

## MINUTES

<b>Meeting No.</b>	21
<b>Meeting</b>	FN Qld Water Alliance
<b>Date</b>	25 October 2018
<b>Time</b>	10 am
<b>Venue</b>	Cairns Regional Council - Committee Room – Level 3

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

### 1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Geoff Smart	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Jon Turner	Tablelands Regional Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Simon Page	Cairns Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Gary Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Arron Hieatt	LGAQ
Ryan Cosgrove	LGAQ
Lachlan Rankine	FNQROC
Mark Halliwell	Taggle Systems

### 2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Dawn Lake	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
Robert Fearon	Qld Water
Gene Brookes	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council
Paul Hoye	Douglas Shire Council
Robert Uebergang	Cook Shire Council
Robert Fenn	Cook Shire Council
Anna Christensen	Etheridge Shire Council
Shane Butler	Etheridge Shire Council
Norm Garsden	Etheridge Shire Council
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Simon Page	Cairns Regional Council
Victor Mills	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Peter Kirchmann	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Graham Stanford	Tablelands Regional Council
Mark Vis	Tablelands Regional Council
Peter Martin	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council

## 1. Welcome

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

## 2. Technical Presentations:

### 2.1. Automated Water Metering (Mark Halliwell – Taggle Systems)

21.1	Automated Water Metering	<b>Mark Halliwell</b>
Mark provided a presentation (att.) on various aspects of automated water metering and the different advantages and disadvantages of the current offered transmitting technologies.		

21.2	Magnesium Hydroxide Injection Systems for the control and management of Hydrogen Sulphide and the consequential issues associated with odour, asset deterioration	<b>Geoffrey Smart</b>
<p>Outcomes CCRC experienced from the ACTI-Mag Dosing trials saw extremely significant reductions in H<sub>2</sub>S loading (120-160ppm to &lt;5ppm within 3-4 days), greatly reducing corrosion and odour. The trial also saw secondary improvement in Fats, Oils and Grease mobilisation/transportation to the STP and reduction in sewer pump Station cleaning requirements (none required in 9 months). There was also a significant reduction in alum and lime dosing requirements at the STP, saving significant costs.</p> <p>Follow up conversations between councils identified that Cairns Regional Council is undertaking a trial with GRENOX/GRENOF, for the reduction of H<sub>2</sub>S and the control of odour and corrosion. Similarly, Mareeba Shire Council is also undertaking similar work, albeit with bacterial technology, though Water Treatment Services. The group noted the opportunity and benefit of comparing the outcomes of each of these trials on their respective completion.</p> <p><b>Action Item 21.2:</b> Group to reconvene after H<sub>2</sub>S/Bacterial Trials to compare the outcomes of each trial.</p>		

21.3	Premature aging/failure of poly mains subjected to high chlorine levels, medium to high pressures and high temperatures	<b>Geoff Smart</b>
<p>As a result of a number of early life failures of relatively new poly mains (&lt;15years old) within the CCRC region, Geoff has undertaken some preliminary investigations as to what may be causing the Premature aging/failure of these poly mains. It was identified that most councils water operations within the FNQ region provided latent and operational conditions for increased risk of failure from premature aging/failure. These being high soil temperatures, shallow installation, Chlorine disinfection, medium to high pressure and generally smaller pipe sizes) o, often exceeding the highest recommended guidelines. In exceeding these guidelines, councils are exposed to significantly reduced pipe asset lives. Other questions that were raised:</p> <p>The session intention was to promote further discussion and investigation by other councils as to the possible exposure to this issue across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What asset life do we have for our service lines and smaller PE pipelines?</li><li>• Do we have any redress against manufacturer?</li><li>• What options have we got for service lines in high temp areas.</li><li>• Pressure implications are simplified as PRV's at meter. For CCRC service lines from main to meter can be at &gt;60m.</li><li>• Could this drive a change to chloramine disinfection</li></ul>		

It was posed to the group that they consider how this may impact their assets/operations and if it emerges that this is a common concern, how it is moved forward on a regional basis.

**Action Item 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.

**3. Acceptance of previous minutes, No. 20, 10 August 2018.**

The previous minutes were accepted.

