

MINUTES

Meeting No.	22
Meeting	FNQ Water Alliance
Date	28 February 2019
Time	10 am
Venue	Cairns Regional Council - Committee Room – Level 3

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Manu Gravatt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Jon Turner	Tablelands Regional Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Paul Hoyer	Douglas Shire Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Arron Heatt	LGAQ
Lachlan Rankine	FNQROC
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council(From 11)
Gene Brookes	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council(Via Teleconference)
Rod Dedman	Cairns Regional Council (Present for Item 22.1 Only)

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Geoff Smart	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Dawn Lake	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
Robert Fearon	Qld Water
Simon Page	Cairns Regional Council
Gary Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Robert Uebergang	Cook Shire Council
Shane Butler	Etheridge Shire Council
Victor Mills	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Graham Stanford	Tablelands Regional Council
Mark Vis	Tablelands Regional Council
Peter Martin	Hinchinbrook Shire Council

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened at 10.00 am and all participants were welcomed.

Acceptance of previous minutes, No. 21, 25 October 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the 25th October 2018 were accepted without change.

2. Presentation and Discussion

22.1	FNQ Drinking Water Quality Alliance	Rod Dedman
<p>The concept of a collaborative working group between all FNQ councils, Queensland Health, Queensland Water and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy to address drinking water quality issues within the region was discussed. Initially it is proposed that the group host a regional symposium to facilitate, workshop and share current activities of interest and identify opportunities for capacity building, development/planning and knowledge sharing. The outcomes of this workshop will dictate the focus areas of the group moving forward.</p> <p>Whilst concern was raised regarding the structure of the group, and the interactions between the parties therein, it was determined that this would be able to be managed and articulated through appropriate structure in the Terms of Reference, With the group to report to the FNQ Regional Water Alliance Group on an as needed basis.</p> <p>Concurrent to the TOR being prepared, the group resolved that a submission for funding to QWRAP for the costs associated with the Workshop and Symposium should be made.</p> <p>Action Item 22.1: Lachlan to prepare a submission to QWRAP Bid Pool Funding for the costs associated with the FNQ Regional water quality alliance workshop and symposium.</p> <p>Action Item 22.2: Lachlan to prepare a Terms of Reference document for the FNQ Regional water quality alliance for review by the FNQ Regional Water Alliance Group.</p>		

3. General Business

22.1	Sewer Relining Update	Amanda Hancock
<p>It was noted that those councils considering the regional arrangement (Mareeba SC, Cairns RC, Tablelands RC) are concluding their CCTV investigations, with an indication that the 19/20 FY providing a suitable opportunity to undertake this arrangement. It was noted that management of such an arrangement would be required to be undertaken by a suitably experienced project manager with specific experience in identifying specific/appropriate solutions for individual asset situations. In order to move forward with the project, it was resolved that interested councils would provide Amanda with quantities to allow a project scope to begin to be developed.</p> <p>Action Item 22.3: All interested councils (Mareeba SC, Cairns RC, Tablelands RC) to provide Amanda with quantities of sewer relining works (lengths/connections/manholes etc) to allow a project scope to be developed.</p> <p>Arron (LGAQ) advised that this information would be extremely beneficial to LGAQ to assist in discussions related to the funding of infrastructure reaching the end of life. In a similar concept to the historical Water and Sewer Program(WASP) funding scheme (Ceased 16 June 2009), this information would be used to put together a submission to state for the reintroduction of a infrastructure funding program.</p> <p>The group indicated their willingness to assist Arron by sending a quantum of both water and sewer assets reaching their end of life within the next 5 years.</p>		

Action Item 22.4: All councils to send a quantum (\$) and criticality of both water and sewer assets reaching their end of life within the next 5 years to Arron (Arron.Hieatt@lgaq.asn.au), also copied to Lachlan (L.rankine@fnqroc.qld.gov.au).

