

# FNQ Regional Water Alliance

## Minutes

<b>Meeting No</b>	44
<b>Meeting Name</b>	FNQ Regional Water Alliance
<b>Date</b>	7 November 2025
<b>Time</b>	9:30am
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation
Shane Bandiera	Cassowary Cost Regional Council
Simon Page	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Robyn Maddalena	Cook Shire Council
Jacque Creswell <i>via teleconference</i>	Croydon Shire Council
Ben Baillie	Douglas Shire Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Aditya Mishra	Mareeba Shire Council
Daniel Field <i>via teleconference</i>	LGAQ
Neil Holmes <i>via teleconference</i>	Queensland Water
Lee-Anne Willis <i>via teleconference</i>	Water Industry Worker
Giovannella Carini <i>via teleconference</i>	RDMW
Amanda Hancock	FNQROC

### 2. APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Adam Schmalz	Cairns Regional Council
Josh Smith	Cairns Regional Council
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Jacque Creswell	Croydon Shire Council
Peter White	Douglas Shire Council
Raju Ranjit	Etheridge Shire Council
Daniel Gatto	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Charles Dyer	Tablelands Regional Council
Mark Vis	Tablelands Regional Council
Graham King	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

Sam Bann	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Jennifer Hartwig	LGAQ
Ingrid Formiattl Minnesma	RDMW
Richard Kidston	RDMW
Brett Rip	RDMW
Christopher Land	QLD Health
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
41.1	Charles, TRC to share learnings of upcoming visit from dog leak detection service.	Charles Dyer, TRC	
42.1	To progress Initiative 3 of the Water Capability Plan, each council to nominate a representative to participate in a Standardised SOPs, work instructions, templates and processes Sub-Committee to be facilitated by FNQROC.	All councils	CSC, MSC nominated so far.
42.3	To progress Initiative 4 of the Water Capability Plan, each council to nominate a representative to participate in a Standardised Water and Wastewater Asset Design and Specification Sub-Committee to focus on SCADA in the first instance.	All councils	CSC, MSC nominated so far.
42.4	Amanda to provide Raju, Etheridge Shire Council with a copy of the 2023 Summary of Planned Regional Water Infrastructure Upgrades – Significant Projects	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Complete
43.1	David S to notify Amanda which councils are currently using SWIMS Local.	David Scheltinga, QLD Water	Complete
43.2	Amanda to submit the 2024-25 QWRAP Final report and 2025-26 Funding Application to LGAQ.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Complete
43.3	Ben to invite Brightly to present an overview of their work on Asset Management with Douglas Shire Council	Ben Baillie, DSC	Complete

43.4	Amanda to invite George Bourne & Associates to provide an overview of their work with SWQROC on Asset Criticality.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Complete
43.5	David W to provide details of the Local Government Depreciation Taskforce.	David Wiskar. QLD Water	Complete
43.6	Josh to provide details of the TOTEX Benchmarking Study being conducted by Cairns Regional Council and WSAA.	Josh Smith, CRC	Complete
43.7	Simon to provide further details of proposed Flow Monitoring to potentially take place ahead of Leak Detection program.	Simon Page, CCRC	Complete
43.8	Amanda to circulate contact list for the Water Alliance	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC	Complete

## 5. REGIONAL WATER CAPABILITY PLAN

- Initiative 3 – Standardised SOPS, work instructions templates and processes
- Initiative 4 – Standardised water and wastewater asset design and specification.

An overview of SCADA standards developed by CRC was kindly provided by Shane Pfeiffer, SCADA Coordinator, Cairns Regional Council.

It was agreed that there could potentially be much benefit in councils collaborating to develop a regional consistent set of SCADA Technical Standards which could also include a standard equipment list and potentially lead to a reduction in the waiting time for equipment and an opportunity for councils to share access to share parts.

**ACTION ITEM 44.1** If they have not already done so, Councils to nominate a representative to participate in a SCADA sub-committee (this action replaces action items 42.1 and 42.3) to be facilitated by FNQROC.

**ACTION ITEM 44.2** Once all councils have nominated a representative to participate in a SCADA sub-committee, FNQROC to convene first meeting and facilitate the development of the Terms of Reference for consideration and approval by the Water Alliance.

**ACTION ITEM 44.3** QLD Water to share details of SCADA projects undertaken by other QWRAP regions.

*SCADA information provided by Shane Pfeiffer Cairns Regional Council circulated with the minutes.*

## 6. QLD WATER/LGAQ – NEIL HOLMES, QLD WATER & DANIEL FIELD, LGAQ

Neil Holmes, QLD Water and Daniel Field, LGAQ provided an update from their respective areas.

*QWRAP Update and Queensland State of the Assets Report circulated with the minutes.*

## 7. REGIONAL JOINT PURCHASING – AMANDA HANCOCK, FNQROC

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- Regional Collection & Beneficial Reuse of Biosolids
  - New contracts in place from 1 October 2025 for 3 years with the option to extend by 2 x 12 months.
  - FNQROC will continue to stay abreast of regulatory developments which may impact beneficial reuse arrangements
  - Regional Leak Detection
  - Funding has been approvedWorks programs currently with Ieva Pradal, FNQROC Procurement to progress
- Regional Sewer Relining
  - New contract underway for 25/26
  - Meeting scheduled for 12 November 2025 to discuss future arrangements and scope of works.
  - All councils encouraged to attend.
- Regional Supply & Delivery of Water Chemicals
  - Current arrangements ongoing
  - Coogee Chemicals recently provided Manufacturers Declaration and Analytical Test Results confirming PFAS content in compliance with iChEMS.

## 6 WATER INDUSTRY WORKER – LEE-ANNE WILLIS, WIW

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### Water Industry Worker Update

#### Certificate III in Water Industry Operations

- Cohorts are currently in progress for Alliances:
  - FNQROC – Still available to join cohort, feel free to reach out
    - Treatment Specialisation – EnviroCheck delivering to Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Mareeba
    - Network Specialisation – Trility delivery to Cairns, Douglas.
    - Cook Shire are undertaking training in Treatment and have spaces if anyone is looking to join delivery in Cooktown. I am having conversation with Hopevale if they will be joining.
    - NQQWRAP - Treatment Specialisation (EnviroCheck)
    - NWQWSA – Treatment Specialisation (EnviroCheck)
    - WBBUWA - Treatment Specialisation (Trility) and Network Specialisation (Trility)
    - WIMWA – In planning stage for Treatment Specialisation, and Network Specialisation

#### Actions:

- for Lee-Anne – Issue Network schedule to councils
- for EnviroCheck – produce Treatment schedule to councils – then Lee-Anne can issue.
- Certificate IV in Water Industry Operations
  - RFQ has been sent to S&B, Trility and Water Training Australia. RFQ closes 19<sup>th</sup> November.
  - EOI from 9 councils – 34 learners
  - Once quote received, I will reach out to Councils and advise pricing to confirm commitment. Once I have commitment, I will request RTOs reevaluate pricing.
  - Still available to participate, feel free to reach out.

## 7 RDMW – GIOVANNI CARINI, WATER SUPPLY REGULATION, DLGW&V

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Ingrid Formiatti Minnesma, Executive Director, Northern Region Water Resource Management, was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but circulated an update to be circulated with the minutes.

*Copy of Water Planning update from RDMW circulated with the minutes.*

Giovanni Carini reminded councils that the deadline for submission of annual reports is Wednesday 17 December 2025.

## 8 REGIONAL WATER CAPABILITY PLAN – ASSET CRITICALITY – PRESENTATION – MICHAEL BUTLER, BRIGHTLY SOFTWARE

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Michael Butler kindly provided a presentation on Brightly Predictor Modelling software and the work they have been doing with Douglas Shire Council on Asset Management.

*Copy of the presentation from Brightly circulated with the minutes*

## 9 REGIONAL WATER CAPABILITY PLAN – ASSET CRITICALITY – PRESENTATION – MATT BRENNAN, GBA CONSULTING

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Matt kindly provided an overview of the work undertaken by GBA Consulting with SWROC on Asset Criticality.

*Copy of the presentation from GBA Consulting circulated with the minutes*

## 10 REGIONAL WATER CAPABILITY – ASSET CRITICALITY

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Next steps – following discussion it was agreed that a recommendation should be put to the FNQROC Board that funding be sought from QWRAP to undertake an option analysis to progress the asset criticality assessment.

It was noted that if approved by the FNQROC Board at their meeting on 2 December 2025, an application could be made to QWRAP for Round 3 funding, which will potentially open on 9 December 2025 and close on 30 January 2026 with assessment completed in February 2026.

**ACTION POINT 44.4 Amanda Hancock to draft a recommendation to the FNQROC Board on behalf of the Water Alliance, that an application be made to QWRAP for Round 3 funding to undertake an options analysis to progress the asset criticality assessment.**

**ACTION POINT 44.5 Amanda Hancock, FNQROC to circulate SWROC Asset Criticality report and other associated documents.**

## 11 GENERAL BUSINESS

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- Congratulations to **Wayne Siganto** from [Mareeba Shire Council](#) who was recently announced as the 2025 recipient of the prestigious Operator of the Year (Civil/Allrounder) award at the recent Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition which took place in Bundaberg.  
The award recognises individuals who embody dedication, innovation, and community service in the water

industry; those who consistently go above and beyond to deliver safe, reliable, and high-quality services to their communities. Congratulations Wayne!

- OGBR consultation Reef 2050 Catchment Water Quality Strategy

The OGBR has an open consultation on the [Reef 2050 Catchment Water Quality Strategy](#).

A high-level review by QLD Water of the Draft Reef 2050 Catchment Water Quality Strategy suggests that it positions reef water service providers as key actors in Reef protection through:

- Improved management of sewage treatment, wastewater discharges, and urban stormwater.
- Mandatory or voluntary participation in monitoring, benchmarking, and data reporting frameworks.
- Alignment with best practice standards and catchment-scale nutrient/sediment reduction targets.
- Their reading suggests that it will likely mean future expanded obligations on Queensland water and sewerage providers to monitor, report, and improve point-source and urban runoff performance. This suggests adherence to “best practice wastewater treatment” which implies reduced N loads in treated effluent discharges. Any future upgrades to WWTP or new WWTP seem likely to have very stringent N limits.
- QLD Water will be making a submission to the consultation, which closes on 19 November, and they encourage all Reef councils to do the same.
- There are mentions of urban run-off too.
- The report makes reference to a Point Source Information Portal, the link: <https://point-source-information-portal-ggsp.hub.arcgis.com/>
- It has lots of information, including the report "Leading Practice Sewage Treatment Plant Environmental Management Review", which will likely inform "best practice" for STP discharges into the future.
- Douglas Shire Council were recently notified that they have received \$47.6m in QRA grant funding for post-Jasper water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
  - PMO in the process of being stood up
  - Practical completion for all projects 30 June 2027
- There was also discussion regarding some issues being experienced with Smart Water Meters.

**ACTION ITEM 44.6 Any councils experiencing issues with smart water metres please reach out to Ben Baillie, Douglas Shire Council.**

## 12 UPCOMING EVENTS

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- WIOA FNQ Interest Day and Barefoot Bowls – Edge Hill Bowls Club Cairns – 14 November 2025
- QLD Water End of Year Drinks – Parliament House, Brisbane - 19 November 2025

## 13 NEXT MEETING

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Next meeting to be hosted by Cassowary Coast Regional Council in Innisfail, weather permitting. Date to be moved to Friday 20 February 2025 and will also include a site visit to the Water treatment plant prior to the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1:30pm

**Minutes prepared by Amanda Hancock, Regional Strategic Infrastructure Coordinator**

### ACTION ITEMS OVERLEAF

## ACTION ITEMS

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44.2	Once all councils have nominated a representative to participate in a SCADA sub-committee, FNQROC to convene first meeting and facilitate the development of the Terms of Reference for consideration and approval by the Water Alliance.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
44.3	QLD Water to share details of SCADA projects undertaken by other QWRAP regions.	QLD Water
44.4	Amanda Hancock to draft a recommendation to the FNQROC Board on behalf of the Water Alliance, that an application be made to QWRAP for Round 3 funding to undertake an options analysis to progress the asset criticality assessment.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
44.5	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC to circulate SWROC Asset Criticality report and other associated documents.	Amanda Hancock, FNQROC
44.6	Any councils experiencing issues with smart water metres please reach out to Ben Baillie, Douglas Shire Council.	All councils