

FNQ Regional Water Alliance

Minutes

Meeting No	38
Meeting Name	FNQ Regional Water Alliance
Date	10 May 2024
Time	9:30am
Venue	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Adam Schmalz	Cairns Regional Council
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Shane Bandiera	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Kerryn Bull	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Manu Gravatt <i>via teleconference</i>	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Peter Tonkes	Cook Shire Council
Brian Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Garry Pickering	Croydon Shire Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Cassandra Budd	Mareeba Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Aditya Mishra	Mareeba Shire Council
Bruce Gardiner	Tablelands Regional Council
Gary Fenwick	LGAQ
Christopher Land	Queensland Health
Jess Dean <i>via teleconference</i>	QLD Water
Lee-Anne Willis <i>via teleconference</i>	Water Industry Worker
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC
Ieva Pradal	FNQROC

2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Toni Veronese	Cairns Regional Council
Simon Page	Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Raju Ranjit	Etheridge Shire Council
Geoffrey Rewald	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Kiley Hounslow	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Dinesha Emmerly	RDMW
Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma	RDMW
Richard Kidston	RDMW
Brad Milligan	QLD Health
David Wiskar	QLD Water

3. PRESENTATION – DAMIAN LONG, CIVIL CONTRACTORS’ FEDERATION

Damian Long provided an overview of the work of the Civil Contractors Federation.

Copy of CCF’s presentation circulated with the minutes.

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes noted and accepted.

5. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action Item	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Status
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, CCRC	Ongoing
37.1	Maria Anselmo to investigate if the new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Guidelines for Environmental Authority includes minor amendment applications.	Maris Anselmo, FNQROC	Complete
37.2	Maria Anselmo to consolidate feedback regarding the water actions identified in the Regional Drought Resilience Plan and share it with the Plan writing team.	Maria Anselmo, FNQROC	Complete
37.3	Councils to send details of any existing leak detection arrangements to Amanda Hancock to consider the development of a potential regional leak detection arrangement.	All Councils	Outstanding
37.4	Amanda to circulate the Planned Regional Water & Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades captured in the last State Advocacy document	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC & All Councils	See Item 10

	again. Councils to review and update as appropriate and return to Amanda before the next Water Alliance meeting.		
37.5	Amanda Hancock to circulate table provided by Lee-Anne Willis, WIW to assist with the provision of costs information to QLD Water which were incurred by last year's Cert III cohort.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Completed

6. WATER CAPABILITY PROJECT – AMANDA HANCOCK, FNQROC

Amanda provided an overview of the progress to date on the FNQ Regional Water Capability Project -

- Future State Capability Workshop completed 19 April 2024
- Capability Gap Assessment and Future State Workshop outputs circulated 22 April 2024
- Stantec to reach out to those not involved in the first workshop.
- Optioneering Workshop taking place on 16 June 2024
- Draft Plan to be provided August 2024
- Final Plan September 2024
- Presentation to the FNQROC Board October 2024

7. REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS SUB-COMMITTEE – AMANDA HANCOCK, FNQROC

Amanda provided the following update:

- Need biosolids composition data from Douglas Shire Council to complete the data to enable the team at RMIT to undertake initial feedstock analysis.
- Release of regulatory position re PFAS in composting which appears to pretty much rules out compost as an option for biosolids.
- CRC's dewatering options assessment still awaited.
- Townsville City Council conducting pyrolysis and biochar trials following previous research carried out by JCU. qCRAC have agreed in principle financial support for the project although the exact level is yet to be determined.
- qCRAC – Qld Water Consortium for Research & Advocacy on Contaminants – Cairns, Mareeba & Tablelands current members. FNQROC to be nominated as a delegate by on the participating councils to enable us to participate.
- qCRAC has supported the Transforming Biosolids Centre, and the development of the [ChemicalConcoctions.org](https://www.chemicalconcoctions.org) website as well as a project currently underway with UQ researchers at the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences, and another for an ARC Linkage Grant application in progress, all in the contaminants of concern field.
- DESI have partnered with Utilities (UU) to look at opportunities to possibly include FOGO or other organic waste into the wastewater treatment process. *Revolutionising sludge management, turning costly waste into a safe product.* DESI will take on a placement student to examine the EOW Code for Biosolids and look at how it may be revised to increase options for service providers. One of the components of the project is survey of utilities on their biosolids treatment and management. It was agreed that the survey should be completed via the Biosolids Sub-Committee.