22.2	Contract Documents	Amanda Hancock
<p>First suite of documents has been released, with the first round of training having been undertaken. It was noted that these have already entered service with Mareeba nominating that they have utilized them on a number of projects.</p> <p>Next round of documents and training will be advised in due course.</p>		

22.3	End of Waste Code/Bio Solids Update	Arron Hieatt
<p>An interim end of waste code for bio-solids was published by the Department of Environment and Science in December. This code is now in effect, and the previous General Beneficial Use Approval (BUA) expired on 31 December 2018. Councils operating under specific BUAs can continue to do so until they expire in April 2019. The LGAQ is continuing to push two issues that remain with the code: the definition of a resource and the required Total Organic Fluorine levels (e.g. PFAS): The code requires all testing and assessment to be complete prior to classification as a resource, which will require lengthy holding times, additional environmental authorities, and additional expenses to councils. The current levels of TOF being sought by the Department are well below that which can be detected by Queensland laboratories. Thus, compliance with the Code may be unattainable for many councils.</p>		

22.4	SWIMS Reporting Requirements	
<p>IT was noted that there were issues with the Qld water and the uploading of data, with the region looking at opportunities around the auto uploads from Labs. It was noted that given the testing data remains property of the council, it is up to the individual council as to whom this is distributed to.</p>		

22.5	Certificate III in Water Industry Operations	
<p>It was noted that there is latent demand to undertake Certificate III in Water Industry Operations training as a region. This was supported with a number of councils nominating their interest. Application to QWRAP for funding was also supported.</p> <p>Action Item 22.5: Lachlan to organise regional cert III - Water Industry Operations within the region. Will advise/request from council if/where further information is needed.</p> <p>Action Item 22.6: Lachlan to submit QWRAP funding application for regional cert III - Water Industry Operations training within the region.</p>		

4. Water and Environmental compliance updates and issues

Nil raised.

5. Update from LGAQ / Advisory Committee/ Water Directorate

22.6	Update from LGAQ and Water Directorate	Mark Wuth
<p>Cybersecurity requirements – Water utilities are now required to consider cybersecurity risks as part of the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan assessments of risk. There are also a few new annual reporting requirements regarding cybersecurity. The requirements are possibly the first formal regulatory obligation for councils.</p> <p>Infrastructure cliff – A second report on ageing water and sewerage mains has been written to explore the cost and ways in which these assets can be managed. The report is due to be published in the next month.</p> <p>Dam safety submission – LGAQ is making a submission into the Queensland Competition Authority’s review of dam safety costs. This is occurring as part of the 5-year review of irrigator pricing for bulk water. http://www.qca.org.au/Water/Rural/Irrigation-price-investigations/In-Progress/Irrigation-Price-Review-2020-24</p> <p>Funding proposal – The LGAQ is continuing to seek funding to support councils dealing with ageing assets and water quality/public health issues. The proposal was sent to Min. Hinchliffe in October, and discussions are continuing. A high level regional water and sewerage infrastructure investment strategy would help support the advocacy for funding.</p> <p>LGNSW attended the meeting. They have a similar advisory group that just started in December.</p>		

6. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

None Arising. Terms of Reference for the water quality group to be raised on completion.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting date 30 May 2019.

8. Actions Arising out of this meeting:

Item	Action	Responsible
22.1	Lachlan to prepare a submission to QWRAP Bid Pool Funding for the costs associated with the FNQ Regional water quality alliance workshop and symposium.	Lachlan
22.2	Lachlan to prepare a Terms of Reference document for the FNQ Regional water quality alliance for review by the FNQ Regional Water Alliance Group.	Lachlan
22.3	All interested councils(Mareeba SC, Cairns RC, Tablelands RC) to provide Amanda with quantities of sewer relining works (lengths/connections/manholes etc) to allow a project scope to be developed.	All Councils

22.4	All councils to send a quantum(\$) and criticality of both water and sewer assets reaching their end of life within the next 5 years to Arron (Arron.Hieatt@lgaq.asn.au), also copied to Lachlan(l.rankine@fnqroc.qld.gov.au)	All Councils
22.5	Lachlan to organise regional cert III - Water Industry Operations within the region. Will advise/request from council if/where further information is needed.	Lachlan
22.6	Lachlan to submit QWRAP funding application for regional cert III - Water Industry Operations training within the region.	Lachlan

9. All Action Items Pending:

Item	Action	Responsible
21.2	Group to reconvene after H2S/Bacterial Trials to compare the outcomes of each trial.	All
21.3	Group to consider/investigate their respective situation/exposure to premature failure of PE mains and advise the group. On advice, the group to consider next steps.	All
21.4	Lachlan to further investigate work done to date on non-serviceable assets outside water service areas to develop methodologies/opportunities associated with decommissioning/supply of alternative services.	Lachlan
22.1	Lachlan to prepare a submission to QWRAP Bid Pool Funding for the costs associated with the FNQ Regional water quality alliance workshop and symposium.	Lachlan
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