

MINUTES

Meeting No.	24
Meeting	FNQ Water Alliance Group
Date	4 September 2020
Time	11.30am
Venue	Cairns Regional Council – Civic Reception Room

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Jon Turner	Tablelands Regional Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Geoff Smart	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Shane Pfeiffer	Cairns Regional Council
Simon Page	Cairns Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Lachlan Rankine	FNQROC
Melissa Mitchell	Douglas Shire Council
Rebecca Fitzgerald	Croydon Shire Council
Ashley Bolden	Croydon Shire Council

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Manu Gravatt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
John Bishop	Cairns Regional Council
Michael Suhan	Carpentaria Shire Council
Gene Brookes	Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council
Rohan Geddes	Mareeba Shire Council
Preston Andrews	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Paul Hoyer	Douglas Shire Council
Robert Fearon	Qld Water
Ryan Cosgrove	Qld Water
Peter Tonkes	Douglas Shire Council
Gary Pickering	Croydon 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

3. Welcome

The meeting was opened at 11.30 am post the tour of the Cairns Water Testing Laboratory and all participants were welcomed.

4. Acceptance of previous minutes, No. 23, 28 February 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the 28th February 2019 were accepted without change.

5. Presentation and Discussion

24.1	Risk Considerations Associated with Cyber Security in Drinking Water Quality Management Plans	Shane Pfeiffer
<p>Shane Pfeiffer presented on Cairns Regional Councils experiences and developments from an audit undertaken on their cyber security practices related to their drinking water quality Management plans. This stemmed from their involvement in the Commonwealth Games, and considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Physical and Cyber security- Governance<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Admin Instructions and Policies- Business Processes<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Employee termination, access removed- Monitoring of security- Awareness training for SCADA users- Procedures<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incident response plan- Technical Controls<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Access controls to systems- SCADA network design <p>Shane detailed examples to the group and discussed opportunities Cairns found to improve their business processes. These largely featured simple physical circumstances that provided access to their SCADA systems, with simple solutions Cairns implemented. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Change default passwords on software, computers and hardware (PLC's, data gateways, network equipment).- Use remote access that supports multifactor authentication E.g. Teamviewer- Ensure contractor remote access is known and controlled- Check to ensure your SCADA isn't on the internet <p>These will be emailed directly to councils as part of the presentation to be distributed.</p> <p>Action item 23.1: Lachlan to distribute the Cairns Regional Council presentation on audit outcomes from the cyber security audit on their Drinking Water Quality Management Plan with the minutes.</p> <p>The audit identified that prior SCADA functions tended to concentrate on function rather than security and utilized council's generic ICT security measures and infrastructure, rather than providing stand alone processes and systems within the SCADA network. The new approach was based on the standards put out by Water Services of Australia, of which can be found here.</p>		

Shane further detailed the two types of current SCADA structure/Architecture Cairns utilizes, and the currently flat structure that this entails, and detailed the new network redesign programme that Cairns are undertaking, that will segregate this out into a layered security structure.

6. Discussion

24.2	Progression of Regional Water/Wastewater Sampling and Testing Program	All
<p>After being raised at the last waste forum, the opportunity of a regional water/wastewater testing and sampling program was discussed, with a view to collectively approaching testing and sampling as a cost saving exercise.</p> <p>To understand the need, it was identified that as part of the current drinking water quality management plan audit process, the contractor had been requested to collate the water testing requirements for the councils across the region. The secondary aspect to this would be to filter each council's Environmental Authority Licences to see their testing requirements related to landfills, wastewater treatment plants to provide a full complement of testing requirements.</p> <p>The subsequent discussion between councils identified that it was not only the cost savings that Councils were concerned about with respect to water and wastewater testing, but the consultants' understanding of their water/wastewater ecosystems. It was noted that this understanding was of significant importance when re-negotiating environmental authorities and regulatory body negotiation. On this basis, the group resolved not to enter into a collaborative arrangement for water and wastewater sampling and testing at the current point in time.</p>		

7. Water and Environmental compliance updates and issues

24.3	Water and Environmental compliance updates and issues	Lynne Powell
<p>Qldwater has developed a new partnership in Queensland Consortium for Research and Advocacy on Contaminants (Qldwater CRAC). It is a partnership among Queensland Service Providers (coordinated by Qldwater) to share information and partner with national research & policy programs on contaminants of emerging concern. A financial contribution is required to be a member of Qldwater CRAC and it is overseen by the Consortium Steering Group (CSG). CRC is a financial member and Lynne Powell represents Cairns on the Steering Committee.</p> <p>The Sewerage and Water Environmental Advisory Panel (SWEAP) met on 22 July 2020 with the following outcomes:</p> <p>SWEAP Strategic Direction Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed Key Objectives to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster partnership and industry leadership towards a whole-of-catchment approach - Seek smart regulation, flexibility and self-responsibility - Challenge perverse outcomes from regulation and policy (i.e. PFAS issue) - Predict and proactively respond to pressure on cost to serve - Foster innovation 2. Identified priority issues and potential responses 3. Reviewed Terms of Reference 4. Retained Mark Vis as Chair and Cameron Jackson as Deputy Chair 		

