

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Committee Members

You are requested to attend the following meeting of Council.

WATER AND WASTE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021
COMMENCING AT 1.00PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORANBAH

GARY STEVENSON PSM

Chief Executive Officer

GARY MURPHY

Committee Officer

Director Water and Waste

Committee Members:

Cr Simon West (Chair)

Mayor Anne Baker

Cr Greg Austen

Cr Kelly Veava

Cr Lyn Jones

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Chapter 8, Part 2 Local Government Meetings and Committees

Division 1A, Requirements for Local Government Meetings Generally

Section 254J Closed meetings

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters—
 - (a) the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer;
 - (b) industrial matters affecting employees;
 - (c) the local government's budget;
 - (d) rating concessions;
 - (e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government;
 - (f) matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals;
 - (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government;
 - (h) negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the [Acquisition of Land Act 1967](#);
 - (i) a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.
- (4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in [section 150ER\(2\)](#), [150ES\(3\)](#) or [150EU\(2\)](#) of the [Act](#) will be considered, discussed, voted on or made be closed.
- (5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must—
 - (a) state the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and
 - (b) include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed.
- (6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

Conflict of Interest Obligations

Reference is made to Section 150EL of the Local Government Act 2009. Specifically, the obligation of Councillors when they first become aware they have a conflict of interest to make the Chief Executive Officer aware in writing or if in a meeting, ensure they declare immediately.

**WATER AND WASTE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL
TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORANBAH**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. APOLOGIES
3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
5. OFFICER REPORTS
6. INFORMATION BULLETIN REPORT
7. GENERAL BUSINESS
8. CONCLUSION

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3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Water and Waste Standing Committee Meeting of Isaac Regional Council held in Council Chambers, Moranbah, commencing 1:00pm on Wednesday 10 March 2021.

5. OFFICER REPORTS

5.1 EFFLUENT/RECYCLED WATER TRUCK FILL POINT CHARGES AND IMPROVEMENTS – NEBO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request all approved water users to access effluent water from the Nebo effluent/recycled water truck fill point without having to pay the applicable fee as per the Isaac Regional Council 2020/2021 Schedule of Fees and Charges, including any usage from 1 April 2021. Approval is also sought for any capital improvements required at the truck fill point to maximise the ability to access effluent.

5.2 GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE – MACKAY ISAAC WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide Council with an update regarding the Greater Whitsunday Alliance - Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Water Strategy project.

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UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

WATER AND WASTE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2021
COMMENCING AT 1.00PM

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE
WATER AND WASTE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORANBAH
ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2021

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ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE
WATER AND WASTE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MORANBAH
ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 1.00PM

ATTENDANCE Cr Simon West, Division Four (Chair)
Cr Greg Austen, Division One
Cr Kelly Veve, Division Five
Cr Lyn Jones, Division Six

OFFICERS PRESENT Mr Gary Murphy, Director Water and Waste
Mr Jeff Stewart-Harris, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Lisa Tonkin, Manager Business Services
Mrs Linda Roberts, Manager Planning and Projects
Mr Karl Murdoch, Manager Waste Services
Mr Stephan Wagner, Manager Operations and Maintenance
Mr Neill Thompson, Project Manager - Planning and Project Development
Ms Grier Williamson, Digital and Online Communications Officer
Ms Sara Sheridan, Projects and Contracts Coordinator - Waste Services
Mrs Nicole Money, Executive Assistant
Ms Tori Gordon, Administration Officer

1. OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1.00pm and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and paid her respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Cr Greg Austen was not present at the start of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

The Water and Waste Standing Committee received an apology from Mayor Anne Baker.

Resolution No.: W&W0294

Moved: Cr Kelly Ve a Ve a

Seconded: Cr Lyn Jones

That the Water and Waste Standing Committee accepts the apology received from Mayor Anne Baker.

Carried

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest declared this meeting.

NOTE:

Council acknowledges that Chapter 5B Councillors' Conflicts of Interest of the Local Government Act 2009 does not apply to a Councillor if the matter to be resolved relates to a corporation or association that arises solely because of a nomination or appointment of the councillor by the local government to be a member of the board of the corporation or association.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of minutes from Water and Waste Standing Committee Meeting of Isaac Regional Council held at Council Chambers, Moranbah on Wednesday 10 February 2021.

Resolution No.: W&W0295

Moved: Cr Lyn Jones

Seconded: Cr Kelly Ve a Ve a

That the minutes from the Water and Waste Standing Committee meeting held in Council Chambers, Moranbah on Wednesday 10 February 2021 are confirmed.

Carried

5. OFFICERS REPORTS

ATTENDANCE

Cr Greg Austen entered the meeting room at 1.06pm.

5.1 Local Government Association of Queensland Water and Wastewater Management Advisory Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to inform Council of Director Water and Waste appointment to the Local Government Association of Queensland's Water and Wastewater Management Advisory Group and provide an update on activity.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- Receive and note the meeting minutes of the Local Government Association of Queensland Water and Wastewater Management Advisory Group meeting held on 5 February 2021.*

Resolution No.: W&W0296

Moved: Cr Kelly Vea Vea

Seconded: Cr Lyn Jones

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- Receive and note the meeting minutes of the Local Government Association of Queensland Water and Wastewater Management Advisory Group meeting held on 5 February 2021.**

Carried

5.2 Water Restriction Trigger Levels Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Isaac Regional Council endorsement of the revised Water Restrictions Policy Schedule 3 – Water Restriction Trigger Levels guideline required for the Chief Executive Officer to meet legislative and customer requirements for water supplies under the management of Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Receive and note the Cardno report “IRC Water Supply Analysis – Water Trigger Tool Development – 16 February 2021”.**
2. **Adopt the updated Water Restrictions Policy Schedule 3 – Water Restriction Trigger Levels guideline (noting changes to Clermont Triggers and adjusted descriptions for St Lawrence Water relating to depth below “spillway”).**
3. **Request a further report assessing the priority and financial implications of implementing the actions and recommendations contained in Section 5 of the Cardno report.**

Resolution No.: W&W0297

Moved: Cr Lyn Jones

Seconded: Cr Greg Austen

That the Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Receive and note the Cardno report “IRC Water Supply Analysis – Water Trigger Tool Development – 16 February 2021”.**
2. **Adopt the updated Water Restrictions Policy Schedule 3 – Water Restriction Trigger Levels guideline (noting changes to Clermont Triggers and adjusted descriptions for St Lawrence Water relating to depth below “spillway”).**
3. **Request a further report assessing the priority and financial implications of implementing the actions and recommendations contained in Section 5 of the Cardno report.**

Carried

Note: The Water and Waste Standing Committee notes that a communication plan is being developed in relation to this report.

5.3 Water and Waste 2020-2021 Capital Projects Strategic Procurement Plan Progress Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide an update to Council of any action taken by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation as per the Water and Waste Strategic Procurement Plan.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

1. ***Receive and note works awarded under the 2020-2021 Water and Waste Procurement Plan, in particular the awarding of IRCT2013-1120-207 Dredging Part of Theresa Creek Dam and IRCQ2083-1120-863 Sewer Network Mains Relining projects.***

Resolution No.: W&W0298

Moved: Cr Kelly Vea Vea

Seconded: Cr Lyn Jones

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

1. Receive and note works awarded under the 2020-2021 Water and Waste Procurement Plan, in particular the awarding of IRCT2013-1120-207 Dredging Part of Theresa Creek Dam and IRCQ2083-1120-863 Sewer Network Mains Relining projects.

Carried

5.4 Ilbilbie Land Encroachment - Waste Management Facility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises Council of the recent discovery of encroachment by Council on to neighbouring unallocated State Government land at Greenhill Road Waste Management Facility and seek Council approval to purchase the land occupied by Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

1. *Authorise the purchase of the land accommodating part of the Greenhill Waste Management Facility located on part of Lot 1 on RP266865 following a process as directed by Department of Resources.*
2. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute legal instruments for acquisition of part of the land for Waste Management Facility on part of Lot 1 on RP266865 by agreement at valuation.*

Resolution No.: W&W0299

Moved: Cr Greg Austen

Seconded: Cr Kelly Vea Vea

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

1. Authorise the purchase of the land accommodating part of the Greenhill Waste Management Facility located on part of Lot 1 on RP266865 following a process as directed by Department of Resources.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute legal instruments for acquisition of part of the land for Waste Management Facility on part of Lot 1 on RP266865 by agreement at valuation.

Carried

Note: The Water and Waste Standing Committee notes the possible implications of Native Title.

5.5 IRCQ2013-1120-856 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the transfer of an additional \$400k funding from the Sewer Infrastructure Reserve source to Capital Works project CW212936 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation, and award the Contract IRCQ2013-1120-856 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation to the successful respondent Nixon Plumbing Pty Ltd.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- 1. Endorse the transfer of an additional \$400k excl GST funding to project CW212936 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation, with funds to be obtained from the Sewer Infrastructure Reserve source.**
- 2. Award the Contract IRCQ2013-1120-856 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation to the successful respondent Nixon Plumbing Pty Ltd for an amount of \$562,117.00 excl GST.**

Resolution No.: W&W0300

Moved: Cr Lyn Jones

Seconded: Cr Kelly Veve Veve

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- 1. Endorse the transfer of an additional \$400k excl GST funding to project CW212936 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation, with funds to be obtained from the Sewer Infrastructure Reserve source.**
- 2. Award the Contract IRCQ2013-1120-856 CORP Sewer Network Manhole Rehabilitation to the successful respondent Nixon Plumbing Pty Ltd for an amount of \$562,117.00 excl GST.**

Carried

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

Resolution No.: W&W0301

Moved: Cr Kelly Veve Veve

Seconded: Cr Greg Austen

That the Water and Waste Standing Committee closes the meeting to the public under section 274J (3) (g) to deliberate on Confidential Report 5.6 Anglo American Water Supply Agreements – Moranbah and Middlemount at 1.42pm.

Carried

ATTENDANCE

Mrs Tricia Hughes, Coordinator Executive Support entered the meeting room at 1.58pm and left the meeting room at 1.58pm.

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

Resolution No.: W&W0302

Moved: Cr Kelly Vevea

Seconded: Cr

Greg Austen

That the Water and Waste Standing Committee opens the meeting to the public at 2.01pm.

Carried

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Closed under s254J (3) (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

5.6

Anglo American Water Supply Agreements - Moranbah and Middlemount

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide Council with an update on the progression of negotiations with Anglo American (ANGLO) for water supply agreements at Moranbah and Middlemount and seek endorsement of conditions proposed for finalising the agreements.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

- Note the update on the progression of negotiations with Anglo American for water supply agreements at Moranbah and Middlemount;***
- Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and vary agreements with Anglo American for the provision of water to Moranbah and Middlemount as outlined in this report.***
- Make provision in long term financial forecasts and associated budgets for the management of assets transferred to Council.***

Resolution No.: W&W0303

Moved: Cr Lyn Jones

Seconded:

Cr Greg Austen

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

1. Note the update on the progression of negotiations with Anglo American for water supply agreements at Moranbah and Middlemount;
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and vary agreements with Anglo American for the provision of water to Moranbah and Middlemount as outlined in this report.
3. Make provision in long term financial forecasts and associated budgets for the management of assets transferred to Council.

Carried

6. INFORMATION BULLETIN REPORTS

6.1 Water and Waste Information Bulletin – March 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Water and Waste Directorate Information Bulletin for March 2021 is provided for review.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. Note the Water and Waste Directorate Information Bulletin for March 2021.

Resolution No.: W&W0304

Moved: Cr Kelly Vevea

Seconded: Cr Lyn Jones

That the Committee:

1. Note the Water and Waste Directorate Information Bulletin for March 2021.

Carried

ATTENDANCE

Mr Neill Thompson left the meeting room at 2.16pm.
Cr Gina Lacey entered the meeting room at 2.22pm.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Amnesty Days

Cr Greg Austen requested an update on the proposed amnesty days.

Director Water and Waste advised that planning is underway and there will be a further report to Council if required.

The Committee requested an update on the status of the Illegal Dumping Management and Invention Plan (pilot 2020 - 2021) to be provided at the April Standing Committee.

ACTION: DIRECTOR WATER AND WASTE

8. CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.25pm.

These minutes were confirmed by the Committee at the Water and Waste Standing Committee Meeting held in Moranbah on Wednesday 14 April 2021.

.....
CHAIR

..... / /
DATE

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|------------------------|--|
| MEETING DETAILS | Water and Waste Standing Committee Meeting Wednesday 14 April 2021 |
| AUTHOR | Lisa Tonkin |
| AUTHOR POSITION | Manager Business Services |

5.1 EFFLUENT/RECYCLED WATER TRUCK FILL POINT CHARGES AND IMPROVEMENTS – NEBO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request all approved water users to access effluent water from the Nebo effluent/recycled water truck fill point without having to pay the applicable fee as per the Isaac Regional Council 2020/2021 Schedule of Fees and Charges, including any usage from 1 April 2021. Approval is also sought for any capital improvements required at the truck fill point to maximise the ability to access effluent.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

- 1. Resolve to allow all approved water users to access effluent water from the Nebo effluent/recycled water truck fill point without having to pay the applicable fee as per the Isaac Regional Council 2020/2021 Schedule of Fees and Charges, including any usage from 1 April 2021.***
- 2. Note that the proposed 2021/2022 Isaac Regional Council Schedule of Fees and Charges will include a notation excluding Nebo from the effluent/recycled water truck fill point associated fee.***
- 3. Approve the use of funds from CW202846 Nebo WTP Electrical Conductivity Improvement for the purposes of upgrades to the truck fill point to maximise recycled water consumption.***

BACKGROUND

Isaac Regional Council (IRC) currently has an approved Transitional Environmental Program (TEP) E-100018841 for the Nebo Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) as per Section 330 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. This TEP was approved by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) on 11 September 2020 with further amendments approved on 18 November 2020.

The TEP was required due to several exceedances of the Environmental Authority (EA) EPPR00791913 release limits for electrical conductivity at the Nebo WWTP. The key objective of the TEP is to transition the site to compliance with EA conditions by undertaking a number of actions by the TEP finish date of 31 December 2022.

IRC has been progressing the Receiving Environment Management Plan (REMP) and the Irrigation Management Plan (IMP). The draft documents have highlighted the need to maximise the reuse of recycled water.

As part of the agreed program, IRC must reduce irrigation by encouraging the use of effluent for dust suppression to lower Effluent Storage Dam (ESD) levels.

Note that all users must be approved in relation to the use of recycled water and there are record keeping obligations for IRC.

To encourage effluent use at the Nebo effluent/recycled water standpipe, the Water and Waste Directorate (W&W) are recommending that approved users be exempt from having to pay the applicable fee within the IRC Schedule of Fees and Charges. This fee as per the 2019/2020 Schedule of Fees and Charges is currently \$0.70/kL. It is recommended that this exemption be applied to all usage from 1 April 2021 as invoicing for this period is not scheduled until May 2021.