**4. Actions from Previous Meeting (Meeting 20, 10 August 2018)**

Item	Action	Responsibility																										
19.2	<p><b>Contract and Procurement Documentation Project (Update)</b> Council Representatives:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Council</th> <th>Representative(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cairns Regional Council</td> <td>Geoff Burdon &amp; Julia Deleyev</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cassowary Coast Regional Council</td> <td>Ashley Filbee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cook Shire Council</td> <td>Allison Jones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Croydon Shire Council</td> <td>Garry Pickering</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Douglas Shire Council</td> <td>Lloyd Nunns</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Etheridge Shire Council</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hinchinbrook Shire Council</td> <td>Jenna Devietti</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council</td> <td>Gene Brooks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mareeba Shire Council</td> <td>Julie Pitcher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tablelands Regional Council</td> <td>Frank Barbieri</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council</td> <td>Victor Mills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council</td> <td>Dawn Lake</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All council feedback to be directed to the above representatives, to be discussed with the with the procurement document co-ordinator/product developer.</p>	Council	Representative(s)	Cairns Regional Council	Geoff Burdon & Julia Deleyev	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Ashley Filbee	Cook Shire Council	Allison Jones	Croydon Shire Council	Garry Pickering	Douglas Shire Council	Lloyd Nunns	Etheridge Shire Council	TBA	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Jenna Devietti	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council	Gene Brooks	Mareeba Shire Council	Julie Pitcher	Tablelands Regional Council	Frank Barbieri	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	Victor Mills	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	Dawn Lake	Lachlan Rankine / Amanda Hancock
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19.2(c)	LR/AH to raise opportunity for council specific training within the Regional Contract and Procurement Documentation Project committee. If supported, submit a funding request under QWRAP for council specific training in the use and understanding of the documentation for end users.	Amanda Hancock																										
<p><b>Action Item 19.2(c) Update:</b> First Contract Suite released 10/8/2018. QWRAP Funding Received on training, with FNQROC contributing remaining portion from reserves.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Council Host</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>29 Oct 2018</td> <td>10:00–1:00pm</td> <td>CCRC</td> <td>Innisfail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 Oct 2018</td> <td>9:30–4:00pm</td> <td>CRC</td> <td>Cairns</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Nov 2018</td> <td>10:00 – 1:00pm</td> <td>COOK</td> <td>Cooktown</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Date	Time	Council Host	Location	29 Oct 2018	10:00–1:00pm	CCRC	Innisfail	30 Oct 2018	9:30–4:00pm	CRC	Cairns	1 Nov 2018	10:00 – 1:00pm	COOK	Cooktown										
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	2 Nov 2018	10:00–1:00pm	MSC	Mareeba	
Additional presentation to the western forum councils 28 November.					
Two styles, one as an introduction to the documents, a second specifically aimed at Project Engineers/Project Managers etc. Invites have been sent, Managers to advise if they require further information.					
<b>19.4(b)</b>	LR/DI to discuss with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) for opportunities in getting specialist advice/training in the development of asset management programs.				Lachlan Rankine
<p><b>Action Item 19.4(b) Update:</b></p> <p>Significant discussion was had around circumstances where water charge revenue has no correlation to the cost of service (i.e. depreciation on the respective part of the network providing supply). These sites are generally outside of the water service area, identifying the question, is there a requirement to provide supply, on what terms (i.e. provided on a non-potable basis or non-declared basis), with further discussion occurring about the political consequence this may have. It was noted that this issue is considered a state-wide issue (particularly for more regional councils), with limited success in solution development. It was noted that further discussion would be had within the QWRAP Co-ordinators group at their next meeting, with LGAQ supporting any work done to develop a solution in this space.</p> <p>Given the change in focus of the work above, it was noted that the currently planned asset management training was not suitable, with further development around the concept and outcomes required.</p> <p><b>Action Item 21.4:</b> 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.</p>					
<b>19.4(c)</b>	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Geoff Smart) to discuss findings at the next meeting on the findings of their trials of Magnesium Hydroxide Injection Systems in the control and management of Hydrogen Sulphide and the consequential issues associated with odour, asset deterioration and failure.				Geoff Smart
<b>Action Item 19.4(c) Update:</b> Notes on presentation can be found in Technical Presentations, item 21.2.					
<b>20.1</b>	Request endorsement from FNQ Regional water alliance group to apply for package of funding from QWRAP for:				Lachlan Rankine
	20.1(a): Asset Management Training. It was also noted to consider IPWEA NAMS training.				
	20.1(b): Regional Procurement Documents – Training				
	20.1(c): Collaborative project with Queensland Health on developing videos towards ‘gap training’ operators on water supply systems.				
<p><b>Action Item 20.1 Update:</b></p> <p>20.1(a): Asset Management Training. It was also noted to consider IPWEA NAMS training. Application for QWRAP funding was successful Please see item 19.4(b) for further developments.</p> <p>20.1(b): Regional Procurement Documents – Training. Application for QWRAP funding was successful Please see item 19.2(c) for further developments.</p>					