Other points of interest out of the meeting:

- Very good attendance via Zoom (Teams). Looking at changing format to 1 face to face per year (full day meeting) and quarterly video conference meetings (2 hours)
- Zoho is becoming an effective way of keeping in the loop without having to be too active – can contribute to conversations
- Rob Fearon working on getting a consistent term for ‘recycled water’ because different State Gov guidelines use different terms – i.e. ‘effluent reuse’
- ERA 63(2) Pump Station Standard Conditions currently out for comment
- PFAS and EOW Code – Arkwood received another extension for current Approval – relevant SWEAP members will have workshop with DES to agree on methodologies for analysis. Emerging financial risk is the expectations of DES for WWTP plant operators to investigate ecological risk associated with PFAS identification in soil, groundwater on sites
- WSAA Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) in sewer pump stations working group – some members now on this working group (Simon Page for CRC)
- Discussed SWEAPs strategic role in source control, managing contaminants and strategic planning
- Urban Stewardship Framework – this was discussed by the Healthy Waterways Technical Working Group on 2 September 2020. Almost ready to present to Partnership Management Committees for discussion on implementation.

Qldwater CRAC Steering Committee last met on 12 August 2020. Currently these are monthly meetings. Below is a brief summary:

- Qldwater CRAC supported 2 bids (in-kind contribution only) for two research hubs under the Sustainable Communities and Waste NESP2 program (National Environmental Science Program). This is in the hope to influence research priorities.
- Qldwater CRAC supported 1 bid (in-cash and in-kind) for the Clean Australia Cooperative Research Centre
- PFAS remains key focus of regulator – sharing of experiences, information and understanding of potential costs
- Steering Committee undertook survey on priority contaminants for Qldwater CRAC to focus on – currently being compiled
- Significant work on web site development by Qldwater – now have a brilliant resource page that is open to financial members. Also has ability to share more sensitive documents on web but with more restricted access. Anyone in WW who has signed up on Qldwater website can get access to the Qldwater CRAC web page

- Work Plan was reviewed – identifying key stakeholders in research and government that can be influenced is next key priority.

8. Update from LGAQ and Water Directorate (Rob Fearon)

A written update was provided due to technical issues.

24.4	Water Directorate Update	Rob Fearon
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Reef MIP project (Cleaner Wastewater Initiative) is drawing to an end with the final report (Investment Strategy) with the volunteer councils for review (including Cairns, Douglas and Yarrabah). - North Queensland conference is being held in Atherton on the 8th October with options for live or video participation. There are specific sessions on Sewerage management in North Queensland and one on improving links between councils and research organizations. - The Best of the Best Water Taste Test is being held as a video event on Thursday 10th September with a trivia competition to fill the gaps during judges tasting. We have 10 Taste Test entries from across the state but all members are welcome to join in on the day. - A project for joint training for operators in FNQ has been developed (with thanks to Erin at Cairns and Carlie at <i>qldwater</i>) and a QWRAP application drafted for the group's review in the coming weeks. - The <i>qldwater</i> response to the PC Enquiry is available here. - Qldwater are coordinating a sub-group of SWEAP to review the DES proposed Standard for Sewage Pumping Stations. There is still time to provide input – contact Rob if you want to comment or be involved. 	

9. General Business

24.5	General Business	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewer Relining has been awarded in 3 packages of works. Package 1 and 2 (Small and Large Diameter Sewer Relining) went to Relining Solutions. Package 3 (Sewer and manhole condition assessments) went to FlowPro. These works are starting across the region. - The regional Drinking Water Quality Management Plans Audit (12 Councils) has also been awarded to Water Futures. To better suit all councils within the region, the timing of these audits has been amended to April/May 2021. All works are to be completed by end of June 2021. - Regional Contracts continue to be utilized across the region. They are updated subject to feedback on usability, so please check the website for the latest version. 	

Action Items Pending:

Item	Action	Responsible
23.9	CRC to share (if available to do so), scoping documents for request for tenders for cybersecurity investigations.	CRC
24.1	Lachlan to distribute the Cairns Regional Council presentation on audit outcomes from the cyber security audit on their Drinking Water Quality Management Plan with the minutes.	Lachlan