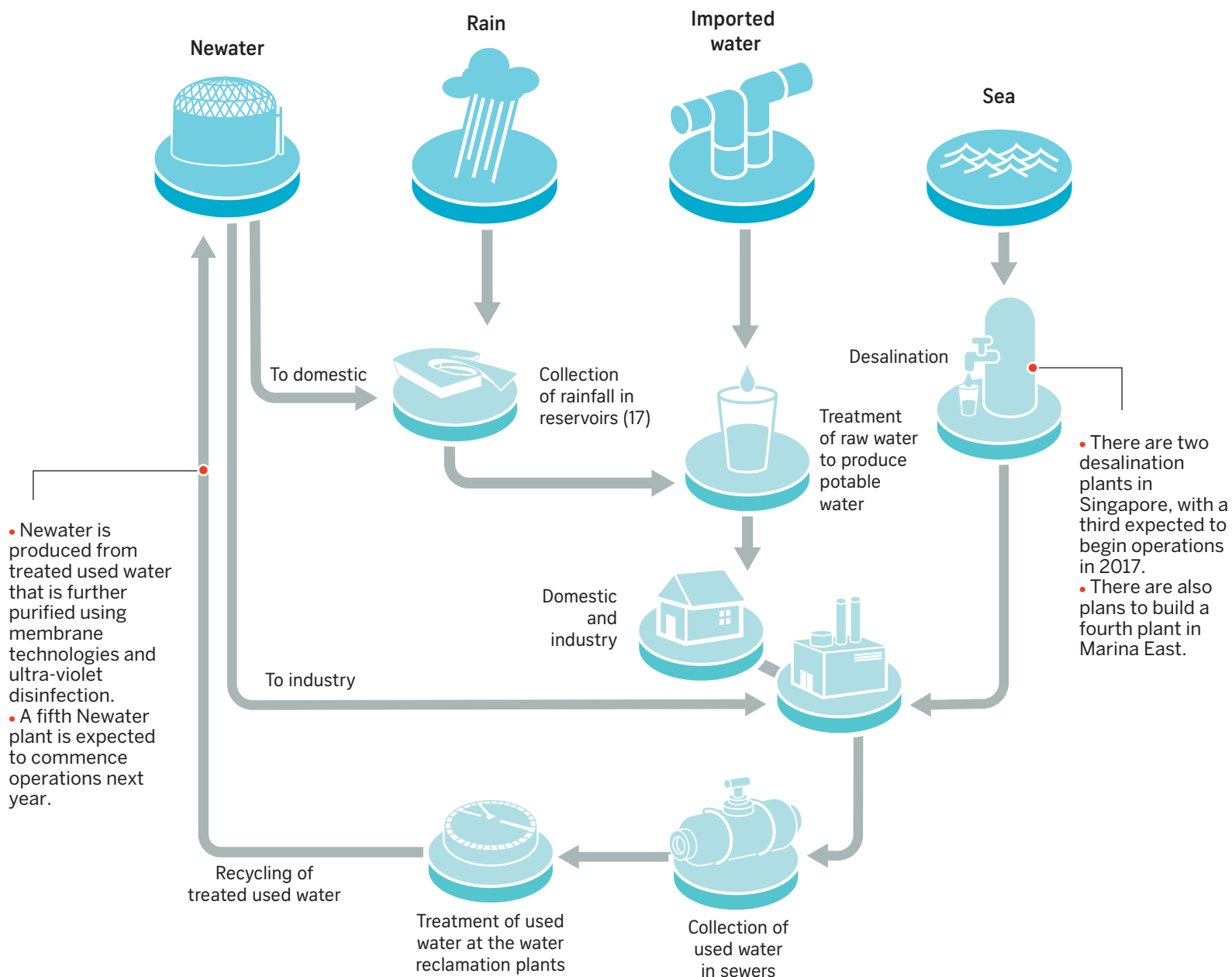


Singapore's four national taps

Water levels at Johor's Linggiu Reservoir are at an all-time low, and Singapore may have to restrict water use if the situation does not improve. But water from the reservoir is just one of the four taps meeting Singapore's daily demand. Audrey Tan explains the four national taps.



1 Rain

Since 2011, the water catchment area in Singapore has been increased from half to two-thirds of Singapore's land surface. This came about after the Marina, Punggol and Serangoon Reservoirs were completed.

2 Imported water

Singapore imports water from Malaysia under an agreement that will expire in 2061. It allows Singapore to draw up to 250 million gallons of water a day from the Johor River. Imported water can supply up to 60 per cent of Singapore's water needs.

3 Newater

There are four plants in Singapore, which can produce up to 30 per cent of Singapore's current demand. It is used mainly for industrial purposes, but is also blended with raw water in reservoirs during dry periods. By 2060, Newater is expected to contribute 55 per cent of Singapore's water demand.

4 Sea

Seawater is converted to drinkable water through desalination. It meets up to one quarter of Singapore's demand. The process of forcefully pushing saltwater through a membrane to purify it is costly. PUB is researching ways to develop less costly desalination methods