

Whitsunday Isaac Mackay Water Alliance



Vital Statistics

Area:

90,346 km² comprising the Whitsunday and Cumberland islands and the Bowen and Galilee basins.

Population:

173,504

State Electorates:

Mackay, Whitsunday, Mirani, Burdekin

Water Supply Schemes:

25 WTPs providing treated water services to 69,526 connections - a total of 161,110 consumers.

Sewerage Schemes:

14 STPs providing sewage collection and treatment services to 61,366 connections - a total of 152,370 clients.

Queensland's prime coking coal reserves are mined here, including the highest grade metallurgical coal in the world. The region also boasts a strong agribusiness sector and is one of the nation's largest sugar and bio commodity producers.

The expanding construction and development industry is underpinned by world class port facilities, rail and air infrastructure.

Participating Councils

Technical Group:



Whitsunday Regional Council

Troy Pettiford
Chief Operating Officer
Whitsunday Water



Isaac Regional Council

Greg Searle
Director
Water & Wastewater



Mackay Regional Council

Nicole Davis
Chief Operating Officer
Water & Waste

Strategic Group:

Whitsunday

Andrew Wilcox, Mayor
Kenn Donohoe, CEO

Isaac

Anne Baker, Mayor
Gary Stevenson, CEO

Mackay

Greg Williamson, Mayor
Craig Doyle, CEO

Strategic Priorities

- Develop strategic collaboration opportunities through “cross border” cooperation and alignments of systems and processes.
- Define Regional Level of Service Standards for water and sewerage services.
- Enhance sustainability through efficient water use and security of supplies.
- Facilitate economic development and diversification through improved water security.
- Assist in enabling socio-economic sustainability and growth of the region.
- Provide affordable, fit-for-purpose services that are environmentally sustainable.

Key Bid Pool Projects

Completed

- Asset Useful Life Sub-Project
- Collaborative Transition Management from Private Contractor Operation to In-House Operation of STP's within Mackay and Whitsunday Regional Councils
- Collaborative approach to determining an asset's useful life within Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay Regional Councils

Ongoing

- Water Industry Worker (WIW) Learning & Development Project
- Capital Projects Packaging – Sewer Relining and Manhole Restoration
- New STPs sharing a Joint Contract Superintendent

Planned

- Service Level Agreements for various common equipment
- Register of Documents
- Joint procurement opportunities (eg. Bulk Chemicals contract)
- SCADA Sub-Project
- Workforce Planning and Resource Sharing Arrangements
- Nitrogen Sensor Research Project
- Asset Criticality Framework and Assessment Project

QWRAP Benefits

- **Asset Useful Life Sub-Project** – an offshoot of the completed Asset Management Project, this is a collaborative approach to determining an asset's useful life within Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay Regional Councils. This can be used to prioritise renewal projects.
Water Industry Worker (WIW) – This project is a training framework for network operators with joint funding from Burdekin Shire Council, Cairns Regional Council, Mackay Regional Council, Townsville City Council and Whitsunday Regional Council. Training modules have been developed and a Registered Training Organisation has been engaged to provide the training. This will provide a competency framework allowing resource flexibility and result in highly skilled staff. It will provide a career pathway for workers and school leavers within the regions, delivering local jobs for local people.
- **Sewer Relining and Manhole Restoration** – MRC tendered for sewer relining with provision for WRC to access the same supplier contract rates. This ability to piggyback onto the contract meant that the contractor provided very competitive rates. MRC and WRC tendered together for manhole repairs; each council had staff involved in each other's inspections ensure manhole 'ratings' were consistent.
- **Transition from Outsourced STP operations to In-house** – MRC and WRC each had two Wastewater Treatment Plants, currently outsourced as an Operations and Maintenance contract. These STPs have been brought back into in-house operations and management. IRC is supporting in an advisory role. There was a common Transaction Manager and Treatment Engineer managing the contractor's responsibilities under both contracts. The project also resulted in the sharing of work packages (e.g. condition assessments and safety inspections). This has been a great learning opportunity for the teams.
- **New STPs sharing a Joint Contract Superintendent** – A joint Superintendent has been employed across the Mirani WRF Upgrade (MRC) and Bowen STP (WRC) upgrades. This collaboration included exchanging preferred equipment improving resilience during major events and assisting with critical spares. In the future it will enable joint tendering for service contracts for equipment on a more regional basis, thereby saving each council money.
- **Strategic Agreement Document** – both WRC and MRC CEOs signed a Strategic Agreement document to determine the best method for joint procurement activities when sharing contractors or contracts. This arrangement will deal with cost sharing, time constraint conflicts and escalation processes whereby the Councils determine the outcome and all the contractor to focus on the work at hand.
- **Per- and Poly- Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** – WIM has been an active participant in the broader discussion regarding Biosolids, effluents and recycled water through the Queensland Water Technical Reference Group (TRG).