Council has previously been advised of the intention to remove the fee for recycled water at Nebo in adopting the 21/22 Fees and Charges.

By promoting the recycled water at no cost, it is hoped that non irrigation consumption off site can be maximised.

Staff have been communicating with all current users of recycled water to understand their usage needs. The other factor influencing the maximisation of reuse is the delivery method to customers. Currently there is a gravity fed hose from the storage dam that is used to fill tankers. It is likely that a pressurised standpipe arrangement and a coded lock will be required to increase water delivery speeds, and this may require a pump and related infrastructure. It is also likely that a change to the extraction location for recycled water may be required within the WWTP.

Council currently has approximately \$7,000 available from CW202846 in 20/21 following the return of \$500,000 to the capital reserve. Estimates have not yet been obtained nor a final solution to effluent delivery method arrived at. Approval is sought for the use of funds from CW202846 and if the current available funds are insufficient then an adjustment out of the reserve will be requested at Q3 review.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The financial impact of the proposed recommendation will be minimal.

Effluent sales in Nebo from July 2020 to February 2021 equalled \$69.30.

Potable sales may be affected if current users determine that they can supplement some or all of their potable usage with the effluent water instead. Potable sales in Nebo however from July 2020 to February 2021 equalled \$1,196.65, noting however that all this usage was for works related to IRC.

CW202846 Nebo Electrical Conductivity Improvement retains capital funds to support works required to address noncompliance at the Nebo WWTP associated with electrical conductivity issues. There is \$7000 available in 20/21 and \$500,000 in Capital Reserves for this project.

Compliance

IRC has an obligation to adhere to the TEP conditions as per the DES and W&W believe a step in encouraging more effluent usage, and lowering irrigation, is to remove the associated costs and ensure delivery is efficient.

CONSULTATION

Director Water and Waste

Manager Operations and Maintenance Water and Wastewater

Manager Planning and Projects

Director Engineering and Infrastructure and Engineering and Infrastructure Managers advised of need to increase effluent truck fill point usage and proposal to potentially remove associated fee to gauge interest.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

IRC has an obligation to adhere to their TEP approved on the 18 November 2020 by the DES. A condition of the TEP is to encourage increased usage via the truck fill point to reduce irrigation.

ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY

Manager Operations and Maintenance Water and Wastewater, Manager Business Services and Director Water and Waste to coordinate actions which arise from this report.

KEY MESSAGES

To ensure IRC remain compliant with their TEP, Nebo effluent usage via the truck fill point will be available at no charge to encourage higher usage and reduce the need for irrigation.

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| Report prepared by: LISA TONKIN Manager Business Services Date: 26 March 2021 | Report authorised by: GARY MURPHY Director Water and Waste Date: 29 March 2021 |
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ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Notice of Decision to Approve draft Transitional Environmental Program E-100018841 letter, dated 14 September 2021.
- Approved Form – Transitional Environmental Program for Nebo Wastewater Treatment Plant, dated 2 May 2020.

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|------------------------|--|
| MEETING DETAILS | Water and Waste Standing Committee Wednesday 14 April 2021 |
| AUTHOR | Gary Murphy |
| AUTHOR POSITION | Director Water and Waste |

5.2 GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE - MACKAY ISAAC WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to provide Council with an update regarding the Greater Whitsunday Alliance - Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Water Strategy project.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council to:

- 1. Note the update provided on the Greater Whitsunday Alliance - Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Water Strategy.**

BACKGROUND

Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) is leading the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday (MIW) Regional Water Strategy project, bringing together resources to further identify opportunities to drive economic growth through optimising accessibility to available water resources and assets in the MIW region. Fundamental to the strategy development is bringing together need (water demand) and opportunity (water sources), as well as identifying tangible and realisable opportunities to make best use of available/accessible water resources.

The strategy has now reached the final stages and the final report should be available prior to the meeting.

The objectives of the Strategy are:

- To understand the extent to which access to reliable water supplies is constraining economic development in the MIW region.
- Identify water infrastructure and other opportunities (including innovative uses/outcomes) which could provide a catalyst for further economic development based on the underlying principles of sustainable development and industry best practice.
- Enhance the current knowledge base underpinning water infrastructure planning (focusing on the availability and use of water for a range of purposes) and decision making in the MIW region (driven by identified water demand or opportunity, availability and reliability, water fitness for purpose, impacts and risks).

The purpose of the Strategy is not to make recommendations regarding specific infrastructure options, but rather to identify the desired outcomes and water related needs of the MIW region and the range of both infrastructure and non-infrastructure options that could meet those needs.

The Project Steering Committee defined desirable outcomes for the Strategy as:

- Regional economic, social and environmental resilience (including in the face of change).
- Diversity and expansion of mining, agriculture and aquaculture across the region (including diversity within agriculture).
- Value adding opportunities are explored and enabled.
- Strategic, outcome-focussed collaboration between industry and all levels of government to ensure that:
 - i. Existing water resources are better utilised sustainably.
 - ii. New bulk water infrastructure project assessments and investments are coordinated.
 - iii. Policy and regulatory settings enable and support existing and new industries.
- Export opportunities are diversified and realised.
- Long-term water security and flexibility for all water users.

An options assessment workshop was scheduled to help prioritise the various options developed to meet the identified service needs. Four water specific service needs were identified.

1. High value cropping and industrial expansion near Bowen.
2. High value cropping opportunities near Collinsville.
3. Aquaculture expansion around agriculture development areas.
4. Mining and urban demand in the Isaac Local Government Area.

Service need number four (4) above is of specific interest and relevance to Isaac Regional Council (IRC). High priority water allocations and new pipeline capacity will be required for metallurgical coal expansion plans and urban water security in the Isaac region.

The Director Water and Waste, Chief Executive Officer and Mayor have had opportunity to provide some input into the strategy.

IMPLICATIONS

A regional approach to economic development is vital and the GW3 is the peak advocacy body to promote the region and secure funding required to stimulate development and facilitate growth. GW3 is an independent, strategic and coordinated point of contact for local, national and international networks and will effectively advocate for projects and opportunities from both government and the private sector.

As identified in service need number four (4), Isaac Regional Council does not hold water allocations and therefore has little control of supply security and price. A large proportion of existing supplies are sourced under legacy agreements with mining companies which in some cases have expired, and miners are openly stating that they are seeking to terminate urban supply arrangements. This leaves Council exposed to both volume and price risk.

The input provided to date has included:

- Agree that an affordable water price is a significant issue for IRC.
- The IRC specific references in the strategy is too Moranbah centric and could better articulate the broader regional issues.

- IRC does not own the allocations, we do not own the pipelines, some areas of resource sector has been looking to renege on historical conditions or reduce contributions to town water, even if IRC get an allocation to Dysart and Middlemount out of the Nagoa/Mackenzie we don't have a pipeline to supply it to towns.
- A pipeline to Moranbah could continue on to Dysart and Middlemount as there are far higher water security concerns from the Nagoa/Mackenzie that the Burdekin/Eungella/Urannah – a pipeline south of Moranbah is identified in the “Southern Eungella Pipeline” discussion however could be argued stronger in relation to also being a solution to town water security for Dysart and Middlemount.
- If allocations were held by IRC from Eungella/Burdekin at a fair price and this pipeline was in place, then IRC needs could be met.
- Section 2.4.3 Dysart and Middlemount both supplied from Bingegang Weir on the Mackenzie – Middlemount in Level 3 water restrictions and Dysart has no restrictions presently. Mining company seeking to limit Middlemount supply to 500ML – referenced in Table 10 of strategy for current and future needs at Middlemount. 500ML is unsustainable.
- Fairbairn Dam has very limited strategic reserve/high priority water.

The IRC objectives are:

- Long Term Water Security - legal arrangements in place, Council to hold water licences, reliable supply via secure yield and delivery system reliability.
- Water purchase price to be commensurate with other regional local governments.
- If supply continues via resource sector – we seek government intervention to compulsorily acquire the water allocations.
- We need government support to hold resource sector accountable for their historical obligations.
- TS4-2: Advocate for a CSO to reduce the cost Isaac Regional Council pays for water. GW3 in consultation with Isaac Regional Council should provide the Queensland Government with evidence of the current water supply security and price risk challenges¹⁴. Advocacy for a CSO should present evidence separately for current arrangements and for any future costs associated with a new pipeline. – see commentary above on IRC objectives.
- TS4-3.2a: Secure unsold HP allocation from Burdekin Dam and construct Burdekin to Moranbah Pipeline Duplication. – could also reflect extension of pipeline south of Moranbah. Similarly, Urannah Dam could have similar articulation.
- TS4-3.1: Investigate new ways of financing commercial bulk water pipelines that supply their mining customers – pathway here to charge 100% of costs to commercial customers and then use this model to provide CSO to IRC. This way the scheme costs are recovered from those most able to afford it.
- Inclusion of acknowledgement of longer-term Isaac agricultural opportunities.
- Inclusion of longer-term action relating to mine surplus water post closure/rehabilitation and re-purposing of storage and pipeline infrastructure if/when not required for mines.

The final report – *Traditional Service Need 4 – the Isaac Resources Hub*, will be of greatest interest to IRC and Council's attention is drawn to this section of the Strategy associated with actions and implementation.

Key themes from the document include the following:

Traditional Service Need Four (4)

High priority water allocations and new pipeline capacity will be required for metallurgical coal expansion plans and urban water security in the Isaac region.

Outcomes achieved by meeting service need

- Strategic, outcome-focussed collaboration between industry and all levels of government to ensure that policy and regulatory settings enable and support existing and new industries.
- Supply options and water use are environmentally sustainable.
- Expansion of mining across the region.
- Long-term water security and flexibility for all water users.

[Specifically, the fact that Isaac Regional Council does not hold its own water allocations and therefore has little control of supply security and price. A large proportion of existing supplies are sourced under legacy agreements with mining companies which in some cases have expired, and miners are openly stating that they are seeking to terminate urban supply arrangements. This leaves the Council exposed to both volume and price risk.]

TS4-2 Advocate for a CSO to reduce the cost Isaac Regional Council pays for water

- GW3 in consultation with Isaac Regional Council should provide the Queensland Government with evidence of the current water supply security and price risk challenges.
- Advocacy for a CSO should present evidence separately for current arrangements and for any future costs associated with a new pipeline.

TS4-3.1 Investigate new ways of financing commercial bulk water pipelines that supply their mining customers

- **RDMW** should lead a study to explore alternative financing options for new bulk water pipelines that addresses the up-front costs, risk sharing, circularity and timing problems that are preventing investment in these types of assets. For example, in Newcastle, the coal industry has used convertible notes to incentivise shared infrastructure investment with varying timing and capacity requirements, and multiple counterparties for coal handling assets. Convertible notes allow investors to provide a loan to a development vehicle, which converts to asset equity at a discounted price once the asset is built. A similar instrument may prove useful in the Bowen Basin.

TS4-3.2a Secure unsold HP allocation from Burdekin Dam and construct Burdekin to Moranbah Pipeline Duplication

- This option is supported as the current pipeline is 100% allocated.

TS4-3.2b Construct Urannah Dam and pipeline to the Bowen Basin

- Bowen River Utilities have prepared a detailed business case for the Urannah Water Scheme. It is the Queensland Government's responsibility to determine next steps for the project.

TS4-3.2c Construct Connors River Dam and pipeline

- A detailed business case and EIS has previously been completed for Connors River Dam. It is the Queensland Government's responsibility to determine next steps for the project including consideration of piping to the Isaac region.

CONSULTATION

Mayor

Chief Executive Officer

Director Planning Environment Community Services

Director Water and Waste

Manager Economy and Prosperity

Manager Strategic Assets

Manager Planning and Projects

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

GW3 is working towards a reliable, safe and sustainable water supply for use by communities and industries. The strategy is a standalone document that has implications across various areas of Council.

ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY

The Director Water and Waste will continue to represent Isaac Regional Council to secure safe and reliable water supplies for the Isaac Region. The Director Planning Environment and Community Services will continue to explore water led development opportunities that may exist within the Isaac region.

KEY MESSAGES

Water has always been a key factor in supporting regional development and the economic prosperity across the Greater Whitsunday region, with mining and agriculture driving much of the regional economy.

GW3 is initiating a Regional Water Strategy to identify opportunities to drive economic growth through optimising accessibility and usage available water resources and assets in the MIW region.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Report prepared by: | Report authorised by: |
| GARY MURPHY | GARY STEVENSON PSM |
| Director Water and Waste | Chief Executive Officer |
| Date: 31 March 2021 | Date: 8 April 2021 |

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) Mackay Isaac Whitsunday (MIW) Regional Water Strategy

MEETING DETAILS

Water and Waste Standing Committee

Wednesday 14 April 2021

AUTHOR

Gary Murphy

AUTHOR POSITION

Director Water and Waste

6.1**WATER AND WASTE INFORMATION BULLETIN – APRIL 2021****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Water and Waste Directorate Information Bulletin for April 2021 is provided for Committee review.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1. Note the Water and Waste Directorate Information Bulletin for April 2021.**

BACKGROUND

The attached Information Bulletin for April 2021 provides an operational update for Committee review on the Water and Wastewater Directorate.

IMPLICATIONS

Any specific implications or risks will be outlined in the Information Bulletin.

CONSULTATION

Water and Waste Directorate Managers and Staff.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

This is an information only report.

ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY

Information only report.

KEY MESSAGES

Operational update to Elected Members.

Report prepared by:

GARY MURPHY
Director Water and Waste

Date: 7 April 2021

Report authorised by:

GARY STEVENSON PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 8 April 2021

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Water and Waste Information Bulletin – April 2021

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Nil

DATE: April 2021

WATER AND WASTE

DIRECTORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Director attendance at Qldwater Strategic Priorities Group Meeting in Brisbane Friday 5 March 2021.
- Several thankyou's across the directorate for a job well done.
- Theresa Creek Dam Surveillance Safety Training in Clermont Thursday 11 March – Friday 12 March 2021.
- Richard Elly's Retirement Celebration – 28 Years of Service.
- Finalisation of review of water restriction triggers for Council controlled water supplies.

Emerging Risks

- Dysart Effluent Storage dam levels are proving difficult to control due to ongoing wet weather, reduced demand, high inflows and the storage volume of the dam. The dam holds approximately 40ML and receives on average 1.1 ML/day so if the dam is managed at half capacity it allows for only 20 days of zero watering before overflows. The current Environmental Authority (EA) doesn't provide for wet weather release and also prevents irrigation use when water can pool on the ground at irrigation sites. An EA review is underway to look at the possible alternatives for dispersal of the recycled water based on a previous assessment. There is also a connection to the need to undertake a strategic review of all effluent systems in all towns including water balance, strategic purpose, priority use, storage capacity, EA licence changes, additional users etc.
- Nebo EC exceedance at the WWTP continues to prove challenging with recent analysis indicating the irrigation area may be insufficient in size and the soil type may have less capacity to receive effluent than previously anticipated. We have engaged external support for the optimisation of the WTP as well as the irrigation plans and overall compliance with the TEP. We are seeking to maximise the amount of effluent used in roadworks by removing the fee for effluent at Nebo.