- PFAS NEMP 3.0 is currently being worked through and is expected to be cleared by Commonwealth, State and Territory Environment Ministers by the end of the year. Publication will follow Ministerial clearance.
- LinkedIn post from QLD Water re Biosolids Uncertainty – we are not alone.
- Current contract with Arkwood due to expire in September 2024 – will have the option to extend for a further 12 months but Arkwood have raised uncertainty around costs given issues with wet weather disposal options.

ACTION POINT 38.1 Amanda to obtain outstanding biosolids composition data from Douglas Shire Council.

ACTION POINT 38.2 Cairns Regional Council to share dewatering options assessment outcomes from Northern Dewatering Upgrade Project.

ACTION POINT 38.3 Mareeba Shire Council to nominate FNQROC as a delegate to the QLD Water Consortium for Research & Advocacy on Contaminants (qCRAC)

ACTION POINT 38.4 Amanda to contact DESI/UU to request that the survey of utilities on their biosolids treatment and management is completed via the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee.

- There is currently a lack of clarity around the State's policy position and regulatory framework which not only makes it difficult for councils to plan but is also impacting end market development both for biosolids and FOGO.

8. QLD WATER – JESS DEAN, QLD WATER

Jess provided a QLD Water update.

Copy of QLD Water presentation circulated with the minutes.

9. LGAQ – GARY FENWICK

Gary provided a QWRAP update.

Copy of QWRAP presentation circulated with the minutes.

10. PLANNED REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES – AMANDA HANCOCK, FNQROC

At the last 3 meetings councils have been asked to review the information previously captured in the Planned Regional Water and Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades document used at the last State advocacy meeting to establish if it is still up to date. The action item remains outstanding. It is important to ensure that we have a current list of infrastructure priorities to consider should suitable funding opportunities arise. This is of particular importance given the forthcoming State elections.

Cairns Regional Council's priorities are as per the signed off advocacy stance which is available from Wendy Hughes.

Bruce, TRC has provided theirs.

ACTION POINT 38.5 All councils to provide FNQROC with an updated list of their Planned Regional Water & Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades. Councils may also choose to include other projects that they are aware of that may not currently be formally planned or funded.

11. REGIONAL JOINT PURCHASING

Amanda introduced Ieva Pradal, new FNQROC Regional Procurement Coordinator

- Regional Water Chemicals – Progressing well.
- Regional Sewer Relining – 23/24 almost complete except for MSC. 24/25 CRC & CCRC only. Waiting to hear from HSC. CSC has possible Manhole rehab? MSC – Condition Assessments only.
- Councils to send details of their current leak detection arrangements if they have not already done so to enable FNQROC to look at potential regional leak detection arrangement – this is an action arising from the Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRPs)
- Drinking Water Quality Management Plans (DWQMP's) – collective arrangement required for 24/25 with many councils requiring plans.

ACTION POINT 38.6 FNQROC to commence procurement process for DWQMP's for 2024/25.

12. WATER INDUSTRY WORKER – LEE-ANNE WILLIS

Lee-Anne provided the following update.

- Quote has been received from TRILITY and Envirocheck for delivering a Cert III in WIO. An email was forwarded to councils that have expressed interest for the cohort. Councils requested to review and advise of their preference. Croydon have still a couple of units to fill in to reach a full qualification.

ACTION 38.7 Lee-Anne to provide brief table for comparison of RTOs quotes to councils.

- For councils that have not already entered into An MOU with MRC for accessing the shared Project Coordinator, Lee-Anne will send out the MOU for councils to sign, and an invoice for FY25 will be issued as well.

ACTION 38.8 Lee-Anne to issue MOU and request POs from councils for contributing to L&D Project Coordinators role. This will be issued first week of July.

- A quote from S&B has been received for the Cert IV in WIO, MRC are currently reviewing this quotation and comparing against our current service level agreement. Once this is completed a schedule will be forwarded to councils that have previously selected units. Participation is still available to join, and councils can reach out to Lee-Anne to join in the cohort.
- Helen from Griffith University is looking to deliver a BNR course in Townsville later in the year. This will be the same course that was delivered last year and a BidPool Application is currently being drafted. More details will be provided in the near future. EOIs can be sent through to Lee-Anne now.
- Trility have been announced as a Skills Assured Supplier, this allows them access to Priority Skills funding such as User Choice, Higher Skills, C3G funding. Four RTOs now have SAS status.

