



WATER COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2014

The Committee Recommendations contained within these Minutes were adopted at the Council Meeting on 11 February 2014.

Excluding the following item:
8.2 Expanded Coal Mine Water Release Program for the Fitzroy Basin

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**REPORT OF THE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 232 BOLSOVER STREET, ROCKHAMPTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014 COMMENCING AT 9:04AM**

1 OPENING**2 PRESENT**

Members Present:

Councillor G A Belz (Chairperson)
The Mayor, Councillor M F Strelow
Councillor C R Rutherford
Councillor A P Williams
Councillor N K Fisher

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer
Mr R Holmes – General Manager Regional Services
Mr N Chand – Manager Fitzroy River Water
Mr J Plumb – Coordinator Treatment and Supply
Ms J Daniels – Communications Officer
Ms K Mahon – Committee Support Team Leader

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

THAT the minutes of the Water Committee held on 20 November 2013 be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

Moved by: Councillor Fisher
Seconded by: Councillor Williams
MOTION CARRIED

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

9:05AM

In accordance with s172(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Councillor Fisher disclosed a material personal interest in respect of Item 8.2 – Expanded Coal Mine Water Release Program for the Fitzroy Basin due to business interests in the project, the Councillor considered his position, did not take part in the debate and left the meeting.

6 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

6.1 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING TABLE FOR WATER COMMITTEE

File No: 10097
Attachments: 1. Business Outstanding Table for Water Committee
Responsible Officer: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer
Author: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

The Business Outstanding table is used as a tool to monitor outstanding items resolved at previous Council or Committee Meetings. The current Business Outstanding table for the Water Committee is presented for Councillors information.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Business Outstanding Table for the Water Committee be received.

Moved by: Councillor Williams

Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

MOTION CARRIED

7 PUBLIC FORUMS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

8 OFFICERS' REPORTS

8.1 FUTURE UPGRADING OF ROCKHAMPTON AND GRACEMERE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

File No: 6031

Attachments:

1. Sewage Treatment Plants Strategy Planning Study
2. South Rockhampton STP Interim Upgrade

Responsible Officer: Robert Holmes - General Manager Regional Services

Author: Jason Plumb - Manager Treatment and Supply

SUMMARY

The four sewage treatment plants (STPs) that service the communities of Rockhampton and Gracemere are to varying degrees approaching the end of their design life and need to be upgraded and augmented to ensure they can continue to meet the future needs of the community. Fitzroy River Water (FRW) has recently completed some strategic planning to provide a more detailed understanding of the future requirements for each of the four STPs and also the timing and quantum of capital investment required in the coming years. This report provides some summary detail on the outcomes of this strategic planning and outlines the upgrade and augmentation works that are required in the short, medium and long term.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That a Council workshop be convened on the proposed upgrade and augmentation strategy for Rockhampton and Gracemere sewage treatment plants as soon as practicable to allow due consideration to be given to requirements for the 2014/15 Budget.

Moved by: Mayor Strelow
Seconded by: Councillor Williams

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9:10AM Councillor Fisher declared a material personal interest and left the meeting.

8.2 EXPANDED COAL MINE WATER RELEASE PROGRAM FOR THE FITZROY BASIN

File No: 1276

Attachments:

- 1. Resources Activities - Mining - Operational Policy 2013-14**
- 2. Resources Activities - Mining - Guideline**

Responsible Officer: Nimish Chand - Manager Fitzroy River Water

Author: Jason Plumb – Coordinator Treatment and Supply

SUMMARY

A pilot program for improved regulation of coal mine water releases in the Fitzroy Basin commenced in November 2012. This trial included four coal mining operations in the Isaac River catchment. In November 2013, the Queensland Government expanded this pilot mine water release program to include all mines across the Fitzroy Basin. The objective of the expanded program is to enable improved mine water management whilst maintaining acceptable water quality in the Fitzroy Basin to meet the needs of stakeholders located downstream. All releases made under this program are to be conducted in accordance with an Operational Policy and Guideline prepared by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP). This report provides an overview of the expanded program, the changes made to the program since the pilot commenced in late 2012, and the implications of these changes for water quality in the lower Fitzroy River.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on the expanded mine water release program be received, and that Council continue to engage actively with the Queensland Government to seek a lowering of the cease release value at The Gap to help ensure that the current program and any future mine water release programs best maintain the highest possible standard of water quality to meet the needs of the community.

Moved by: Councillor Rutherford

Seconded by: Councillor Williams

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9:16AM Councillor Fisher returned to the meeting.

8.3 EXPANSION OF THE GRACEMERE RECYCLED WATER SCHEME

File No: 8139

Attachments: 1. Expansion of the Gracemere Recycled Water Scheme - Planning Report

Responsible Officer: Nimish Chand - Strategic Manager Fitzroy River Water

Author: Jason Plumb - Manager Treatment and Supply

SUMMARY

The Gracemere Recycled Water Scheme needs to be expanded to increase the demand for recycled water and ensure the long term compliant land disposal of treated effluent produced by the Gracemere Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). An opportunity exists to fast-track the expansion of the recycled water network by constructing new sections of pipeline at the same time as other construction works are completed. This report provides the justification for acting now to expand the recycled water scheme and seeks approval for the reallocation capital funding to allow construction of the recycled water pipeline to commence this financial year.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the expansion of the Gracemere Recycled Water Scheme and the allocation of \$260,000 of capital funding previously identified in a recent capital budget review as deferred capital funding, to allow construction to commence immediately.

Moved by: Mayor Strelow

Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 STRATEGIC REPORTS

9.1 FRW FINANCE AND STRATEGIC MATTERS REPORT - DECEMBER 2013

File No: 1466
Attachments: Nil
Responsible Officer: Robert Holmes - General Manager Regional Services
Author: Nimish Chand - Manager Fitzroy River Water

SUMMARY

This report details Fitzroy River Water's financial position and other operational matters for the Council's information as at 31 December 2013.

9:42AM Chief Executive Officer left the meeting and did not return.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THAT the FRW Finance and Strategic Matters Report for December 2013 be received.

Moved by: Councillor Belz
Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 FRW ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

File No: 1466

Attachments:

1. **Customer Service Standards as at 30 September 2013**
2. **Customer Service and Financial Targets**
3. **Non Compliance Comments**

Responsible Officer: Robert Holmes - General Manager Regional Services

Author: Nimish Chand - Manager Fitzroy River Water

SUMMARY

Fitzroy River Water's performance against financial and non-financial targets and key strategies is reported to Council on a quarterly basis in accordance with the adopted 2013/14 Performance Plan. This report as at 30 September 2013 is presented for the Committee's information.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fitzroy River Water Annual Performance Plan quarterly report as at 30 September 2013 be received.

Moved by: Councillor Williams
Seconded by: Councillor Rutherford

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11 URGENT BUSINESS\QUESTIONS

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:59am.

COUNCILLOR G A BELZ
CHAIRPERSON

DATE