BUSINESS SERVICES

PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The quarterly Water Education Network (WEN) meeting held this month was attended by the Manager Business Services and one of our Customer Administration Officers via Microsoft Teams. This meeting covered a variety of topics from strategies, tips and ways to design a successful communication plan, which included several presentations from Cara Beal (Griffith University) and Urban Utilities, and provided working knowledge and experience on the different approaches for community engagement, and also how to communicate efficiently through drought. This meeting also provided opportunities to learn how other organisations are working towards effective water education and awareness and provides a platform that allows all participants to be actively involved by sharing not only their own experiences, but that of the organisation they represent.

- The Directorate received two (2) positive feedback messages from customers this month. One regarded our Customer Administration Officer as “super helpful in coordinating...and keeping (them) informed” and the other thanked our operations and projects teams for their swift work in Clermont to ensure their business was not disrupted for too long during planned works.

PREVIOUS MONTH’S ISSUES:

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Following Q2 budget review, the Business Services areas of the 81000 (Operations and Maintenance) budget pack are on track.

DEVIATION FROM BUDGET AND POLICY:

Not applicable.

OPERATONAL PLAN / BUSINESS PLAN – EXCEPTION REPORTING

| PROJECT TITLE | COMMENTS |
|--|---|
| Implement Clermont Water Quality Response Plan and associated Communication Plan | Following feedback from the Engagement Department of Council, the Communication Plan has been amended. The action for the Response Plan to be uploaded onto Speak Up Isaac has been removed as it does not fit the criteria and intention of this platform. |
| MiWater/Taggle system review and possible updates | <p>A meeting was held this month to determine the high priority actions from the Meter Reading Strategic Plan that are scheduled for completion in 2021. These actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Continue to develop robust working relationships with Taggle Systems and Tyeware. Review and monitor contractual arrangements to ensure they are upheld and remain fit for purpose. 1.2 Build a good working relationship with housing entities across the region – Real Estate Agencies and mining/company housing management groups. 2.1 Takes steps to rectify system fault which rounds meter reads up to the nearest kilolitre instead of down to the nearest kilolitre. 2.2 Review and monitor Mackay Regional Council’s trial of Taggle Systems new v200 smart meter. 3.1 Review and install taggles on internal W&W infrastructure for greater availability to track inflows and outflows at different areas within the plant and network. 4.1 Review the operational impact of activities related to fixing, replacing and checking taggles against current |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>workforce and resources. Find efficiencies in our processes to reduce workloads for meter reading checks.</p> <p>4.2 Develop a proposal to address legacy issues and problematic taggles. Seek external support as required with consideration to asset warranty timeframes.</p> |
|--|---|

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:

- The suite of documents related to the implementation of Water Restrictions are currently under review. This includes the Water Restrictions Policy (updated), Procedure (new) and Internal Guideline (new), the Water Conservation Measures Guideline (updated), and Water Restriction Conditions Guideline (updated).
- The W&W Leadership Team Cultural Leadership Program is set to kick off in Nebo and the Quarterly IMS Management Review Meeting is scheduled for next month.
- The Clermont 5ML Reservoir Open Day is scheduled for 29 April 2021.

DEVELOPING INITIATIVES / ISSUES:

Water Restrictions

Sufficient rain in St Lawrence meant the removal of restrictions on the 23 March 2021.

| CURRENT & PROJECTED | LEVEL 1 | | LEVEL 2 | | LEVEL 3 | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| | Start Date | End Date | Start Date | End Date | Start Date | End Date |
| Location | | | | | | |
| Middlemount | 16/03/2019 | 18/11/2019 | 18/11/2019 | 10/01/2021 | 11/01/2021 | |
| St Lawrence | 10/09/2020 | 13/12/2020 | 14/12/2020 | 23/03/2021 | | |

Standpipe Exemptions for use during Water Restrictions

| APPROVED EXEMPTIONS | TYPE | AVERAGE WEEKLY REPORTED CONSUMPTION | REPORTED USAGE |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| External Consumer Middlemount | Domestic Human Consumption | 588KL | Providing to mine sites. |

Water Reform

The Productivity Commission's latest water sector report was released in February associated with the progress of the National Water Initiative. The Commission called for submissions on the draft report by Wednesday 24 March 2021. Feedback was provided via the Queensland Water Directorate. Attachment 1c is The National Water Reform 2020 Productivity Commission Draft Report for information.

WATER & WASTEWATER

PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

| Strategy (i.e. C5) | Service Area | Description | Monthly Status Update | Annual Status Update |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|---|---|----|------------------------------|
| 15 | Provision of safe and reliable water supply services – monitor performance and undertake remedial action where required | <p>Incidence of unplanned interruptions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 70 per 1000 connections / year <p>Total Water connection in IRC = 8479 Allowable target 20/21 – 593</p> | 89 | 234 (below target) |
| 15 | Provision of safe and reliable water supply services – monitor performance and take remedial action where required | <p>Water main breaks –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 40 per 100 km / year <p>Total Length of water main at IRC = 245 km Allowable target 20/21 – 98</p> | 45 | 159 (above target) |
| 15 | Provision of safe and reliable water supply services – monitor performance and take remedial action where required | <p>Water quality complaints –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 20 per 1000 connections / year <p>Total Water connection in IRC = 8479 Allowable target 20/21 – 170</p> | 5 | 14 (below target) |
| 15 | Provision of effective sewerage transport and treatment services – undertake / investigate – system condition and functionality, monitor performance and undertake remedial action where required | <p>Wastewater Mains breaks and chokes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 40 per 100 km / year <p>Total Length of wastewater main at IRC = 202 km Allowable target 20/21 – 81</p> | 5 | 38 (below target) |
| 15 | Provision of effective sewerage transport and treatment services – undertake / investigate – system condition and functionality, monitor performance and undertake remedial action where required | <p>Wastewater complaints – Overflow on property and odour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 15 per 1000 connections / year <p>Total Wastewater connection in IRC = 7879 Allowable target 20/21 – 118</p> | 5 | 31 (below target) |
| 15 | Provision of safe and reliable water supply and effective sewerage transport and treatment services | <p>Total Water and Sewer Complaints (any nature) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < 100 per 1000 connections / year | 53 | 170 (below target) |



| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Total Water connection in IRC = 8479 Allowable target 20/21 – 848 | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

PREVIOUS MONTH'S ISSUES:

Raw Water Sources for Isaac Regional Towns

The following diagram provides an update on raw water sources, water levels in dams, water used to date if applicable, and current water restrictions in place for each Isaac Regional town.

Recent rains have seen the levels of most water source increase.



Glenden

Raw water for Glenden is provided from the Bowen River which can be refilled from Gattonvale off-stream storage and Eungella Dam.

- Newlands Coal Mine (Xstrata) **N/A**
- Bowen River Weir **109%**

No Water Restrictions

Nebo

Nebo's raw water is supplied through six bores. The new water treatment plant and reservoir as part of the Nebo Water Supply Project have 2ML storage on site.

- See graph below for water levels in Bore 2.

No Water Restrictions

Carmila

Raw water is supplied from two shallow bores located near the Carmila Ck approx 1km from the WTP.

- Water is flowing over the weir near the bore.

No Water Restrictions

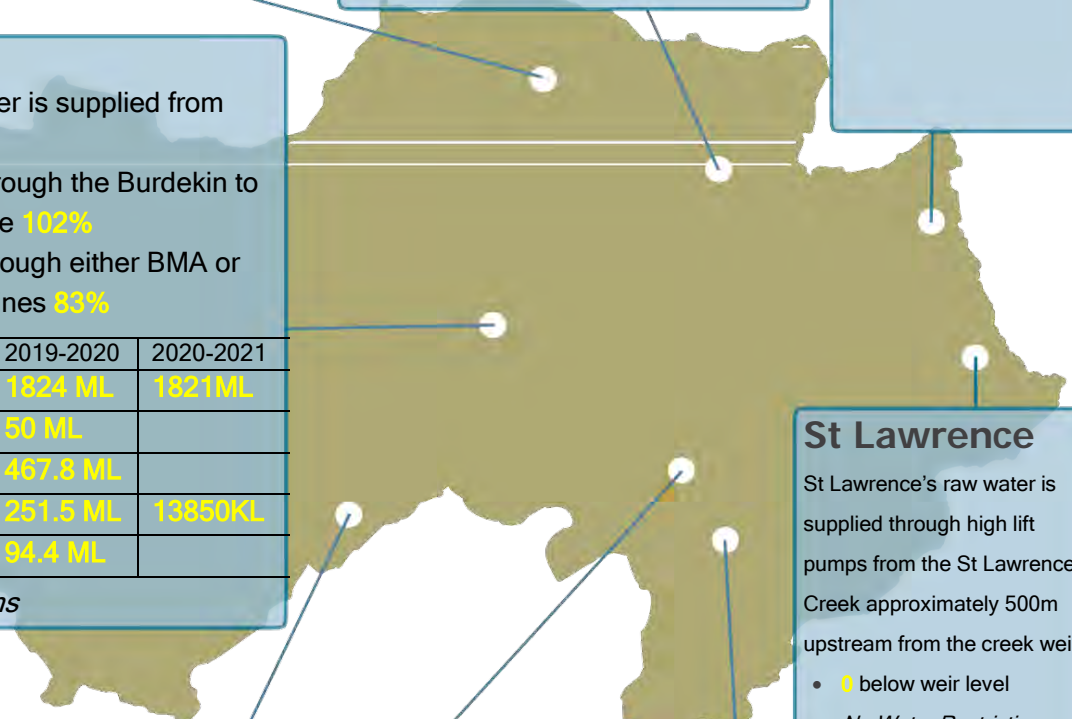
Moranbah

Moranbah's raw water is supplied from two sources:

- Burdekin Dam through the Burdekin to Moranbah pipeline **102%**
- Eungella Dam through either BMA or SunWater's pipelines **83%**

| Water used to date: | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| • BMA: | 1824 ML | 1821ML |
| • Dyno: | 50 ML | |
| • Stanmore: | 467.8 ML | |
| • Sunwater: | 251.5 ML | 13850KL |
| • Pembroke: | 94.4 ML | |

No Water Restrictions



St Lawrence

St Lawrence's raw water is supplied through high lift pumps from the St Lawrence Creek approximately 500m upstream from the creek weir.

- **0** below weir level

No Water Restrictions

Clermont

Clermont's raw water is supplied from Theresa Creek Dam

- **Level with dam wall spillway**

No Water Restrictions

Dysart

Dysart's raw water is supplied from Bingegang Weir in the Mackenzie River which can be re-filled from Fairbairn Dam, through Bedford Weir.

- Bingegang Weir **105%**

No Water Restrictions

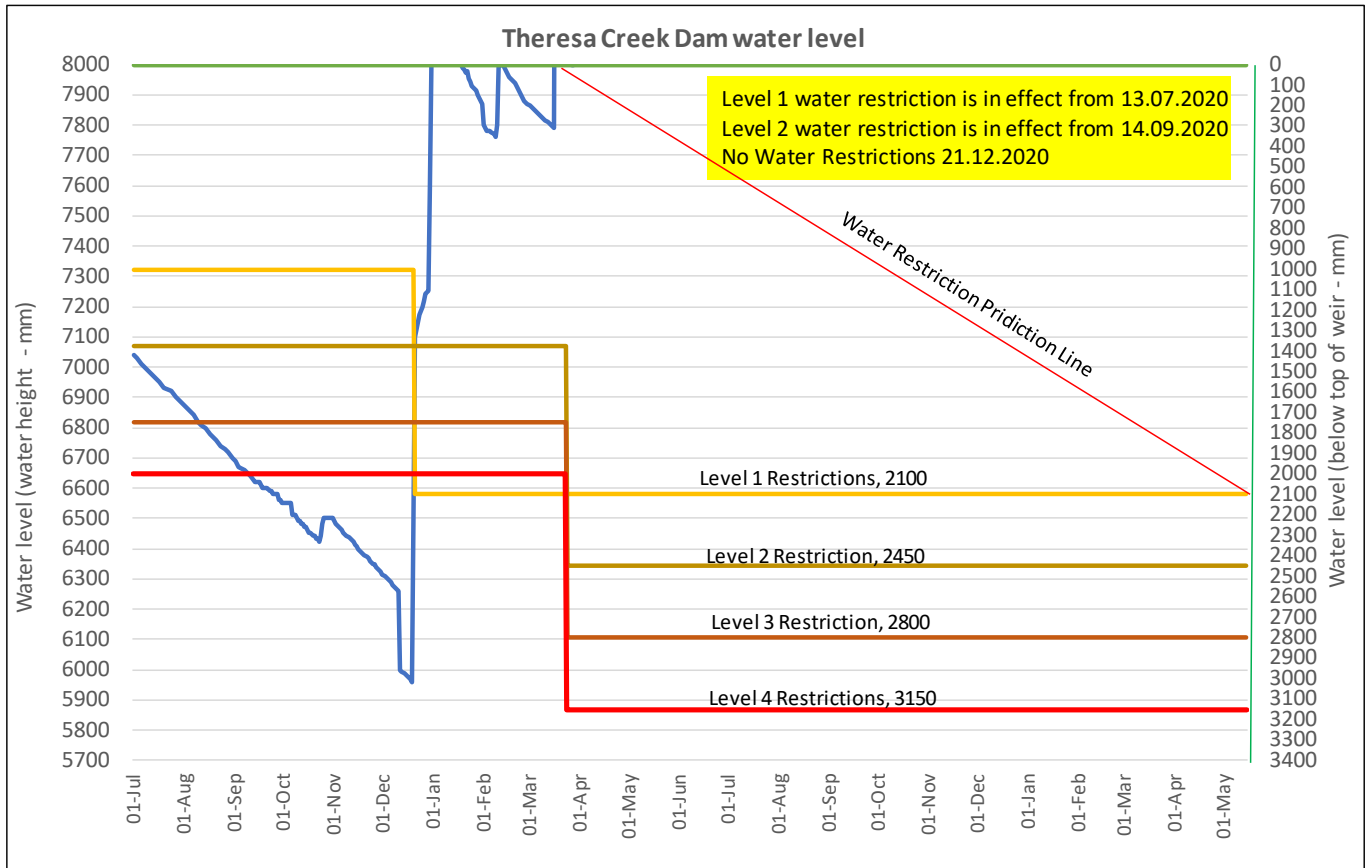
Middlemount

Middlemount's raw water is supplied from the Bingegang Weir on the Mackenzie River approximately 60km away. The weir is can be re-filled from Fairbairn Dam through Bedford Weir.