RTO funding access to Water Industry Operations (WIO) Qualification	Certificate II in WIO	Certificate III in WIO	Certificate IV in WIO	Diploma in WIO
Envirocheck Australia	X Treatment Only	X Treatment only		
Simmonds and Bristow	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network
Trility	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	
Water Training Australia	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	X Treatment and Network	

- Lee-Anne is working with NQROC for a non-accredited learning opportunity for leadership succession planning training. This is an example of some non-accredited training that the Project Coordinators role can assist councils with.
- Discussions had on general consensus of learning outcomes: benefits, more days = dearer, but provides better learning opportunities, less days = may go through the motions, lessens learning outcomes, Mondays and Fridays is a consensus for councils to have delivery on these days. Full delivery schedule allows for workforce planning Forward planning and it is required for councils.
- Micro- Credentials in May are tasters to the full Micro-credentials being delivered in June and September, dates to be advised via eFlashes from Qldwater.
- The HR/IR Toolkit was presented by Elle Ackland from LGAQ to the P&C Village Exchange hosted by LGMA. Lee-Anne will present to the L&D Village Exchange on 22nd May.

13. QUEENSLAND HEALTH UPDATE

Chris provided a brief Queensland Health update.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- 13-17 May – qldwater Water Connections Tour
- 14 May - Fundamentals Webinar: Making Use of Water Quality Data
- 22 May - Fundamentals Webinar: DWQMPs – Practical Implications
- 29 May - Fundamentals Webinar: Fluoridation for QLD Operators

- 11 June - Fundamentals Webinar: Fluoridation for QLD Non-Operators
- 30-31 July - AWA North Queensland Conference, Hamilton Island
- 21 August – QWRAP Chairs and Coordinators Forum
- 22-23 August - qldwater Annual Forum
- 26 October - State Government elections
- 21-22 November - Emerging Contaminants Workshop

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

Amanda provided a brief update regarding the Regional Drought Resilience Program (RDRP).

ACTION POINT 38.9 FNQROC to circulate final draft RDRPs for councils' information.

Bruce, TRC advised that following the departure of Muhammad, TRC have recently welcomed Charles Dyer to the team who should be added to the distribution list as a TRC representative on the Water Alliance.

ACTION POINT 38.10 Bruce, TRC to advise FQNROC of Charles Dyer's details so that FNQROC can add him to the Water Alliance distribution list as a TRC representative.

Adam, CRC advised that CRC had recently had a meeting with RDMW in relation to the Urban Water Risk Assessment (UWRA) project. Other councils present confirmed that they had also had similar meetings with RDMW and Amanda advised that Stantec were liaising with RDMW to ensure alignment between the work of the UWRA and the FNQ Regional Water Capability project.

Lee-Anne, WIW advised councils that whilst it is 'Micro-credential May', a full course included all the micro-credentials will also be offered in the next few months.

16. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Friday 9 August 2024 in Cairns.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.35pm

Minutes prepared by Amanda Hancock, Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator

ACTION ITEMS OVERLEAF

AGREED ACTION ITEMS

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38.3	Mareeba Shire Council to nominate FNQROC as a delegate to the QLD Water Consortium for Research & Advocacy on Contaminants (qCRAC)	Mareeba Shire Council
38.4	Amanda to contact DESI/UU to request that the survey of utilities on their biosolids treatment and management is completed via the Regional Biosolids Sub-Committee.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
38.5	All councils to provide FNQROC with an updated list of their Planned Regional Water & Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades. Councils may also choose to include other projects that they are aware of that may not currently be formally planned or funded.	All Councils
38.6	FNQROC to commence procurement process for DWQMP's for 2024/25.	FNQROC
38.7	Lee-Anne to provide brief table for comparison of RTOs quotes to councils.	Lee-Anne Willis WIW
38.8	Lee-Anne to issue MOU and request POs from councils for contributing to L&D Project Coordinators role. This will be issued first week of July.	Lee-Anne Willis, WIW
38.9	FNQROC to circulate final draft RDRPs for council's information.	FNQROC
38.10	Bruce, TRC to advise FNQROC of Charles Dyer's details so that FNQROC can add him to the Water Alliance distribution list as a TRC representative.	Bruce Gardner, TRC