20.1(c): Collaborative project with Queensland Health on developing videos towards 'gap training' operators on water supply systems. After significant discussion within the group, it was identified that the same objectives are achieved by the program run by qldwater (under the Water Skills Partnership) 'Aqua Card' program. Access is via the qldwater website (registration required). No further action on this item.

## 5. Update from LGAQ and Water Directorate

19.5	Update from LGAQ and Water Directorate	Arron Hieatt (LGAQ)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• QWRAP Bid Pool funds</b></p> <p>There is \$300K allocated each year for bid pool projects in QWRAP. Already \$118K worth of projects have been approved, just four months into the year. We expect there to be increasing levels of competition for the funding, so will be putting greater scrutiny on the proposed projects to ensure the higher order projects are supported. We will continue to lobby for more funding.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• LGAQ Conference motions</b></p> <p>There are 13 conference motions this year related to water or sewerage, ranging from depreciation of long-lived assets to drought and health based targets. For those motions that are supported they become the position of local government and will support efforts to address or change the relevant policies. Councils are encouraged to have a look at the motions before conference and brief their councillors as needed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Funding proposal</b></p> <p>Minister Hinchliffe from Dept. of Local Government, Racing and Multi-cultural affairs invited the LGAQ to submit a proposal for dealing with the infrastructure cliff (the point at which assets reach the end of their useful life.) This will be seeking \$200M over two years to fund solutions to aged water and sewerage mains and water quality issues.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Biosolids end of waste code</b></p> <p>Dept. of Environment and Science will be publishing a draft of the end of waste code for biosolids for consultation in October. There are concerns about the levels of Total Organic Fluorine (TOF) and the requirement for biosolids to be full characterised (i.e. tested) before they are declared a resource. We expect that the current version of the code may prohibit many councils from continuing their beneficial reuse of biosolids. Councils are strongly encouraged to review the draft code when it is published and provide feedback to DES.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Queensland Health Legislative Change</b></p> <p>Contamination event Queensland Health has drafted new legislation that will create a new power to order polluters to notify the public when there is a contamination event that poses a risk to public health. The polluter will be required to notify the public, but in instances where the polluter is unknown Queensland Health will make the notification. The LGAQ has strongly suggested that a proper consultation with local governments is needed, and that local governments must be included in the decision to notify the public.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Reef Regulation and Offsets Policy update:</b></p> <p>The Minister from DES intends to take to Cabinet (very soon) a proposal to amend the regulations with a 'no net residual loss' policy. If successful, this would mean that most diffuse and point sources (including STPs) will be limited in future to releasing no more (e.g. capped) than the nutrient and sediment loads currently allowed under any existing EAs. Expansion of an STP would</p> </li> </ul>		

still be possible, but only if any additional loads can be avoided (or offset).

This has two important immediate consequences:

It will likely be a political issue with many reef stakeholders (including some councils) seeing this as a throttle to growth,

It raises the priority of the Point Source Offsets Policy which would be the only mechanism (other than significant STP upgrades) that would allow expansion in many towns.

LGAQ is chasing information regarding the cost implications for this new policy change to provide the best response possible.

Contact Dorean Erhart (LGAQ) [Dorean\\_Erhart@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:Dorean_Erhart@lgaq.asn.au) or Rob Fearon (qldwater) [rfearon@qldwater.com.au](mailto:rfearon@qldwater.com.au) for more info or to be a part of the response.

## 6. Update from LGAQ Advisory Committee representative (Mark Wuth)

None Arising.

## 7. General Business

None Arising.

## 8. Points of Innovation or Improvement

None Arising.

## 9. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

None Arising.

## 10. Next Meeting

Next meeting date TBA(Late January 2019)

## 11. Actions Arising out of this meeting:

21.2	Group to reconvene after H <sub>2</sub> S/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