- Bingegang Weir **105%**
- Fairbairn Dam **21%**
- Bedford Weir **104%**

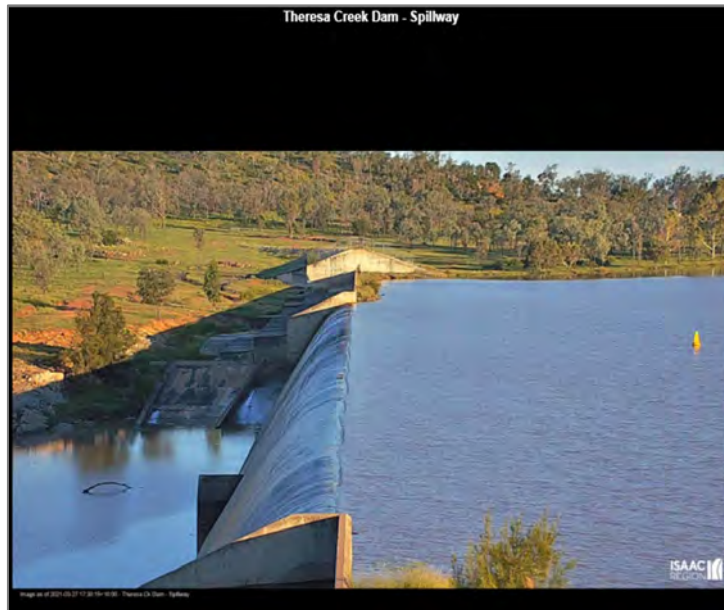
Level 3 Water Restrictions

Note: 220mm of Rainfall recorded at Theresa Creek Dam during March. Water level currently at spillway. With a new level 1 restriction Of 2.1m below spillway and an assumed 8mm to 10mm daily draw down we wouldn't expect to have water restrictions for approximately 6 months.

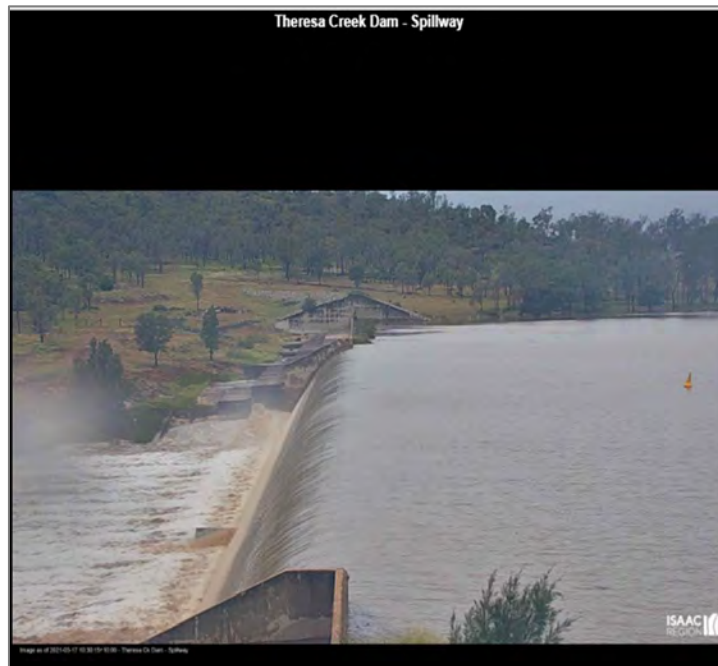


Actual water level readings

| Date | 1/03/2021 | 4/03/2021 | 8/03/2021 | 12/03/2021 | 16/03/2021 | 20/03/2021 | 24/03/2021 | 28/03/2021 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Water Height in mm | 7865 | 7850 | 7760 | 7810 | 7790 | 8040 | 8030 | 8000 |



Theresa Creek Dam Spillway as at 28 March 2021



Theresa Creek Dam Spillway as at 17 March 2021



Actual water level readings

| Date | 1/02/2021 | 5/02/2021 | 10/02/2021 | 15/02/2021 | 20/02/2021 | 25/02/2021 | 28/02/2021 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Water Height in m | 5.59 | 5.53 | 5.51 | 5.48 | 5.46 | 6.88 | 6.88 |

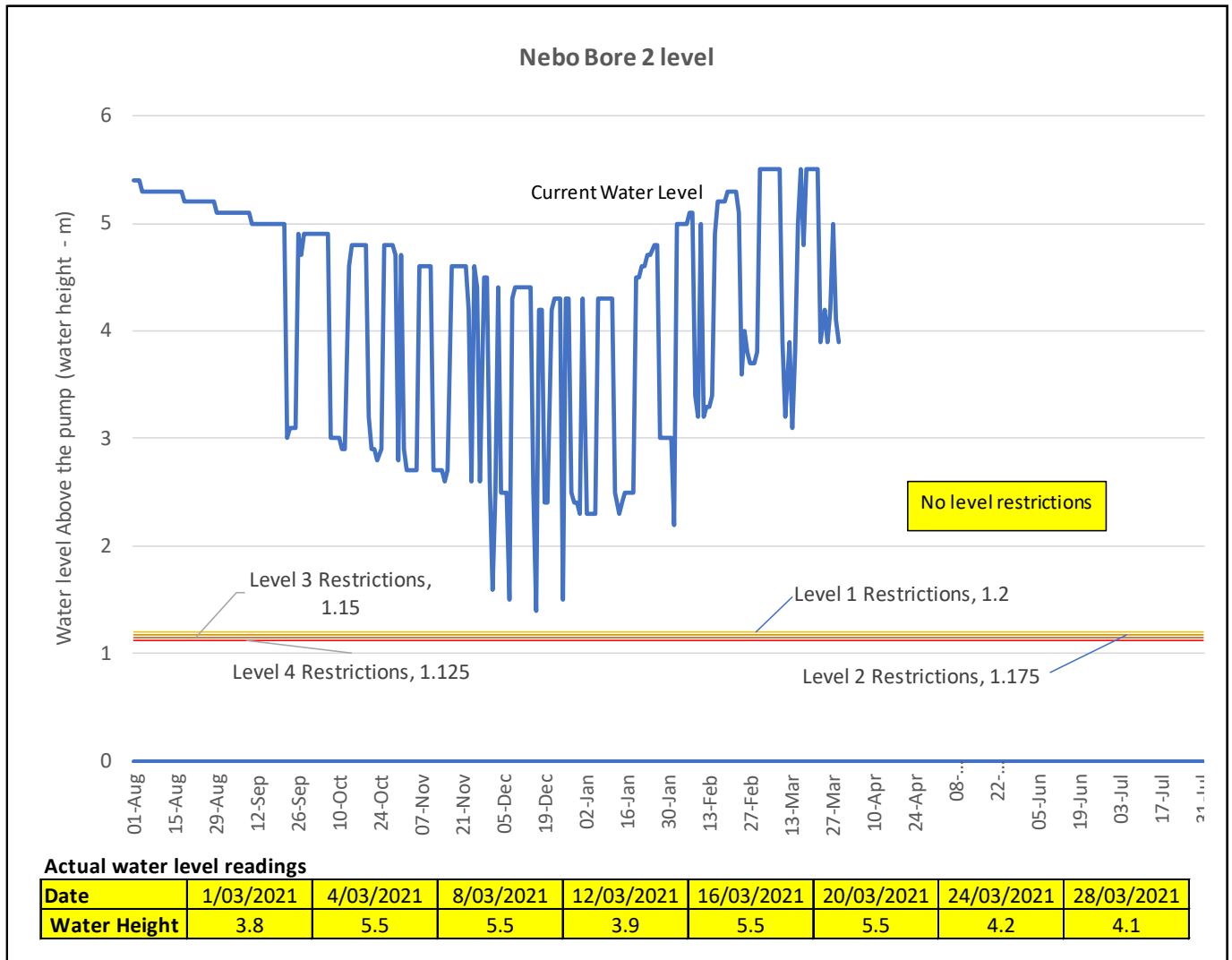


St Lawrence Weir as at 28 March 2021



Carmila raw water creek photo from bore pumps as at 30 March 2021. Creek is flowing.

Note: Carmila has received 249mm of rain during March 2021.



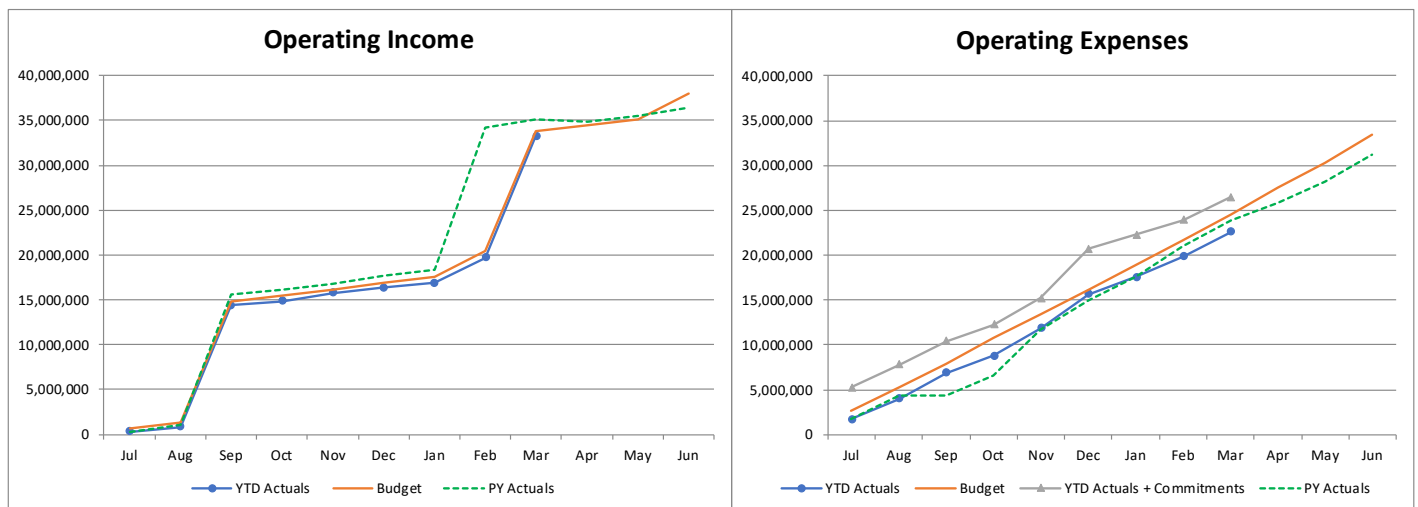
Compliance

The table below contains current statutory undertakings across all assets.

| | TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Nebo WWTP TEP | Completion of the TEP is as per the notification provided by DES. | All timelines being met to date. There are major challenges emerging with the size of the irrigation area and the irrigation rates required as well as soil capacity to absorb effluent. |
| Dysart ESD and WWTP EU | An EU extension has been granted to the 30/06/2021 when project works as described in schedule of works supplied to DES and a final audit has been supplied to the department. | Suitable experienced professionals engaged to carry out EU Audit in March with draft report to be provided in April for review. All timelines are being met and we anticipate submitting the audit to the regulator and closing out the EU in May. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Formal Warning Moranbah Effluent Dam</p> | <p>A formal warning was received from the regulatory authority DES in relation to Moranbah Effluent Dam, by failing to submit the required dam reports by 1 December 2020.</p> | <p>The department has been supplied with requested information on the scope of works in the GHD Effluent dam report recommendations. The regulator has accepted this report. The actions identified in the report are being implemented. The compliance register has been updated to include these annual inspections and responsible officers alerted.</p> |
|---|--|---|

FINANCIAL REPORT:



DEVIATION FROM BUDGET AND POLICY:

Not applicable.

OPERATIONAL PLAN / BUSINESS PLAN – EXCEPTION REPORTING

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Scheduled to Commence During Next Month

| PROJECT NAME/ DESCRIPTION | SCHEDULED END DATE | COMMENTS/EXCEPTIONS |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Nebo Aquifer water allocation increase | TBA | Running to schedule. Draw down of bores project delayed and is to begin on the 12 April 2021 and will be completed on the 28 April 2021. Neighbouring properties will be asked by the contractors if they would like the draw down water dispersed to certain areas on their properties. The remainder will be dispersed to the creek and will be reused through the aquifer. |
| WTP Site Based Management Plans | Feb 2021 | Documents almost finalised and then to progress to approval process. |
| WWTP Site Based Management Plans | June 2021 | Document review underway. |
| Waste Site Based Management Plans | Dec 2021 | Next for review. |

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Compliance and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) | Feb 2021 | Further development required. Currently being reviewed by Director. |
| Clermont Sandy Creek Alluvium Water Licence | TBA | The Department of Resources has replied to Councils request for adding the 2 monitoring bores as operational bores in the current license. Clarification on processes has been provided on the options to Council and a decision on progression of this action is TBC. |

DEVELOPING INITIATIVES / ISSUES:

