

**CONTRACT 75689 – EDMONTON WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
REFURBISHMENT OF CLARIFIER #1 (AS4902 DESIGN & CONSTRUCT)**

63/6/96-02 | #7957344

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Awards Contract No. 75689 – Edmonton Waste Water Treatment Plant Refurbishment of Clarifier #1 to Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum price of \$2,085,445 excluding GST.**
- 2. Approves the Project Launch Approval for Project with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$3,173,649.60 excluding GST, and an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 October 2028; and**
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into a contract, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this contract subject to Council's normal procurement policies and practices.**

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**INTERESTED PARTIES:**

- Koppen Construction Pty Ltd
- Dawson Engineering Pty Ltd
- Water Treatment Australia Pty Ltd
- Integrated Industry Solutions Pty Ltd
- IFM Efector Pty Ltd

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

As part of Council's capital works program, Cairns Regional Council (Council) has undertaken a procurement activity to engage a suitably qualified contractor to undertake remediation works for the Edmonton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Clarifier #1.

A public tender process was undertaken via Tenderlink, with the Request for Tender (RFT) issued on 19 May 2026. At close of the tender period, five (5) tender submissions were received and subsequently evaluated.

Based on the tender evaluation undertaken, it is recommended that Contract No. 75689 – EWWTP Refurbishment of Clarifier #1 is awarded to Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum price of \$2,085,445.00 excluding GST and Project Launch Approval (PLA) are endorsed for the total PLB value of \$3,173,649.60 excluding GST for the project.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The proposed works have been identified through a review of planning studies, strategic and detailed options assessments and stakeholder engagement to determine operational and safety issues.

The objective of this project is to address the structural deterioration of Clarifier #1 at the EWWTP, to ensure that Clarifier #1 continues to operate effectively, to reduce maintenance costs, extend the service life of the asset and to improve the water quality output from Clarifier #1.

This project will be delivered as a Design and Construct contract for the refurbishment of EWWTP Clarifier #1. This contract will address structural deterioration to Clarifier #1 and ensure ongoing reliability of the Edmonton WWTP operations.

The contract to be delivered, as an outcome of this procurement activity, will allow the proposed refurbishment works to be completed under agreed design and construct contract conditions.

## **COMMENT:**

A public tender based on an AS4906 Design and Construct contract was advertised on Tuesday 19 May 2026 and closed on Tuesday 23 June 2026.

This procurement approach was consistent with the approved Pre-Market Procurement Review Board (PRB) submission requirements and ensured the procurement methodology complies with the *Local Government Act 2009* and Council's Procurement Policy.

The extended period between the close of tenders and the progression of approvals through the PRB, Capital Review Board and Council reporting processes is attributed to the detailed tender evaluation undertaken.

This included requests for additional information and clarifications from all tenderers to support a detailed assessment of the submissions received.

At the close of the tender period, submissions were received from the following companies:

- Koppen Construction Pty Ltd;
- Dawson Engineering Pty Ltd;
- Water Treatment Australia Pty Ltd;
- Integrated Industry Solutions Pty Ltd; and
- IFM Efactor Pty Ltd.

Of the five (5) tenders submitted to Council, only one (1) was non-conforming.

All conforming tender submissions were evaluated based on each company's demonstrated strengths and weaknesses for each evaluation criterion, based on the information provided by tenderers. Scoring for each criterion was differentiated by the level of detail supplied by each Tenderer.

Each submission was evaluated against the following assessment criteria as endorsed in the approved Pre-Market PRB submission.

| <b>Evaluation Criteria</b>               | <b>Weighting</b> |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Relevant experience and past performance | 15%              |
| Key personnel and technical skills       | 10%              |
| Resources and management systems         | 10%              |
| Understanding and methodology            | 20%              |
| Business profile                         | 5%               |
| Value for money                          | 40%              |

The tender evaluation panel consisted of the following members, as endorsed in the approved Pre-Market PRB submission.

| <b>Tender Evaluation Panel Members</b> |                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Panel member</b>                    | <b>Position at Council</b>                                                |
| <b>Panel Member 1 / Chair</b>          | Acting Coordinator Program Delivery, Project Management Office, CIA       |
| <b>Panel Member 2</b>                  | Senior Project Engineer, Program Delivery, Project Management Office, CIA |
| <b>Panel Member 3</b>                  | Process and Treatment Coordinator, Utility Services                       |

Following the open tender process and detailed evaluation, the tender evaluation panel recommends that Contract No. 75689 be awarded to Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$2,085,445 excluding GST.

This recommendation is made on the basis that Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd submitted a conforming tender, achieved the highest overall weighted score, and was assessed as providing best overall value for money outcome for Council.

The successful submission from Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd demonstrated a number of high-level strengths, including good value for money, relevant capability, previous work experience with similar infrastructure, adequate resources, and a sound understanding of the project requirements. Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd is also a local supplier (Cairns based), which provides a positive local economic benefit. The tenderer has previously completed a substantial quantity of similar works for Council, which provides additional confidence to the tender evaluation panel in the ability of Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd to deliver the required project scope.

## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option 1: (Recommended)**

That Council:

1. Awards Contract No. 75689 – Edmonton Waste Water Treatment Plant Refurbishment of Clarifier #1 to Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum price of \$2,085,445 excluding GST.
2. Approves the Project Launch Approval for Project with a Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$3,173,649.60 excluding GST, with an Approved End Date (AED) of 30 October 2028; and
3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to enter into a contract, negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to this contract subject to Council's normal procurement policies and practices.

