

FNQ Regional Water Alliance

Minutes

Meeting No	32
Meeting Name	FNQ Regional Water Alliance
Date	9 December 2022
Time	10:00am
Venue	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Adam Schmalz	Cairns Regional Council
Toni Veronese	Cairns Regional Council
Simon Page	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena <i>via teleconference</i>	Cook Shire Council
Andrew Healey	Croydon Shire Council
Jonathan Ward	Douglas Shire Council
David Fletcher	Etheridge Shire Council
Geoff Tansley <i>via teleconference</i>	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Michael Leslie <i>via teleconference</i>	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Dinesha Emmery <i>via teleconference</i>	DRDMW
Raquel Esteban <i>via teleconference</i>	DRDMW
Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma	DRDMW
Christopher Land	Queensland Health
Paul Gillies <i>via teleconference</i>	QTC
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC

2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Manu Gravatt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Gene Brookes	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Bruce Gardiner	Tablelands Regional Council
Vic Mills	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Rudolph Pretzler	LGAQ

Jess Dean	QLD Water
Linda Roberts	QLD Water

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes noted and accepted.

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
31.1	Regional Water Capability Problem Statement, governance and reporting framework and key milestones to be presented to the FNQROC Board	Anthony Ottaway, QTC	Complete
31.2	Subject to endorsement by the FNQROC Board, Regional Water Sub-Committee to be established to oversee the project and first meeting to be scheduled	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Complete

5. QUEENSLAND URBAN WATER EXPLORER - DINESHA EMMERY, MANAGER, INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND WATER POLICY PROGRAMS, DRDMW

Dinesha provided an overview of the Queensland Urban Water Explorer.

A copy of presentation circulated with the minutes.

6. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – INGRID FOMIATTI MINNESMA, A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH REGION WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, DRDMW

Ingrid provided an overview of North Region Water Resource Management.

A copy of the presentation circulated with the minutes.

7. REGIONAL WATER CAPABILITY PROJECT – PAUL GILLIES, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, CLIENT ADVISORY, QUEENSLAND TREASURY CORPORATION

Paul provided an update on the Regional Water Capability Project:

- QTC delivered a presentation to the FNQROC Board on 6 October and the project was endorsed
- A sub-committee has been established which is made up of the following:
 - Toni Veronese, Cairns Regional Council
 - Simon Page, Cassowary Coast Regional Council
 - Robyn Maddalena, Cook Shire Council
 - Jonathan Ward, Douglas Shire Council
 - Micheal Leslie, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

- Paul Gillies, QTC
- The project involves four key steps:
 - Step 1 – Understanding ‘on-the-ground’ capability
 - Step 2 – Workshop to socialize findings and key themes
 - Step 3 – Options analysis
 - Step 4 – Implementation of agreed solutions
- As part of Step 1, understanding ‘on-the-ground’ capability issues, each council will complete two capability surveys and be involved in a post survey workshop to validate the survey findings.
- The surveys will be released later in the day to each council’s nominated representative and should be completed by 23 December 2022.
- One response (both survey 1 and 2) is required from each participating council. Surveys should be completed in conjunction with other managers or staff in the water/wastewater business and/or corporate services support functions.
- Post-survey workshops (12-2 hours) will be organized with each council to validate the survey responses and gather further insights.
- The information gathered will then be used to inform the options analysis stage of the project.

8. WATER INDUSTRY WORKER PROGRAM

- Amanda advised that Lee-Anne Willis, L&D Project Coordinator, Mackay Regional Council had recently been in touch as part of her role in the Water Industry Worker (WIW) Program.
- Lee-Anne was looking to understand council’s current vacancies – how many and where, including positions that are currently being filled with labour hire.
- She is looking to gain a snapshot of where future training requirements may be.

ACTION POINT 32.1 Councils to notify Amanda of their current vacancies, including those currently being filled with labour hire.

9. LGAQ – UPDATE

Amanda provided an update from LGAQ:

- QWRAP Project update – see below.
- PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP) 3.0 – see Item 10.

10. QLD WATER

Amanda provided an update from QLD Water that had been provided by Linda Roberts, QLD Water Interim Chief Executive Officer.

- Advocacy work on PFAS NEMP 3.0 – extension granted to the submission period. Numerous workshops – if anyone requires any information please reach out to Louise Reeves, Program Research Coordinator, QLD Water.
- New staff members – Neil Holmes, Water Skills Partnership Manager and Kirsty Hills, new Project Support Officer.
- Ongoing engagement with DESBT as Industry Skills Advisor (ISA) with particular focus on RTOs and training needs now and into the future.
- Chairs and Coordinators meeting minutes including the Review of QWRAP – Executive Summary and the Vision, Mission, Roles & Responsibilities.
- Next Project Steering Group meeting delayed to 22 December 2022.

- QLD Water also supporting the QG interagency water working group initiative.

11. PFAS

- Amanda ran through the presentation recently provided by Arkwood which highlights the cost of the proposed changes to the NEMP.
- Adam Schmalz provided a brief overview from Cairns Regional Council perspective.
- LGAQ will be making a submission together with QLD Water, WASAA and industry (including Arkwood)
- Biosolids has been identified as a potentially problematic waste stream in the Regional Resource Recovery Plan
- FNQROC to set up Biosolids sub-committee in the New Year to focus, specifically on this issue.

A copy of the presentation circulated with the minutes.

ACTION POINT 32.2 FNQROC to set up Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee to focus on biosolids emerging risks and opportunities.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Jonathan Ward asked if there were any councils interested in getting any mains flushed as costs to mobilise from Brisbane are high.

Would be good to share mobilisation costs if any other councils are interested.

ACTION POINT 32.3 Councils interested in mains flushing to notify Jonathan Ward, Douglas Shire Council.

13. NEXT MEETING

- Amanda advised 2023 meetings would be scheduled shortly for next year.
- Councils keen for meetings to take place across the region.
- Douglas Shire Council to host the next meeting to take place on Friday 24 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 1pm.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Hancock, Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)
32.1	Councils to notify Amanda of their current vacancies, including those currently being filled with labour hire.	All Councils
32.2	FNQROC to set up Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee to focus on Biosolids emerging risks and opportunities.	FNQROC
32.3	Councils interested in mains flushing to notify Jonathan Ward, Douglas Shire Council.	All Councils