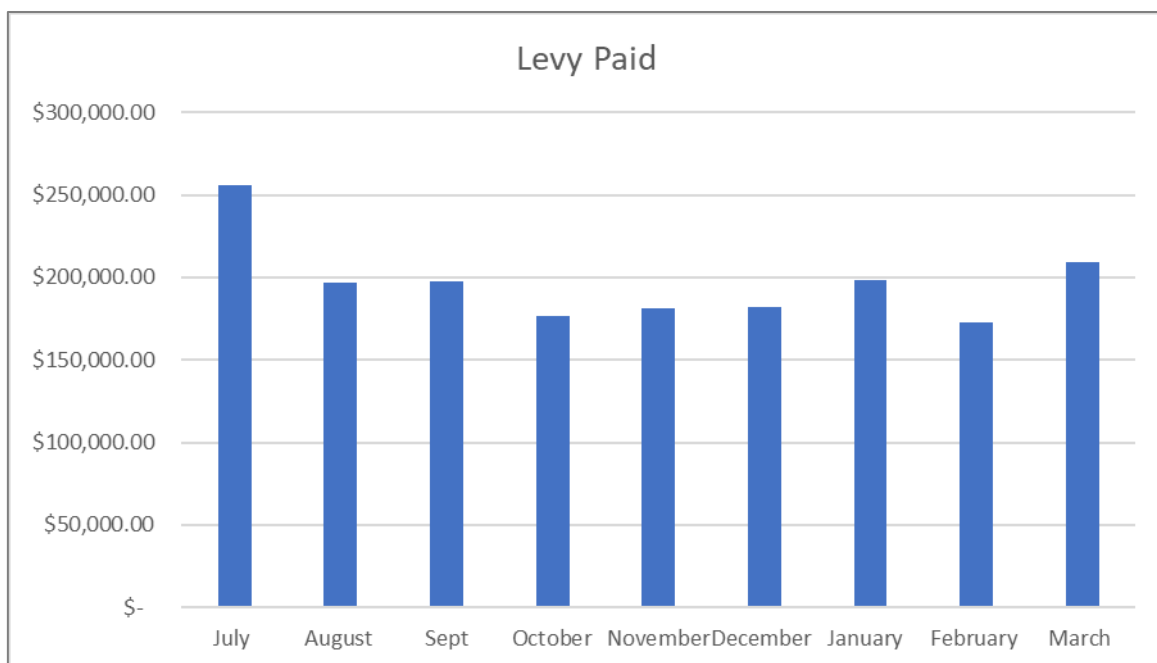
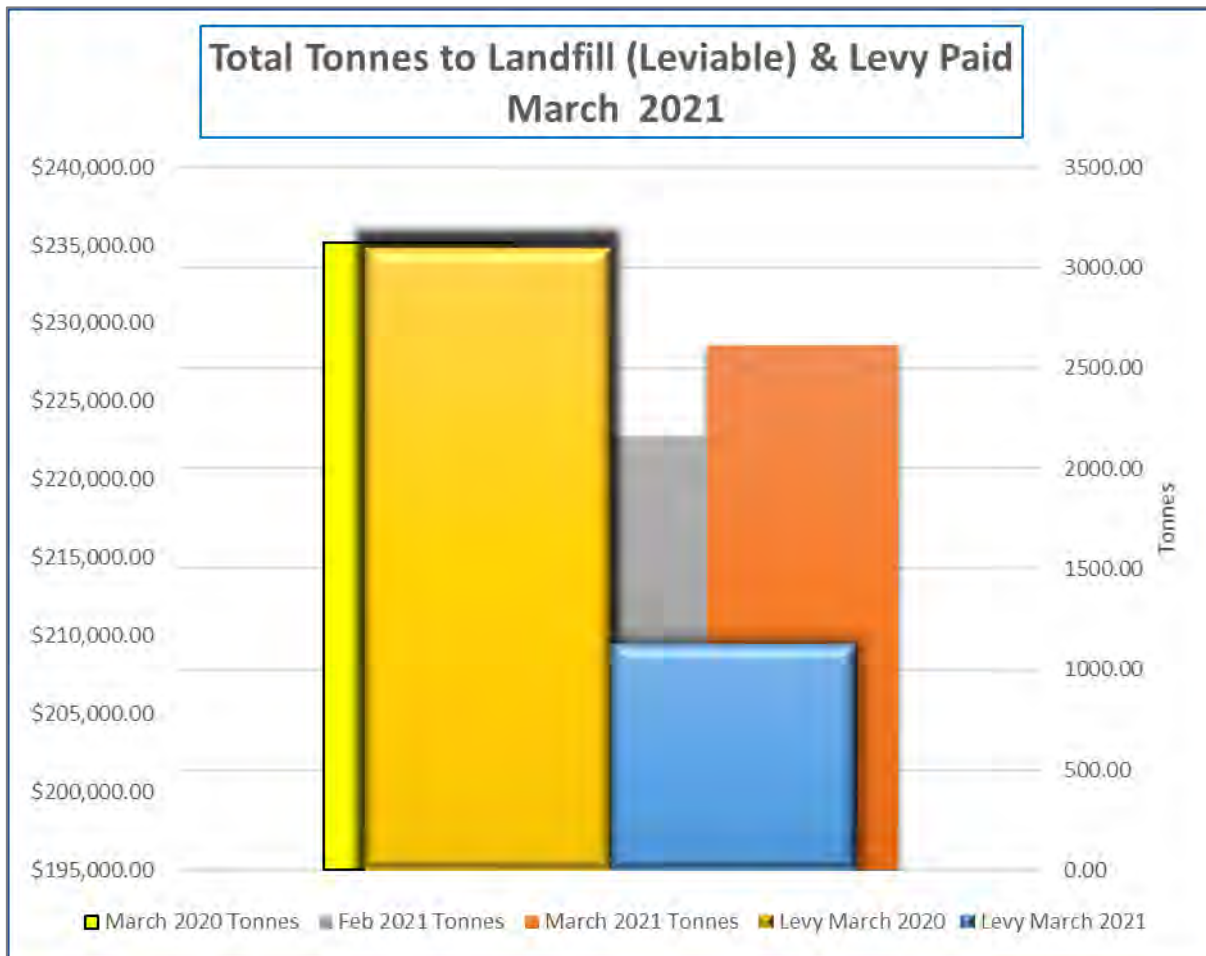
- Budgeting for Moranbah Effluent Dam assessment to meet the recommendations of the Moranbah Effluent Dams Inspection Report.
- Completing the analysis and reporting on recommendations in the Cardno Water Supply Analysis report for restrictions triggers.
- Recycled water meters at Dysart to be included in MiWater with taggle installation advised by end of April.

WASTE SERVICES

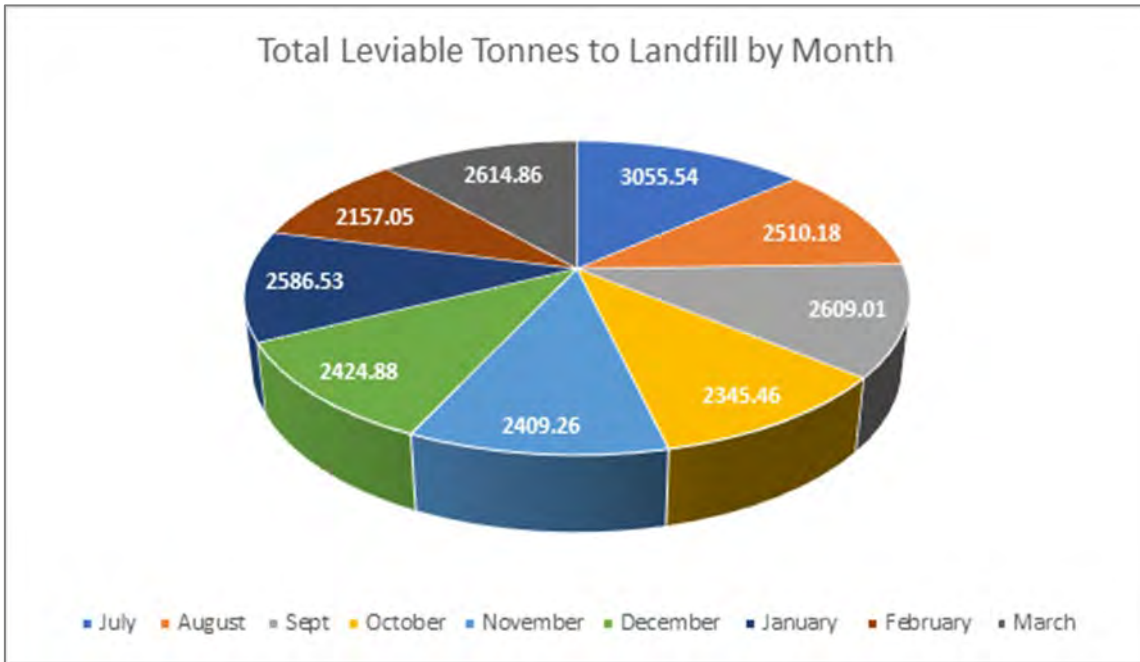
PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

Waste Tonnage and Waste Levy

The following diagram shows a comparison of the tonnage of waste being landfilled in March 2021 compared to March 2020 and February 2021.



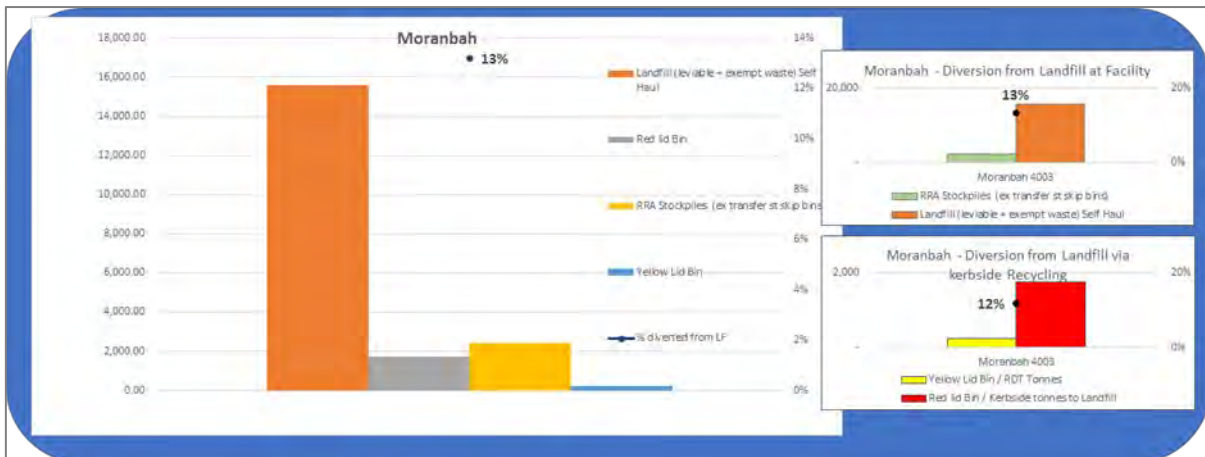
This graph also illustrates the degree to which monthly totals fluctuate.



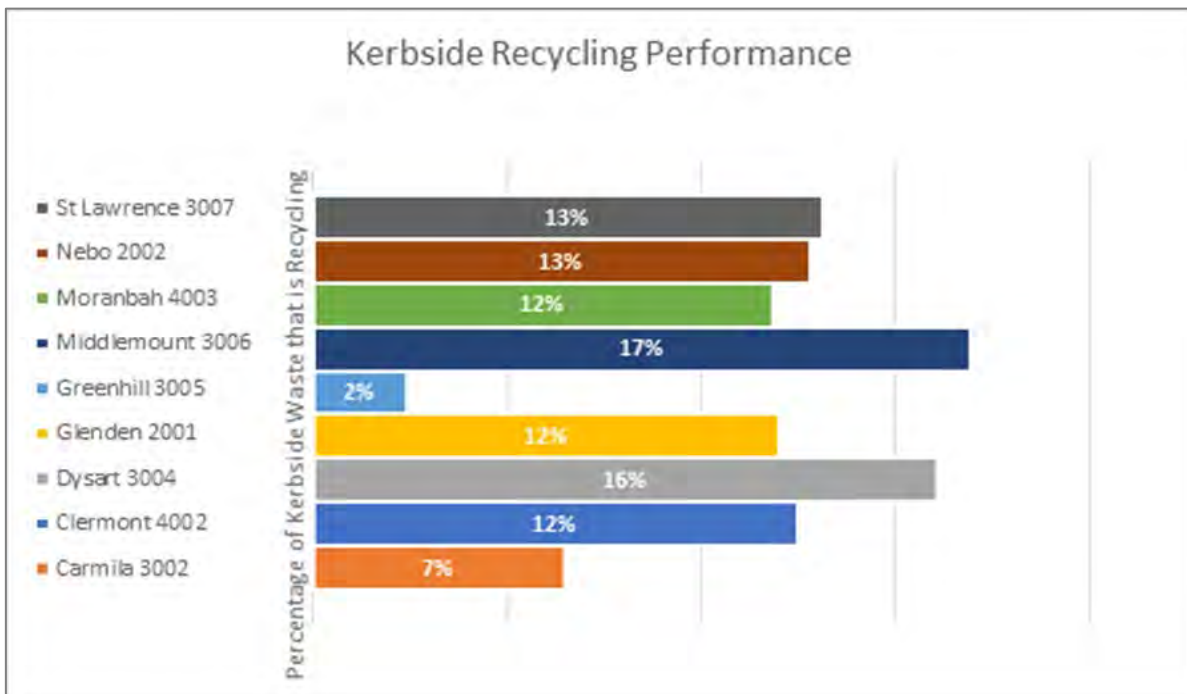
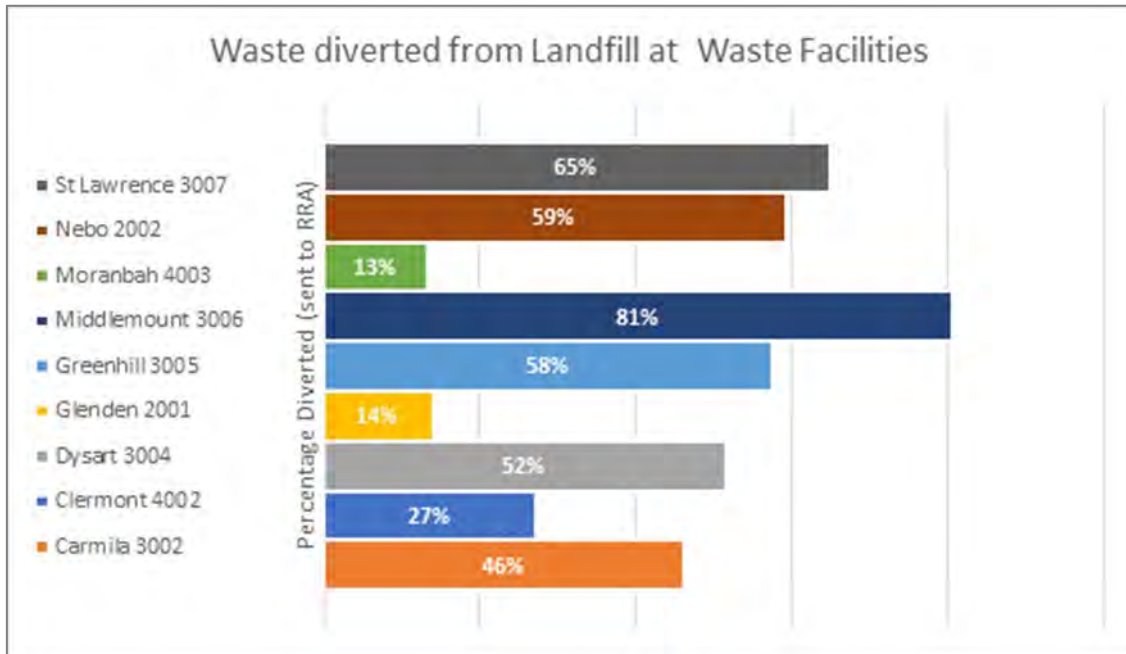
The following graph shows the degree to which kerbside yellow top bin collections and resource recovery activities at each site contribute to overall waste diversion performance. The overall Regional KPI target of 25% was achieved for the month of March.



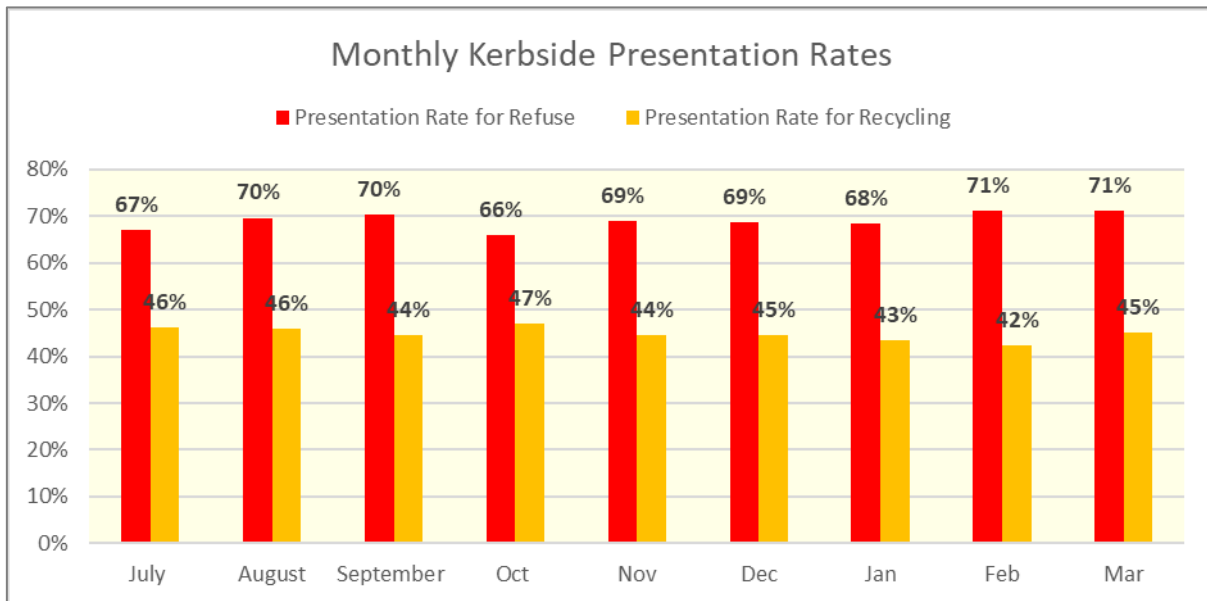
The following graph shows Moranbah only – with only 13% diversion from landfill at the site



These diagrams show the comparative performance for each town, for both kerbside collections and waste management facilities.

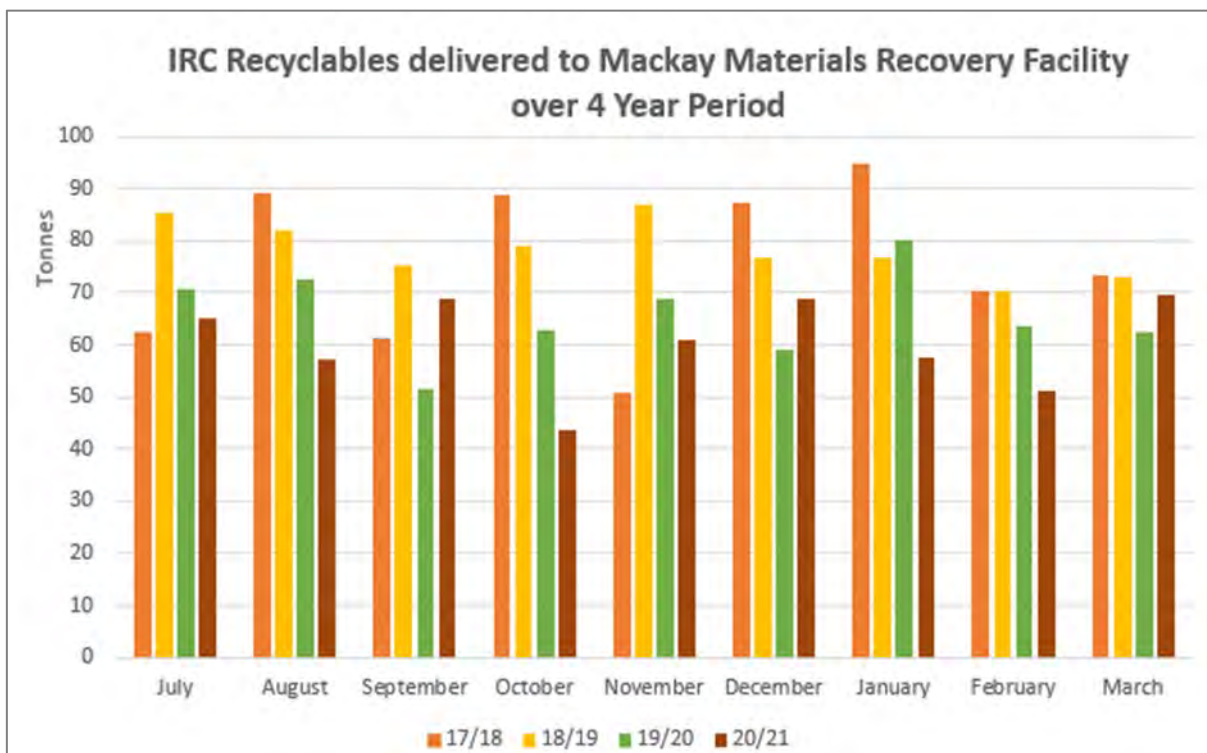


This graph illustrates the participation rates for both the red-top and yellow-top services in the year to date.



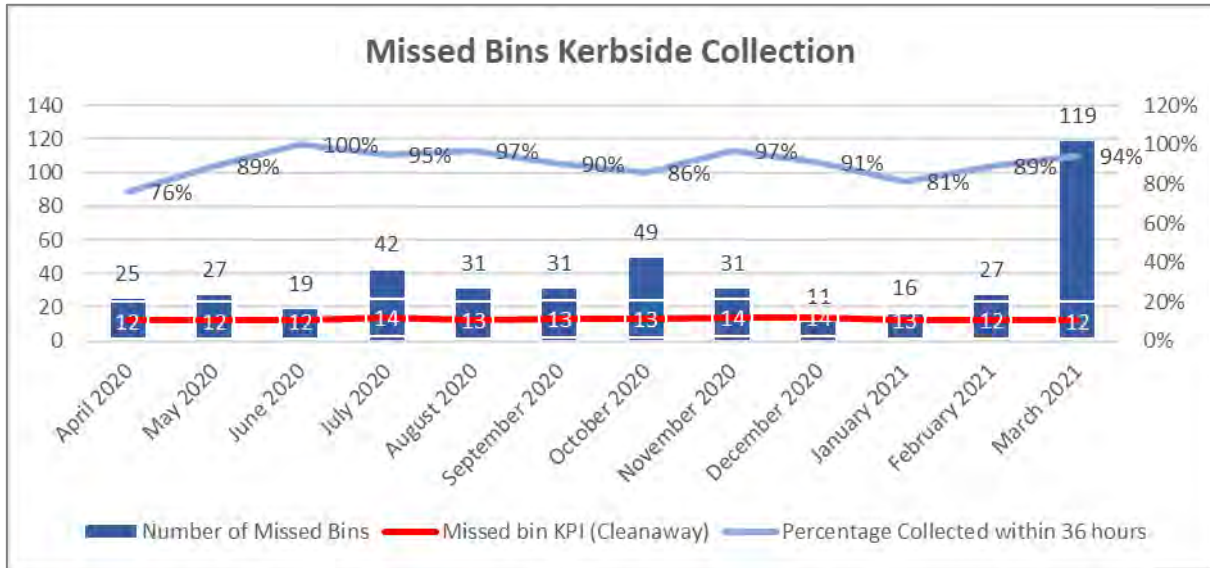
MRF Tonnage

This graph shows illustrates the continuing reduced tonnage being collected since the start of the Container Refund Scheme. An opportunity exists for IRC to participate in a joint waste audit (Waste Composition Analysis) in June to obtain more detailed breakdown of the composition of yellow-top bin contents. The audit is being organised by Mackay Regional Council and will include all other Councils which utilise the MRF (Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac and Rockhampton).



Waste Collection

Performance against rectifying missed bins has improved – reaching 94% in March, however the overall numbers of missed collections was higher. Provisional figures for March show 119 missed collections, with all but 7 of these being rectified in the required 36-hour period.



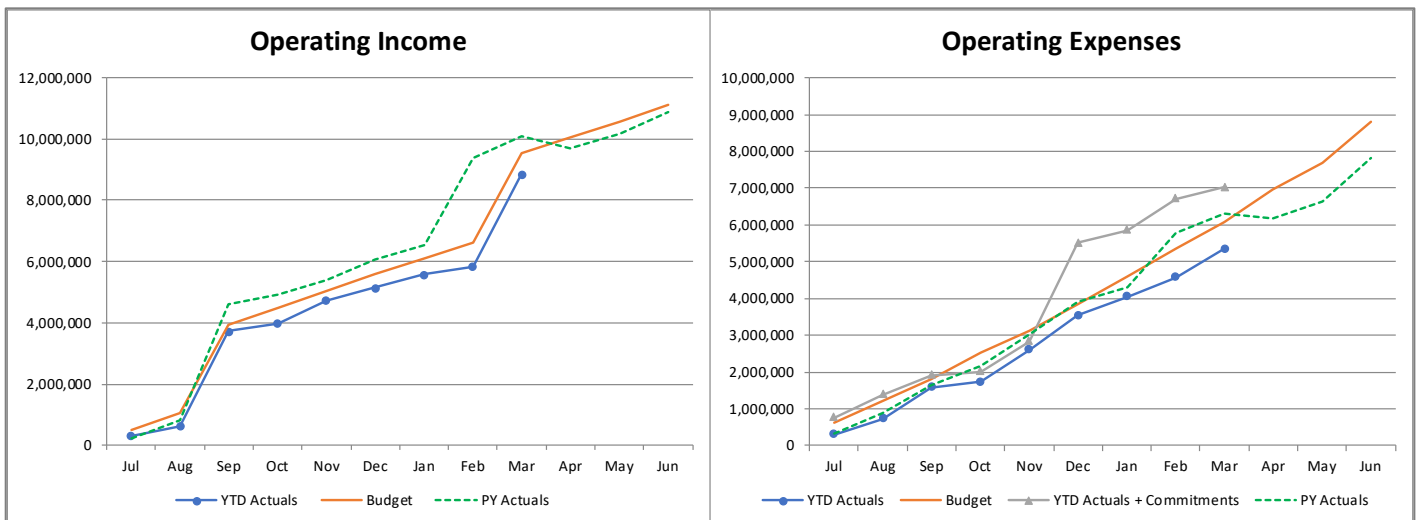
PREVIOUS MONTH'S ISSUES:

Commencement of Waste Management Officer (Moranbah) – Naveen Vemuri.

Resignation of Plant Operator (Moranbah) – Richard Elly.

Return from Long term leave – Waste Management Officer (St Lawrence) – Brooke Dwyer.

FINANCIAL REPORT:



DEVIATION FROM BUDGET:

Not applicable.

OPERATIONAL PLAN / BUSINESS PLAN – EXCEPTION REPORTING

| Waste & Recycling Contract | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | Number of missed services | Collection of Missed Service | | Bin Repair / Replacements | | |
| KPI | <10/5000 Services = less than 120 missed services for the month | No of missed bins collected within 36 hours | 90% within 36 hours of contractor being notified | No of requests | No of requests completed within 5 working days | 90% within 5 working days of request |
| March | 119 | 112 | 94% | 25 | 12 | 96% |

* Waste and Recycling contract data correct at 26 March 2021 (4 weeks)

| Waste and Recycling Performance | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Tonnes to Landfill (leviable) | Tonnes to RRA | Tonnes diverted via Kerbside Recycling | Tonnes sent off site for Sale or to processor | % of Waste diverted from Landfill | No of Kerbside Recycling Services Vs Presentation rate |
| KPI | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | >25% | |
| March | 2596 | 765 | 69.74 | 81 | 25% | 9057 = 45% (+3% on Feb 21) |

| Compliance | | | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | Compliance with Environmental Authority (EA) | Notice of scheduled site closures | Customer complaints non-price related | Nuisance complaints (odour/litter) | No of Transactions | |
| KPI | Compliance with all elements of EA >95% | >7 days notice | Number of complaints / 1,000 transactions / site <10 / annum | Number of complaints / 1,000 transactions / site <20 / annum | N/A | |
| March | | 2 < 7 days notice | 0 | 0 | 6709 (78% Domestic) = 1% higher than Feb 21 9% lower than March 2020 (7349 transactions) | |

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Scheduled to Commence During Next Month

| Project Name/ Description | Scheduled End Date | Comments/Exceptions |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Green Waste Tender | 30 April 2021 | Tender closed on 1 April 2021 |

DEVELOPING INITIATIVES / ISSUES:

Amnesty Days

Work is progressing on organising the trial Amnesty Days as required by the Illegal Dumping Management and Intervention Plan (the Pilot Plan). Dates have been planned to give notice to communities but also to avoid holiday weekends and school holidays. Amnesty Days are planned for:

| LOCALITY | DATE |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Clermont | Saturday, 8 May 2021 |
| Dysart | Saturday, 8 May 2021 |
| Moranbah | Saturday, 15 May 2021 |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Nebo | Saturday, 15 May 2021 |
| Middlemount | Saturday, 22 May 2021 |
| Glenden | Saturday, 22 May 2021 |
| St Lawrence | Saturday, 29 May 2021 |
| Carmila | Saturday, 29 May 2021 |
| Greenhill | Saturday, 29 May 2021 |

Within the context of a Project Brief and Communications Plan, officers also propose some stipulations around limits to amounts and types of waste permitted, as follows:

Eligibility Criteria

- Residents of Isaac region who identify themselves with a valid driver license and a current utility bill.
- Residents can bring up to two (2) loads per event.

Disposal Rules at the Waste Management Facility

- Cover their loads when travelling to drop off their rubbish.
- All loads are subject to inspection at the waste management facility.
- Show proof of residency to waste management officer (driver's license with picture id or utility bill).

Items Accepted – Domestic Customers only

- Tyres (car, motorcycle and 4 x 4 / ute tyres only). Maximum of four tyres.
- Fridges / Freezers (non-commercial).
- Air conditioners (non-commercial).
- Mattresses (max. 2 mattresses).
- Gas bottles (max. 9 kg) and fire extinguishers (max. 2 items).
- Car bodies (max 1 car. No fuels, fluids, batteries, rubbish, max 5 tyres).
- Construction and demolition waste (max 1 ute load or trailer load).

Prohibited waste on Amnesty Days

The waste management facilities do not accept the following materials:

- Asbestos
- Regulated waste
- Chemicals
- Commercial waste

Factsheets

Officers have been working on creating Factsheets which can be viewed on the website as well as be available at customer service hubs and waste sites, to assist staff in explaining the details of waste services to the community. Factsheets have been drafted for:

- Kerbside Waste Collection Services
- Green Waste
- Construction and demolition waste
- Asbestos
- Using the Waste Management Facility (draft attached)

PLANNING & PROJECT DELIVERY

PREVIOUS MONTH'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

Significant Projects Update:

CW202817 Dysart WWTP Balance Tank

The balance tank and associated equipment was commissioned and handed over on the 18 March. A few minor items are left to address, which are expected to be completed within 2 weeks. The tank has been operating as expected since handover and its operation will be monitored and refined as required.

The Balance tank will improve the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant by evening out the inflow and ensuring the plant operates at optimal efficiency. During peak periods the tank will normally fill to approximately 30 to 40% (as shown in figure 4 this is during the evening). The tank was constructed with extra capability for usual long periods high inflows, which can occur after wet weather. During normal operation the pumps will transfer the sewage to the plant at a constraint rate (currently set to 13L/s); however, the system will automatically this rate as required.



Figure 1: Balance Tank



Figure 2: Tank during normal operation (photo was late afternoon which is at low flow period)

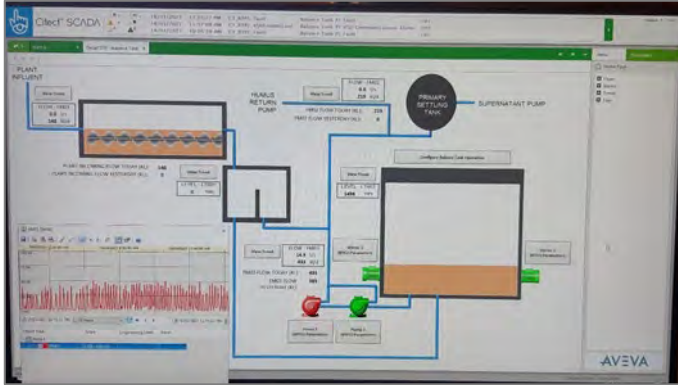


Figure 3: The tank's SCADA screen (inflow is shown in bottom left corner)

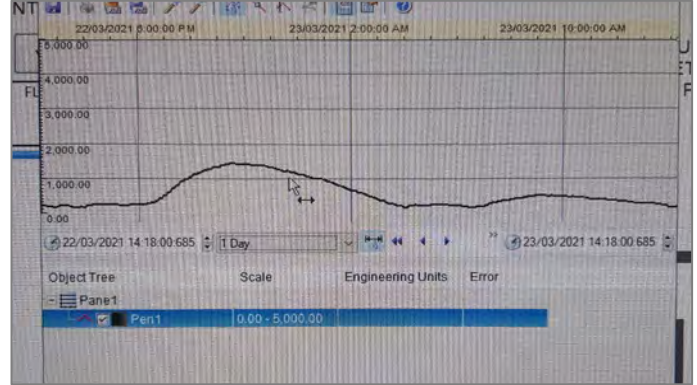


Figure 4: Level of raw sewage in the tank over a 24-hour period

Dysart Environment Undertaking (EU)

The audit required as part of the EU has been initiated with site visit completed Thursday 25 February. When the Balance Tank project is completed then it will be included in the finalised auditor report to the Regulator to close out the EU.

Theresa Creek Dam Dredging Project

The preliminary works for the project have occurred with the dredging to commence after the Easter break. Fencing for exclusion has been erected along with communications approved by the State as funded project.



Figure 5: The installation of the liner for the storage area for the geo tubes



Figure 6: The barge being floated which will be stored in the exclusion zone beside the offtake tower

The leak on the overflow pipe was repaired by the contractor, unfortunately it has not completely solved. Currently waiting for the contractor to provide a new methodology on how the rectification will occur. It is important that the solution provides a robust long-term solution not just a band aid which may require ongoing maintenance. Commissioning of the reservoir has been put on hold until such time that the leak is fixed.

CW202809 Moranbah Landfill Remediation

Project awarded at Ordinary Meeting 28 April 2020 to Synergy Resource Management. Current expenditure \$2.16M. Contractor is on site and has completed land fill reshaping, supply and placement of cover material, and is now placing the clay capping approx. 50%. Progress has been slow, with the contractor is likely to be 6 months late in the delivery of this project. The delays have been caused by slow progress within all stages of the work and cover stages due to construction issues, and contractor inexperience. The contractor has been encouraged to improve their productivity. There has been contact from sub-contractors regarding non-payment which has been passed onto the superintendent. Legal advice has been sought in relation to a number of issues and risks on this project. The contractors revised program has project completion 19 March 2021. However, there are concerns that this will not be met and the project may not be finished till May.

Clermont Water Quality Action Plan Update

There are several actions which Planning and Projects are responsible for. The below list contains the action and commentary on the action.

| Action | Commentary |
|--|--|
| Inline Analysers for WTP | Tenders have closed, further clarifications are required to then be issued to successful tenderer. |
| Changes to the Clarifier Bell mouth and the 3 ML reservoir | These have been installed and works completed. |
| Lighting at WTP | One tender response was received. |

Program Activities

Ongoing development of PAG documents for assessment.

PREVIOUS MONTH'S ISSUES:

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

2020/21 CAPEX Program Cost Status Summary

The following is a report of the Water and Waste Capital Projects delivery highlighting:

- a. Progress;
- b. Exceptions; and
- c. Deviations on the capital projects.

As at 31 March 2021, Water and Wastewater actual expenditure totals \$5,706,942 representing 40.6% of annual approved budget (20-21 - \$14,031,875) and a total spend inclusive of tender commitments of \$10,802,437 which represents 76.9% of annual approved budget.

As at 31 March 2021, Waste Services actual expenditure totals \$2,746,753 representing 46.3% of annual approved budget (20-21 - \$5,925,687), and a total spend inclusive of tender commitments of \$4,981,069 which represents 84% of annual approved budget.

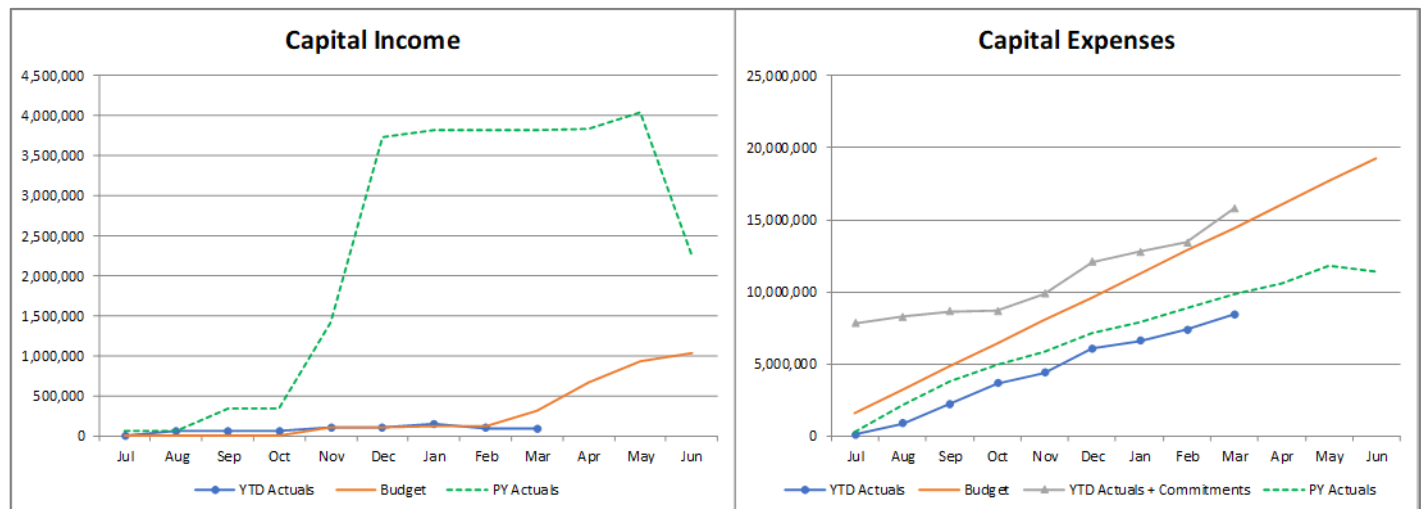
The combined Water & Waste actual expenditure totals \$8,453,812 representing 42% of annual approved budget (20-21 - \$20,093,605) and a total spend inclusive of tender commitments of \$15,783,507 representing 78.5% of annual approved budget.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

| Water & Wastewater | Feb 2021 | March 2021 |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Actual CF plus 19/20 Program Expenditure to date | \$4,932,960 | \$5,706,942 |
| Actual Program Expenditure including Tender commitments to date | \$8,568,892 | \$10,802,437 |
| Waste | | |
| Actual CF plus 19/20 Program Expenditure to date | \$2,448,876 | \$2,746,753 |
| Actual Program Expenditure including Tender commitments to date | \$4,854,189 | \$10,802,437 |

DEVIATION FROM BUDGET AND POLICY:

The above financial commentary includes all carry overs. The graph below tracks budget against actuals plus commitments.



OPERATIONAL PLAN / BUSINESS PLAN – EXCEPTION REPORTING

| Strategy (i.e. C5) | Service Area | Description | Highlight/Exception, including explanation |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| I6 | Effective and Efficient Capital Works Delivery | Implementation of effective project and contract management systems and procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >90% of capital program delivered to budget | Monitor |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | <p>Implementation of effective project and contract management systems and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >90% all subprograms in the W&W capital program is completed on time and in budget | <p>Delay in the delivery of some projects has been reflected in under expenditure for actuals Monitor</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Capital Projects Update

| CW Number | Project Name/Description | Comments/Exceptions |
|-----------|--|--|
| CW182563 | MMT WTP Reroof Clearwater Tanks 1 & 2 | Pre-start meeting has occurred with the construction phase to commence April 2021. |
| CW182564 | CORP WTP Clearwater Tank Upgrades (Capricorn St Reservoir) | See commentary above. |
| CW182580 | Old Failed Equipment (MBH WWTP Belt Press) | MBH BFP: Shed constructed, most civils completed, installation of BFP underway, expected completion May 2021. |
| CW192733 | CLM STP Upgrade Works | Chlorine Duplication project: 1st stage of asbestos removal and the potable water upgrade completed in March. Rest of asbestos work, building expansion and chlorine update expected to be completion by May 2021. Rest of the projects at this site is completed. |

NEW CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS (FY20/21)

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| CW212857 | CAR Transfer Station – Retaining Wall | Combined with Greenhills transfer station project. Awaiting quotes for detailed survey of existing surface at both sites to allow finalisation of design. RFT documentation being developed. Anticipate construction works to go out for Tender in April 2021. |
| CW212861 | CORP Water Mains Replacement Program | East & Lime St to Capricorn St passed. First 20 properties connected to new WM by 26/03/2021. Remediation work ongoing due to high rainfall damage (135mm in 5 hrs). |
| CW212862 | GNH Transfer Station – Retaining Wall | See above comments CW212857. |
| CW212863 | CORP Water Valve & Hydrant Repair/Replacement | RFQ currently awaiting submissions for valve and hydrant replacements on Flinders Dr and McCool St in MBH, submissions due to close 7 April 2021. |
| CW212864 | CORP SN Main Relining Program | Project awarded to Relining Solutions. Initial cleaning and CCTV investigations completed in Middlemount 26 March 2021, currently awaiting full report and CCTV footage to finalise SOW. Relining works to commence in Clermont in late April 2021 followed by Middlemount, currently envisage 3 x relining crews to work concurrently to complete the works. |
| CW212866 | CORP - SPS Renewal Program | NBO & GLN SPS: Upgrade underway, expected completion June 2021, MBH SPS Upgrade ongoing, expected completion May 2021. MBH SPS03 painted. Civil work, plumbing and security fencing complete or ongoing. SPS 02 work still to begin at Golf Club. Mechanical equipment ordered and awaiting delivery for various sites. |
| CW212867 | CORP WTP Replace Old/Failed Equipment | Replacement of actuated valves at GLN WTP completed Dec 2020. Dowden's rectify the issues with the raw water flow |

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| | | controller, correct flow rate now showing on controller panel. Project planning and development commenced with input from Operations Supervisors, draft priority lists currently under development to shortlist projects based on risk. Replacement of flow meters required at several sites. |
| CW212868 | CORP Telemetry Upgrades to WWTPs | Reactive type projects, working with operations team to identify and replace assets. |
| CW212869 | CORP Potable Water Meter Install Parks & Gardens | |
| CW212870 | CORP Telemetry Upgrades to WTPs | |
| CW212875 | Caravan Dump Points - MBH & MMT | The tender documents need to be finalised in order to issue for construction. |
| CW212936 | CORP – SN Manhole Rehabilitation | RFQ advertised to selected panel of suitable contractors in January, closed 2 February 2021, 4 x submissions received all well above the available budget. Additional funding requested to cover shortfall and authorisation of award to Nixon Plumbing approved at IRC Council Meeting 24 March 2021. Anticipate award early April 2021. |
| CW212939 | CLM STP Lighting Rectification | Evaluation complete. Recommendation report prepared for approval. |
| CW212940 | CLM WTP Quality Response Action Works | TCD VFD: RFQ issue and waiting responses. |
| CW212941 | DYS STP - Optimisation of Plant | Concrete Infrastructure Report: Been awarded, with site inspected scheduled for 31 March and report to be produced in April. Building Works: Quotes received and being reviewed and expect to be awarded in early April. Electrical/SCADA: RFQ issued and will close in April. |
| CW212942 | DYS WTP Waste Stream Return | Project started and expected to be completed by end of April (major equipment is not expected to be delivered until early April). |

DEVELOPING INITIATIVES / ISSUES:

Recruitment for vacant Water and Sewer Planning Engineer role has occurred, interviews completed, progressing with preferred candidate.


| |
|---|
| <p>Report authorised by: GARY MURPHY Director Water and Waste</p> <p>Date: 7 April 2021</p> |
|---|

ATTACHMENTS

- Confidential Attachment 1a – Water & Waste Capital Projects March 2020 / 2021 Fin Year
- Attachment 1b – Waste Management Facilities Information Factsheet
- Attachment 1c – National Water Reform 2020 Productivity Commission Draft Report – February 2021

PAGES 53 TO 54 HAVE INTENTIONALLY BEEN REMOVED DUE TO CONFIDENTIAL REASONS

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WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES INFORMATION FACTSHEET

Waste Management Facilities

Isaac Regional Council operates nine Waste Management Facilities. Of these, four operate as landfill sites, where waste can be buried on site, and the remaining five are transfer stations, where waste must be transported to a landfill site for final disposal.

Two of Council's landfill sites (Moranbah and Dysart) are equipped with weighbridges and all waste materials must be weighed on the way into the site or when leaving the site as recyclables. The other two landfills (Clermont and Glenden) do not have weighbridges in operation.

The weight of waste being delivered is determined by referring to a "deeming table" which works out the weight of waste depending on the size and type of vehicle delivering the waste and is a State Government requirement.

None of Council's five transfer stations has a weighbridge. Waste for landfill is weighed only when it reaches its final disposal point at the landfill site weighbridge. Transfer Stations are located at St Lawrence, Carmila, Greenhill, Middlemount and Nebo. Visitors to Moranbah Waste Management Facility will notice that small vehicles usually tip in a transfer station at that site. This is to maximise waste recycling and to ensure the safety of site users.

Fees and Charges

Council charges for the disposal or recycling of the majority of products transported privately to the Isaac region's Waste Management Facilities.

Domestic Waste

The most common exception to these charges is for domestic waste – most domestic waste can be recycled or disposed of free of charge to Isaac region residents. This includes general household waste, recyclables, green waste, scrap metal, car batteries, old computers and televisions. When residents deliver such waste from their own place of residence to the waste management facility in a private vehicle (cars, utes, and trailers pulled by such vehicles).