### **Option 2:**

That Council does not endorse the award of Contract No. 75689 and resolves to adopt an alternative procurement methodology to complete the works.

This option is not supported on the basis that the refurbishment works have been procured in accordance with Council's approved procurement process through an open tender with sound market interest and evaluation.

The tender process has been completed, submissions have been evaluated in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria, and tenderer Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd has been assessed as providing the best overall value for money outcome for Council for this project.

Any departure from this approach could delay the delivery of the refurbishment works for the EWWTP Clarifier #1, and may expose Council to ongoing operational, environmental and emergency repair risks. It may also require Council to restart the procurement process, resulting in additional time, cost and uncertainty without providing a clear additional benefit to the project.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **Risk Management:**

The project has been progressed through an open tender process to reduce delivery risk and ensure the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified principal contractor. The proposed award of Contract No. 75689 to Dawsons Engineering Pty Ltd will place responsibility on the contractor for the refurbishment works, to comply with the contract requirements, submit an approved methodology, undertake testing and commissioning activities.

Key project risks include seasonal weather impacts, and the need to minimise operational impacts to the day to day operation of the EWWTP. These risks are expected to be

managed through the contractor's construction methodology, program, environmental management controls, safety management systems and Council's contract administration processes.

A project contingency allowance has been included in the Project Launch Budget (PLB) to manage risks identified during the project delivery phase, as well as potential latent conditions that were not known at the time of tendering. The contingency is not included in the contract award value.

#### Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The Project Launch Budget (PLB) of \$3,173,649.60 excluding GST, will enable the full scope of works to proceed on this project. This includes the proposed design and construct contract cost of \$2,085,445, contingency of \$413,089 and expenditures incurred to date of \$289,155 for survey, geotechnical, and concept design works, along with project management and other internal operational costs required to undertake the required works.

| FINANCIAL INFORMATION                    |            |               |         |         |             |               |
|------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------|---------|-------------|---------------|
|                                          | Prior Year | 2026/27       | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | Outer Years | Total         |
| <b>Adopted Budget*</b>                   | 287,088.00 | 1,850,100.00  | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00        | 2,137,188.00  |
| <b>PLB</b> (Project Launch Budget / FAC) | 287,088.00 | 2,886,649.60  | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00        | 3,173,649.60  |
| <b>Variance</b> (Budget vs PLB)          | 0.00       | -1,036,549.60 | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00        | -1,036,549.60 |

*\*2026/27 Adopted Budget figures*

There is a budget shortfall of \$1,036,549.60 in FY26/27. Therefore, an additional budget of \$1,036,549.60 is required to delivery this project. Due to criticality of the remediation works, de-scoping of the contract work to reduce the contract value to within budget constraints is not recommended.

To address this shortfall, budget has been identified for reallocation from other projects where the full adopted budget is no longer required, or where the planned works are no longer required. The proposed reallocations have been aligned to the relevant financial year to ensure the overall financial year budget remains balanced. Details of the proposed budget reallocations are provided below:

| Project Number      | Project Description                           | Adopted Budget        |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 600340              | 2024/25 difficult lines                       | \$259,000.00          |
| 601144              | Edmonton & Mount Peter Sewerage General       | \$143,000.00          |
| 601146              | Edmonton & Gordonvale - WWTPs General         | \$140,000.00          |
| 601419              | Minor Renewal Works - Wastewater Treatment    | \$100,000.00          |
| 601420              | Minor Renewal Works - Wastewater Reticulation | \$300,000.00          |
| 600745              | SPS HB3A Elec Renewal                         | 94,549.60             |
| <b>Total Budget</b> |                                               | <b>\$1,036,549.60</b> |

### Community and Cultural Heritage:

The proposed works will ensure reliable wastewater treatment services to the community within the catchment area, supporting public health outcomes and maintaining essential wastewater infrastructure.

The project will be undertaken at existing Treatment Plant site (brownfield location) and is not expected to impact areas of identified cultural heritage significance. Any statutory cultural heritage obligations will continue to be managed in accordance with Council's standard project delivery and compliance processes.

### Natural Environment:

Council requires the Contractor to provide and abide by their Environmental Management Plan (EMP). They are also required to ensure that all Environmental Legislative requirements are met. These works are essential to ensure that Council meets its environmental licence compliance requirements.

### Corporate and Operational Plans:

The services forming the basis of this report relate to the following goals in Council's [Corporate Plan 2025 to 2030](#):

- Focus One – Robust Economy: “Supporting a diversified and growing economy”.
- Focus Two – Natural Assets: “Promoting, protecting and enhancing our iconic natural environment now and for generations to come”.
- Focus Three – Design for Liveability: “A place-based approach that celebrates our community”.

### Statutory:

The tender process has been conducted in accordance with legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

### Policy:

The tender process was undertaken in accordance with Council's adopted Procurement Policy.

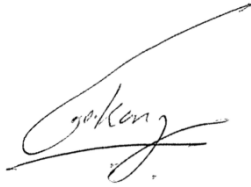
### **CONSULTATION:**

Internal stakeholders have been consulted during the preliminary design, and pre-tender phases, and will continue to be consulted as the project progresses through the Design and Construct contract. There has been ongoing communication and engagement with Utility Services to confirm the scope of works, operational requirements, isolation requirements, and potential impacts to the EWWTP.

Engagement with relevant environmental, approvals and operational stakeholders will continue to ensure the works are delivered in accordance with the approved design, environmental controls and Council requirements.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gagan Kang', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gagan Kang  
Associate Director Engineering Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wuth', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Wuth  
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets