

MINUTES CAIRNS WATER SECURITY (CWS) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 25 AUGUST 2026

CIA | 63/5/3-03 | #7497390v25

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the minutes of the Cairns Water Security (CWS) Steering Committee meeting held 25 August 2026.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Nil

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the minutes of the CWS Steering Committee meeting held on 25 August 2026.

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

This report and associated attachments provide details of the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) project to the end of July 2026, detailing costs, funding, progress, risks and issues.

July represented a significant milestone for the project, marking two years since the commencement of construction works. Over this period, more than 1.26 million safe hours have been achieved on site, reflecting the scale of works undertaken and the continued focus on safe delivery across a large and complex construction environment.

A key achievement during the month was the connection of high-voltage power to the site. This now enables John Holland to progress system energisation activities and commence preparation of plant, equipment and controls for the next phase of commissioning.

Pipeline and network interface works also continued to progress. The final connection to the Alooomba treated water network was completed on 20 July 2026, with tie-ins undertaken at Disco Lodge, Swan Street, Gordonvale. Preparation works are also underway for the upcoming cut-ins at Cairns Road, Gordonvale, between Maher Road and Draper Road.

At the Draper Road Water Treatment Plant, construction remains focused on mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and internal building works. Internal coatings, equipment installation, switchroom fit-out, and process building works continue across the treatment plant, with high-voltage energisation supporting the transition from construction into commissioning readiness.

Preparation and early works have also commenced at the existing Behana Gorge Water Treatment Plant. Further works include the removal of redundant assets and critical upgrades to enable the future transfer of raw water to the Draper Road Water Treatment Plant for treatment.



Reservoir Emergent Works Program

This report and the associated attachments provide an update on the Reservoir Emergent Works Program, comprising the Roof Replacements at Bayview and Brinsmead Reservoirs, Mount Peter Reservoir Stage 2 Construction, and University 2 Reservoir Design & Construction, and detail costs, funding, progress, risks and issues, for the month of July 2026.

Key milestones were achieved throughout July for the Roof Replacements Project. At Bayview Reservoir, the first of the stainless-steel columns and rafters were lifted into position, marking the commencement of the new steel framework installation. Demolition works at Brinsmead Reservoir continue to progress, with crews removing the remaining section of the existing concrete roof structure.

The Mount Peter Reservoir Stage 2 project remains on hold pending confirmation of external funding arrangements. In the interim, Council has engaged GHD to undertake design updates associated with the repurposing of the Coombak Close Pump Station. This is required to temporarily boost the reticulation network servicing the Mount Peter developments until the construction of the Mount Peter Reservoir is completed. Regulatory and cultural heritage considerations continue to be actively managed.

Procurement planning for University 2 Reservoir continue to progress, with the Principal's Project Requirements (PPR) and Scoping Reference Design being finalised. Preparation of the Design and Construct tender documentation is now underway. Survey works have been completed, and arrangements for geotechnical investigations are continuing.

OPTIONS:

That Council endorses the minutes of the Cairns Water Security (CWS) Steering Committee meeting held 25 August 2026.

Or

That Council does not endorse the CWS Steering Committee minutes and requests Council officers provide further details.

ATTACHMENTS:

Minutes of the CWS Steering Committee meeting held 25 August 2026 - [#7937034](#)



David Stevens
Executive Manager Major Projects



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STEERING COMMITTEE
25 AUGUST 2026
COMMENCED 9:00 AM
COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
119-114 SPENCE STREET, CAIRNS

ATTENDEES:

Cr B Moller	Division 9 Councillor (Committee)
Cr M Tickner	Division 2 Councillor (Committee)

APOLOGIES:

Cr A Eden	Mayor (Chairperson / Committee)
Cr B Olds	Division 1 Councillor (Committee)
Cr K Vallely	Division 6 Councillor (Committee)
S Abson	Independent Program Assurance Advisor (<i>non-voting advisor role</i>)
K Gouldthorp	Chief Executive Officer

OFFICERS:

L Whitton	Chief Financial Officer
M Wuth	Director, Cairns Infrastructure & Assets
T Veronese	Associate Director Service Delivery, Utility Services
G Kang	Associate Director Infrastructure & Assets
D Stevens	Executive Manager Major Projects
K Thoren	Minutes

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PURPOSE OF MEETING

To consider the matters listed on the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mayor Eden, Cr Olds, Cr Vallely, Steve Abson and Ken Gouldthorp.

2. PRESCRIBED CONFLICT OF INTEREST / DECLARABLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF 28 JULY 2026 63/5/3-03 | #7906865

TICKNER / MOLLER

The Minutes of the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project Steering Committee held on 28 July 2026 were endorsed.

carried unanimously

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

4.1 PROJECT UPDATE REPORT – CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT 63/5/3-03 | #7757876

MOLLER / TICKNER

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes the project update.

carried unanimously

4.2 RESOURCE AND OPERATIONAL READINESS UPDATE – CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT CIA 63/5/3-03 | #7715238

TICKNER / MOLLER

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes the Resource and Operational Readiness Update for the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) Project.

carried unanimously

**4.3 STEERING COMMITTEE ASSURANCE ADVISOR ADVICE NOTE #19 – CAIRNS
WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT**

CIA 63/5/3-03 | #7809851

MOLLER / TICKNER

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes Steering Committee Assurance Advisor Advice Note 19.

carried unanimously

4.4 PROJECT UPDATE REPORT - RESERVOIR EMERGENT WORKS

CIA 63/5/3-03 | #7917419

TICKNER / MOLLER

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes the Project Update for the Reservoir Emergent Works Project.

carried unanimously

5. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

6. BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

7. NIL

8. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

NIL

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:05 AM