Council will record the waste being delivered and the details of the vehicle – in line with State Government legislation – but will not make a charge for such waste, regardless of how many visits the resident makes to the waste facility.

When arriving at site please advise our friendly site staff details of the waste you have and they will be happy to direct you to the correct disposal area for each waste item.

The State Government defines domestic waste as "waste resulting from the ordinary domestic use or occupation of a house, flat, apartment, unit, boarding house, hostel or guesthouse. In practice, domestic waste includes the material that householders place in their general waste bins or the mixed waste they self-deliver to landfills and transfer stations". Construction and demolition waste is not considered to be domestic waste.

Commercial Waste

Waste delivered in commercial vehicles does not generally fall within this description, and therefore any waste delivered in a commercial vehicle is chargeable, even if it originates from a domestic residence. A commercial vehicle is generally any vehicle with a GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) > 4.5 tonnes.

Council will charge for disposal of certain items even if brought by a domestic resident in a private vehicle. These items include fridges and freezers, air conditioners, tyres, mattresses, asbestos, and construction and demolition waste.

If you are in doubt about domestic waste in commercial vehicles, contact Council on **1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27)** before travelling to a Waste Management Facility.

A list of Council's Fees and Charges can be found on Council's website at www.isaac.qld.gov.au Please note that all Council facilities except Greenhill accept EFTPOS payments only.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: As an Isaac resident, can I use the dump for free?

A: Most domestic waste can be recycled or disposed of free of charge to Isaac region residents. This includes general household waste, recyclables, green waste, scrap metal, car batteries, old computers and televisions.

Q: Do I have to pay to dispose of any items at the dump?

A: Yes, certain items which incur a cost to Council for their recycling or disposal are chargeable at the Waste Management Facility. These items include fridges and freezers, air conditioners, tyres, mattresses, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, car bodies and construction and demolition waste. Council also charges for asbestos – special conditions apply, which you can read about here.

Q: Do you charge for commercial waste?

A: Yes, ALL commercial waste incurs a fee at Council's Waste Management Facilities.

Q: How can I be sure that I will not be charged for any domestic waste?

A: You will not be charged for domestic waste if the waste:
1) is delivered in a car, a ute or in a trailer pulled by such vehicles;
2) does not include any fridges or freezers, air conditioners, tyres, mattresses, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, car bodies, asbestos or construction and demolition waste.

Q: If I have a large amount of household waste and I borrow or hire a truck to fit the waste into one load, will it still be free to dump?

A: Site staff have been instructed to charge for any waste being delivered in a commercial vehicle (e.g. a tipper truck).

Q: How do I know if Council staff will treat my waste as domestic or commercial?

A: As a general rule of thumb, waste delivered in a car, ute or trailer will be assumed to be domestic waste if it meets the State Government's definition of: waste resulting from the ordinary domestic use or occupation of a house, flat, apartment, unit, boarding house, hostel or guesthouse; and is similar to the material that householders place in their general waste bins.
Another general rule of thumb is that waste delivered in a truck (usually with a GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) of greater than 4.5 tonnes) will be considered as commercial waste, regardless of where the waste originated.

Q: What kind of things are included in construction and demolition waste?

A: Any waste from construction and demolition of buildings can be construction and demolition waste. This includes materials like concrete for recycling, old Colorbond sheets and offcuts, timber offcuts, rubble, plasterboard, cabling and conduit, pipes, slates, bricks, tiles and concrete blocks, bathroom suites.
As a general rule of thumb, ask yourself if the waste material comprises only items that you would take with you when you move house.



WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Items like toilets, sinks, baths, kitchen units and doors would therefore be classed as construction and demolition waste.

Q: If I have a builder carrying out building work at my house, and I accompany the builder in his truck, will I have to pay to dump the waste arising from the building work?

A: Yes, all waste in trucks will be charged.

Q: If I have a load of broken up concrete from replacing the driveway at my house and I bring this in my ute or trailer, will I be charged?

A: Yes, this is considered as construction and demolition waste and you will be charged.

Q: I am a ratepayer. Do my rates not include provision to be able to use the dump for free?

A: The costs of running waste management services are not covered by general rates. Special utility charges are made for residents who enjoy a regular wheelie bin collection. This helps to pay the cost of operating the Waste Management Facilities but does not cover the cost of disposing of waste where Council must pay a third party.

Q: I do not own a car. My only vehicle is a work ute with my company name painted on the side of it. Will I be charged for my domestic waste if I use this ute?

A: Your waste will be accepted as domestic in such circumstances if the waste meets the State Government's definition as: waste resulting from the ordinary domestic use or occupation of a house, flat, apartment, unit, boarding house, hostel or guesthouse, and is similar to the material that householders place in their general waste bins. If, however the waste has the appearance of

waste arising from the operation of the type of business indicated on the side of the vehicle, Council staff are instructed to accept this waste as commercial waste and to charge accordingly.

Q: The only vehicle which I have access to is a small tipper truck with a GVM of 4.5 tonnes. Will I be charged for my domestic waste in such a vehicle?

A: Yes.

Q: Why is my car rego number recorded at the dump?

A: This is a State Government requirement under the Waste Reduction & Recycling Act 2011.

Q: What payment methods are accepted?

A: All of Council's Waste Management Facilities accept EFTPOS as the payment method, Greenhill, where cash is the only method of payment which is available. In the event of failure of the EFTPOS on site, arrangements will be made to accept payment at one of Council's Customer Service Centres.

Current as at March 2021.



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| MEETING DETAILS | Water and Waste Standing Committee Meeting Wednesday 14 April 2021 |
| AUTHOR | Gary Murphy |
| AUTHOR POSITION | Director Water and Waste |

ATTACHMENT 1C NATIONAL WATER REFORM 2020 PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long-term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

The Productivity Commission's latest water sector report was released in February associated with the progress of the National Water Initiative.

The executive summary of the report includes the following:

Water is critical to the wellbeing of Australian communities, the economy and the environment. But our highly variable rainfall patterns, coupled with frequent droughts and floods, make it a challenging resource to manage. Since the mid 1990s, governments have implemented a program of national water reform, with the most recent agreement — the National Water Initiative (NWI) — signed in 2004.

In May 2019, in response to the Productivity Commission's 2017 inquiry on national water reform, the Australian Government agreed to renew the NWI and, in partnership with State and Territory Governments, has commenced the process of policy renewal.

This inquiry responds to the Australian Government's request for the Commission to undertake its second triennial assessment of jurisdictions' progress towards achieving the objectives and outcomes of the NWI, and to provide practical advice on future national water reform directions. Both the assessment and the Commission's advice — aimed at providing detailed input for consideration in the policy renewal process — are summarised in this report

The Commission called for submissions on the draft report by Wednesday 24 March 2021.

Feedback was provided via the Queensland Water Directorate.

IMPLICATIONS

Some key PC findings, of relevance Isaac's water and sewerage services included:

National Water Initiative

- Should be renewed and governance should be strengthened, with jurisdictions committing to three-year rolling work programs, against which performance is assessed.

- Fit-for-purpose water resource management should be embedded.

Entitlements, planning and markets, environmental management

- Establish a process to determine which alternative sources (including stormwater and recycled water) can be incorporated into water access entitlement frameworks.
- Better consideration of cultural and environmental outcomes including engagement with Traditional Owners.
- Better account for climate change.
- Improve the identification of key environmental assets and the values communities place on those assets in water planning.
- Improved (fit-for purpose) measurement, recording, reporting.

Urban water services

- Planning alignment across water security, service quality, the environment and urban amenity, and with involvement of all stakeholders including the community.
- Jurisdictions should consider developing national guidelines for both long-term system planning and contingency planning for regional and remote water systems.
- Need to embrace a number of best-practice principles around efficiency, transparency and the full efficient cost of service provision etc.
- Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory do not have adequate independent economic regulation in place.
- The NWI should include a framework to guide where different models of economic oversight can be applied, based on context.
- All large providers should be subject to best-practice independent economic regulation, unless a transparent analysis of regulatory costs and benefits shows that economic regulation imposes significant net costs. Where costs do outweigh benefits, jurisdictions should agree to a consistent assessment framework to inform decisions concerning the type of economic regulation to apply, based on the risk (and potential impact) of a utility exploiting market power, and the cost of regulation.
- Jurisdictions should commit to light touch independent economic oversight for all regional and remote water service providers.
- Recommit to the principle that developer charges are cost reflective.
- Jurisdictions should maintain institutional separation of water resource management, standard setting and regulatory enforcement from service delivery, including where local governments are owners.
- There are inadequacies in the current NPR to be addressed for effective benchmarking.
- All urban water service providers, including those with fewer than 10,000 connections, should be subject to jurisdictional monitoring and (independent) public reporting.
- Ensuring access to a basic level of service.
- A renewed National Water Initiative should include a commitment to ensure access to at least a basic level of safe and reliable drinking water to all Australians. State and Territory Governments could each

develop a definition of, and commit to ensure access to, a basic level of service for each community in their jurisdiction.

- Cost-reflective user charges should remain the default arrangement, but some regional and remote services in high-cost areas will require operational subsidies to maintain a basic level of service to all customers. Any subsidies to those areas should be provided as transparent community service obligation payments.
- Monitoring and reporting of water quality and service outcomes in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities should be coordinated with the development of data collection required to measure progress against the community infrastructure target under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Payments to local government-owned providers should be:

- Designed to ensure access to a basic level of service in those communities where such service provision would otherwise be unviable.
- Adequate to ensure a basic level of service is considered affordable.
- Based on credible data on efficient service costs, subject to a degree of independent oversight, following State or Territory government involvement in system planning.
- Calculated in a predictable fashion to provide a reliable source of funding.
- Conditional on ongoing operational improvements, such as improvements to utility governance, better service outcomes (based on performance benchmarking), compliance with guidelines for system and contingency planning, or for pursuing collaboration.

Governance

- A renewed National Water Initiative should contain agreed principles for governance of regional and remote water services where local governments retain ownership of utilities.
- Financial separation should be maintained, with utility finances ring-fenced from local government finances.
- Clear roles for State and Local Governments during extreme events should be defined.

Infrastructure investment

- Jurisdictions should develop an element (in the NWI) to guide investment in water infrastructure. The new element should restate the high-level principle that all infrastructure is to be assessed as economically viable and environmentally sustainable prior to the commitment of funding, with cost recovery from users as the norm. Jurisdictions should agree to criteria on how adherence with the principle can be demonstrated. The new element should also include an agreed framework to guide government investment in major water infrastructure.
- Assessment criteria for water infrastructure should include principles of transparency and consideration of non-infrastructure options.
- The National Water Grid Authority should broaden its Investment Policy Framework to allow funding for all projects where government involvement may be warranted, including supporting access to essential town water supplies.

- A new water infrastructure element should clarify relevant institutional roles and responsibilities underpinning the framework for government investment:
 - State and Territory Governments should have primary responsibility for proposing (and overseeing) major water infrastructure developments in their jurisdictions.
 - Australian Government funding should not exceed the contribution of the relevant State or Territory Government.
 - Independent infrastructure advisory bodies should transparently review the business cases of major projects.
 - Community engagement – including community water literacy, needs to be a focus.

Draft Advice to Government and Issues for Local Government

Section 11 of the Productivity Commission draft report contains advices that impact local government and commentary is provided below on matters of interest to Isaac Regional Council that were reflected in the Qld Water Directorate industry response. The QLD Water response is available as a reference document:

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.1: BEST PRACTICE URBAN WATER SYSTEM PLANNING

The advice is strongly supported. The Report narratives provide a balanced analysis of the potential impediments to whole-system planning. Institutional issues and difficulty accessing requisite expertise cannot be under-stated particularly across regional service providers.

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.2: PRINCIPLES FOR BEST PRACTICE INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC REGULATION

The advice is supported, however there are some key components of the narrative which could be reflected in the “advice.” For example, the Report narratives (and Advice 11.7) refer to principles of “ring-fencing” water businesses and other suggestions for improving transparency. If there is little political appetite for regulatory reform and therefore no short-term prospects for “best practice independent economic regulation”, what initial steps or “better practice” mechanisms might be encouraged?

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.3: IMPROVING PRICING AND SERVICE OUTCOMES

Fully supported. Flexibility and a condition to ensure that economic regulation must achieve a benefit to customers which exceeds the cost to administer is critical in supporting utilities, particularly those frustrated by past poorly implemented regulation.

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.4: IMPROVING PRICING AND SERVICE OUTCOMES

Partially supported. The recommitment to cost-reflective developer charges is welcomed. We are not in a position to comment on the practicality of incorporating stormwater, including pricing frameworks. It is difficult to see past the institutional barriers and a range of failed historical total water cycle management initiatives.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 11.1

The listed measure is specific and pre-empts the results of the current NPR review, when it is unclear which Service Providers will be captured in the new process.

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.5: IMPROVING PRICING AND SERVICE OUTCOMES

Strongly supported, but the same principles noted as necessary for economic regulation should apply. In particular, the costs of data capture and reporting must not exceed the value of the benefit of doing so.

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.6: ENSURING ACCESS TO A BASIC LEVEL OF SERVICE

Strongly supported. The guidance to support the implementation of CSOs is most welcome. Improving transparency around costs and sending appropriate pricing signals are critical. The report(s) note the potential for subsidies to reduce incentives for improving efficiencies and potential for moral hazard. Unfortunately, the more recent responses to COVID recovery appear to be reinforcing the current inefficient funding approaches – driving unnecessary costs to deal with poor investment signals.

There are some additional matters worth specifically considering:

- The advice only mentions drinking water. Urban water and sewerage services are typically combined and it is difficult to consider one service in isolation, becoming more difficult as you consider smaller organisations with arguably higher drinking water risks. Elsewhere in the report, there is a push for integration including stormwater services. The recommendation could better express integrated services while highlighting the desire for minimum drinking water standards.
- The advice does not reflect current deficiencies in skilling – particularly planning and asset management to support what a minimum standard seeks to support – a means of steering efficient long-term investment.

DRAFT NWI RENEWAL ADVICE 11.7: GOVERNANCE OF REGIONAL AND REMOTE SERVICES

Strongly supported, although it should potentially be clarified that this applies to current LG-operated jurisdictions rather than suggesting reform for others?

“Ring fencing” may need a staged approach in absence of State or Federal appetite for reform as noted above at RENEWAL ADVICE 11.2.

It is recommended that the profile of critical regional collaborative initiatives including the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program is increased (as it represents a potentially necessary step towards broader reform in the absence of a broad-scale reform agenda). Isaac is part of the WIM Alliance, programs like QWRAP were developed in response to needs identified through past PC reports and overt support is fundamental to continued investment by State governments.

In the absence of more recognition for these types of efforts, in Queensland at least, it is difficult to see the PC reform recommendations as anything other than aspirational.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- National Water Reform 2020 – Productivity Commission Draft Report – February 2021
- Qldwater Consolidated Submission – Productivity Commission National Water Reform 2020 – Response to Draft Report