

FNQ Regional Water Alliance

Minutes

Meeting No	34
Meeting Name	FNQ Regional Water Alliance
Date	23 June 2023
Time	10:00am
Venue	Kingsford Room, Level 2, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Adam Schmalz	Cairns Regional Council
Toni Veronese	Cairns Regional Council
Shane Bandiera	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Manu Gravatt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Simon Page	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Wayne Kristalyn <i>via teleconference</i>	Douglas Shire Council
Cassandra Budd	Mareeba Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Bruce Gardiner <i>via teleconference</i>	Tablelands Regional Council
Dinesha Emmerly <i>via teleconference</i>	RDMW
Jennifer Hartwig	LGAQ
Jess Dean <i>via teleconference</i>	QLD Water
Linda Roberts <i>via teleconference</i>	QLD Water
Christopher Land	Queensland Health
Lee-Anne Willis	Water Industry Worker
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC

2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Peter Tonkes	Cook Shire Council
Jonathan Ward	Douglas Shire Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Alan Clark	Etheridge Shire Council
Geoff Tansley	Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Michael Leslie	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma	RDMW
Richard Kidston	RDMW
Brad Milligan	QLD Health

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes noted and accepted.

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
32.1	Councils to confirm their participation in the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee and nominate a suitable representative to the committee.	All Councils	Awaiting a response from: Croydon SC DSC WWASC YASC
It was agreed that a representative was probably not required from Croydon SC, WWASC & YASC. Amanda will follow up with Douglas Shire Council.			
ACTION ITEM 32.1 Douglas Shire Council to confirm their participation in the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee and nominate a suitable representative to the committee.			
32.2	FNQROC to extend invitations to QLD Water and QLD Health to participate in the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee in an advisory capacity.	FNQROC	Will send invitations once committee finalised
33.3	FNQROC to convene the inaugural Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee meeting and develop Terms of Reference for the Water Alliance's consideration and endorsement.	FNQROC	As above
33.4	FNQROC & QLD Water to discuss FNQROC participation in QWRAP.	FNQROC & QLD Water	Completed
33.5	FNQROC to circulate for information, the email received by Simon Page relating to Method for Accounting for Nutrient Reduction and the quantification of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) and Dissolved Inorganic Phosphorus (DIP).	FNQROC	Completed
33.6	FNQROC to notify Lee- Anne Willis, WIW program of the interest in the proposed	FNQROC	Awaiting a response from:

	Biological Nutrient Removal Wastewater course.		CRC Croydon SC MSC TRC YASC
CRC, MSC and TRC confirmed they do not wish to nominate any attendees to attend the BNR Wastewater course taking place in Townsville.			
ACTION ITEM 33.6 Amanda to send summary of council nominations to attend the BNR course to Jess Dean, QLD Water who will liaise with the NQ Alliance who are facilitating the Townsville training hub.			

5. PRESENTATION – WATER INDUSTRY WORKER – LEE-ANNE WILLIS, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COORDINATOR

Lee-Anne provided an overview of the WIW project.

- Cairns Regional Council and Douglas Shire Council are currently the only FNQROC councils actively participating in the Water Industry Worker program. All other councils are encouraged to get involved.
- Shane advised that further support with non-accredited training such as treatment training would really be helpful which Lee-Anne advised she'd be more than happy to investigate.
- Toni advised that the coordination and purchasing power provided by Lee-Anne and the scheme were invaluable.
- Discussion regarding the limitations to state funding where training attended by remote councils away from their own council area such as Cook Shire Council. QLD Water advised this had been raised from an advocacy perspective.
- There are currently no further RTOs being added to the Skills Assure Platform.
- Trility are currently awaiting RTO approval.
- The need for greater flexibility on the Cert 3 training modules was discussed and the speed at which Cert 3 can be achieved.

ACTION POINT 34.1 Shane Bandiera to provide Amanda with details of non-accredited training to potentially be included in the WIW program. Amanda to circulate to councils to review and for councils to add any further training for inclusion. Amanda to then send the details on to Lee-Anne to investigate further.

A copy of presentation circulated with the minutes.

6. WATER CAPABILITY – AMANDA HANCOCK, FNQROC

QLD Water - Water Skills Forum – Overview

- Amanda provided a brief overview of the Water Skills Forum which took place at QLD Water on 8 June 2023.
- The day was focused on 'Raising the profile of the urban water industry' and the challenges currently facing the water and wastewater sector, all of which aligned the findings of our own Water Capability Project.
- Examples of initiatives underway include the WSAA Employee Value Proposition which will result in collateral being made available for utilities and councils to utilize and NSW Dept of Planning & Environment who have developed a detailed skills and training action plan following detailed workforce operations and training analysis.

Water Capability Project

Following surveys and workshops undertaken by QTC, the Water Alliance identified 3 initiatives to progress to options analysis.

The three initiatives are as follows:

Initiative 1

PEOPLE	Ability to attract and retain suitable, qualified staff to support the water and wastewater business.
	Ability to provide training and upskill the existing workforce
	Ability to access external specialist contractors and consultants

Initiative 2

SYSTEMS & DATA	Ability to record, store, access and analyse data, to better inform planning and decision-making activities to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Planning• Capital Delivery• Asset Management• Procurement & Contract Management
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Initiative 3

PROCESSES	The use of documented standardised operating procedures, processes, and templates to guide and assist: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Planning• Capital Delivery• Asset Management• Procurement & Contract Management
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Amanda advised that the Request for Quote was being developed to engage a consultant to undertake an options analysis. The purpose of this options analysis is to identify regional options and opportunities to resolve/improve the current state. Once quotes have been received funding opportunities and FNQROC Board support will be sought.

7. REGIONAL JOINT PURCHASING – ELLIOT MELEN, FNQROC

Elliott Meelen advised:

- The Request for Tender for the 2023/24 Regional Sewer Relining & Sewer & Manhole Condition Assessments is open and will close at 4pm on Wednesday 28 June 2023.
- Councils participating in this arrangement are:
 - Sewer Relining
 - Cairns Regional Council

- Mareeba Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council

Condition Assessments

- Douglas Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- It would be beneficial if council programs could be provided earlier in the year to enable the Request for Tender to be released sooner and works commenced earlier given limitations of the wet season.
- Research currently underway to understand relining methodology currently available and benefits/disadvantages to councils.
- There appears to be some appetite to include stormwater relining and manhole rehabilitation in future arrangements which will be considered going forward.
- There was also discussion regarding the use of alternatives to Sodium Hypochlorite given supplier delivery restrictions to remote sites. Several councils are utilising Electro chlorination with mixed feedback.

8. QLD WATER – LINDA ROBERTS & JESS DEAN

Linda provided the following update:

- Dr Georgina Davis has commenced with qldwater
- Planning for the Annual Forum in September (5-7th) in Toowoomba
- Celebrating the 20-year anniversary for qldwater
- Linda Roberts to be finishing with qldwater 21 July with a transition plan.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to those councils who submitted data for the Skills Snapshot which is being drafted and due for release in coming weeks.

9. LGAQ - JENNIFER HARTWIG

Jennifer provided the following update:

QWRAP

- Bidpool criteria and application templates are still being reviewed. For the time being, either the existing templates or new draft templates can be used.
- QWRAP annual reports and acquittals are due for EOFY.
- The LGAQ/QWRAP working group are happy to assist members with their applications or annual reporting if needed.

LGAQ

- Sarah has been appointed as LGAQ's Head of Advocacy. This followed a recruitment process with shortlisting concluded in mid-June. We look forward to working with Sarah for a managed return to work post-surgery – at this stage, potentially in July.
- LGAQ have recruited a new Roads and Transport Lead – Jarrod Hellmuth who has experience in traffic engineering in local government and who started on 19 June 2023.
- The 2023 LGAQ bush council event will be held in Goondiwindi from Tue July 25th to Thu Jul 27. Registration is open on the LGAQ events page. Plans are well progressed for Bush Councils Conference, which is also attracting significant state/federal representation.
- The LGAQ 2023 Annual Conference motions portal is now open for lodgement of council motions until COB Wednesday 9 August 2023. Visit the Congruent page for further details and resources to support you in preparing your council's motions. Please remember, all motions must have been adopted by a council resolution prior to being lodged.

10. QUEENSLAND HEALTH – CHRISTOPHER LAND

Christopher Land provided the following update:

Recycled Water

- Undertake audits of recycled water providers operating low-exposure schemes.
- 10 in area and 3 different Councils

Water Play data.

- Required - collect data concerning splashpad and lagoon public aquatic facilities to assist in the development of future of public health guidance for these high-risk facilities.

Water Risk Management Plans

- Undertake desktop inspections of water risk management plans for hospital and healthcare facilities captured by Part 2A of the *Public Health Act 2005 (Private)* to assess compliance against the *Public Health Act 2005*.
- Review of periodic reports.

Other Water Activities

Yarrabah

- Lead notification in Yarrabah.
- Currently under intensive investigation from source to end points.
- Water samples have been taken from other government buildings in Yarrabah and sampling community member houses with commence next week to review the Public Health risk to greater community.
- The Water currently being produced at Yarrabah WTP meets the ADWG.
- TPHS would like to extend their gratitude to CRC for their assistance for early investigations and providing supporting solutions to gain control of the system. Also extending the appreciation to CRC's time, engineers, fitters, and flow meter.
- Yarrabah have previously managed the WTP manually which is very intensive to operate. This was further complicated by not receiving the most accurate advice during concept phase and not garnering support to rectify these urgent water issues.
- A process has been identified where support has been given to install temporary WTP upgrades until more permanent upgrades can commence. I.e., new WTP.
- Intensive investigation into building water infrastructure by undertaking a building assessment as per the EnHealth guidelines, coupled with community blood lead tests to determine exposure.

Atherton Hospital

- Lead notification in the Atherton Hospital.
- Test were part of a new commissioning testing of new parts of the hospital.
- Investigations are currently underway into source.
- Further flushing and resampling to continue.
- Has delayed commissioning of hospital slightly to ensure public health risk is mitigated.

11. RDMW – DINNESHA EMMERY

Dinesha passed on apologies from both Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma and Richard Kidston and provided the following update:

- Urban Water Explorer now out and updated with 2021/2022 data.
- Budget announced \$2.6m funding for urban water risks project which will be focused on drinking water supply risks in urban water. A letter from the Director General will shortly be sent to all council CEOs regarding the project.

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

19-20 July – WIOA Queensland Conference, USQ, Sunshine Coast
15 August – AWA North Queensland Conference, Townsville
5-7 September – Annual Forum, Toowoomba
13 September – NSW Water Directorate Annual Forum, Sydney
6 October – qldwater, Regional Conference, Mackay
9-10 November – AWA, QWater, Brisbane

Shane Bandiera also advised that there is also WIOA Partnership event taking place on Friday 13 October 2023.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

Maria Anselmo, FNQROC Regional Climate Resilience Coordinator provided the following update:

- Regional Drought Resilience Plan - The first round of engagement involving some members of the Water Alliance has been concluded and shared with JCU. Workshops are now going to be conducted with a draft plan expected by the end of the year.
- Reminder for those that participated in the engagement to complete and return a Consent Form.
- The new FNQROC Regional Climate Resilience Technical Committee recently met for the first time - the minutes will be available on the FNQROC website.

ACTION 34.2 Amanda to circulate Consent Form which is to be completed and returned by all participants of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan workshops if they have not already done so.

Morris Hamill, Mareeba Shire Council queried when the Biosolids Sub-Committee meeting would be convened. Amanda advised that FNQROC would be looking to schedule a meeting and progress the Terms of Reference as a priority.

Simon Page, Cassowary Coast Regional Council advised that he and Councillor Bain are part of a stakeholder group undertaking a 5-year review of the Reef 2050 Plan as Cassowary Coast is a Reef Guardian Council. They are looking at Urban Water Targets for both wastewater treatment plants and storm water.

14. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Friday 6 October 2023 at Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

The meeting closed at 12pm.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Hancock, Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

ACTION ITEMS OVERLEAF

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

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32.2	FNQROC to extend invitations to QLD Water and QLD Health to participate in the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee in an advisory capacity.	FNQROC
32.3	FNQROC to convene the inaugural Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee meeting and develop Terms of Reference for the Water Alliance's consideration and endorsement.	FNQROC
33.6	Amanda to send summary of council nominations to attend the BNR course to Jess Dean, QLD Water who will liaise with the NQ Alliance who are facilitating the Townsville training hub.	FNQROC
34.1	Shane Bandiera to provide Amanda with details of non-accredited training to potentially be included in the WIW program. Amanda to circulate to councils to review and for councils to add any further training for inclusion. Amanda to then send the details on to Lee-Anne to investigate further.	Shane Bandiera, Amanda Hancock & Lee-Anne Willis
34.2	Amanda to circulate Consent Form which is to be completed and returned by all participants of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan workshops if they have not already done so.	FNQROC