

ORDINARY MEETING

25 MARCH 2026

**6.11**

**MINUTES CAIRNS WATER SECURITY (CWS) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

CIA | 63/5/3-03 | #7497390v19

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council endorses the minutes of the Cairns Water Security (CWS) Steering Committee meeting held 24 February 2026.**

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**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 24 February 2026.

***Cairns Water Security Stage 1***

Roof Structures to the 5ML and 8ML Reservoirs are underway in preparation for roof sheeting. Completion of roof sheeting installation to the 5ML was targeted prior to Christmas however with material delays this will occur for the 5 ML in mid-late February with the 8ML commencing after the 5ML. Completion of the 8ML roof is targeted for late March to early April 2026.

Concrete pours to the main section of the Reservoir access road were completed in December. A few remaining panels at the bottom and top of the hill will be completed by the end of February.

A review of the construction and safety methodologies (Activity Method Statement) is being undertaken before works begin on installation of pipe up and down the hill ridgeline.

Columns and roof trusses to the Control / Administration building are scheduled for completion in February, with roof sheeting to follow.

Construction of the UV building is substantially complete and the UV inlet and outlet channels are being prepared for hydrostatic testing.

Blockwork to the Consolidated building, Treated Water Pump Station (TWPS) and Transformer Building is now complete. Structural steel to the roof of the TWPS switchroom and the Consolidated building switchroom is substantially complete.

Installation of pipes across all locations continues with approximately 26km of the 30km pipeline installed.

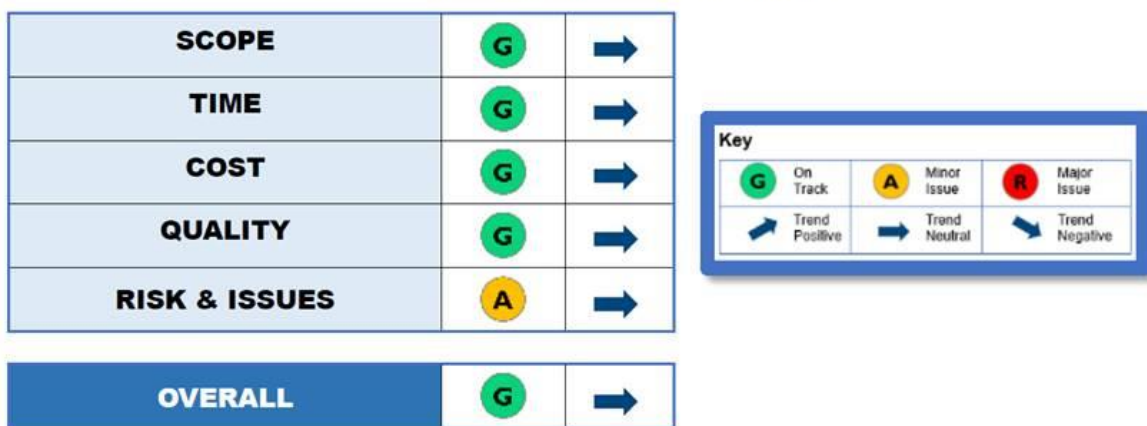
**COMMENT:**

Current status of the project is tracking well in all areas with a watch on risk and issues. Management of risk and issues is a constant focus with many areas changing daily and is a key focus of management for the whole project team.

Project progress is maintained and updated on the project webpage through Council’s web site.

**1.1 Project Overview**

The following dashboard provides an overview of the project status reflected in this report;



***Reservoir Emergency Work Program***

The Reservoir Emergent Works Program has been initiated to address critical defects and operational challenges identified across several key reservoirs within the Cairns potable water network. The program ensures continued compliance, operational safety, and water security for the community while long-term remediation and renewal strategies are developed. The Program continues to be a key operational focus for Cairns Regional Council, ensuring the safe return of essential water assets and protecting the integrity of the broader network.

Recent challenges across several reservoirs have required targeted action to maintain service reliability and meet compliance standards.

Emergency works to address urgent defects are now finalised. Brinsmead Reservoir still has a few critical steps ahead, and risks are being closely monitored.

Community engagement remains strong. Campaigns, media updates, and stakeholder briefings are underway to keep everyone informed. Industry partners are actively involved, with roundtable discussions finalised and ongoing during events such as those in January.

In short, the program is tracking well. Risks are present but being managed, and open communication with the community and stakeholders remains a top priority.

**OPTIONS:**

That Council endorses the minutes of the Cairns Water Security (CWS) Steering Committee meeting held 24 February 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 24 February 2026 - #7826056

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wuth', written in a cursive style.

Mark Wuth  
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

## CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES

## CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STEERING COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2026

COMMENCED 9:00 AM  
COMMITTEE ROOM

#### ATTENDEES:

Cr A Eden	Mayor (Chairperson)
Cr B Moller	Division 1 Councillor (Committee)
Cr M Tickner	Division 2 Councillor (Committee)
Cr B Olds	Division 9 Councillor (Committee)
Cr K Vallely	Division 6 Councillor (Committee) <i>(joined the meeting at 9.06am)</i>
S Abson	Independent Program Assurance Advisor (non-voting advisor role)
C Zeiger	Division 3 Councillor

#### APOLOGIES:

Cr A Middleton	Division 7 Councillor
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#### OFFICERS:

K Gouldthorp	Chief Executive Officer
L Whitton	Chief Financial Officer
M Wuth	Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets
T Veronese	Associate Director
G Kang	Associate Director Infrastructure & Assets
M Davey	Director Planning, Growth & Sustainability
M Cappella	A/- Executive Manager, Major Projects
J Turner	Principal Project Manager, Major Projects
K Thoren	Minutes

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*\*via teams*

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## **PURPOSE OF MEETING**

To consider the matters listed on the agenda.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

NIL

### **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 27 JANUARY 2026**

63/5/3-03 | #7809020

MOLLER / TICKNER

The Minutes of the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project Steering Committee held on 27 January 2026 were endorsed.

*carried unanimously*

### **4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **4.1. PROJECT UPDATE REPORT – CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT**

63/5/3-03 | #7757876v5

OLDS / TICKNER

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

*carried unanimously*

#### **4.2. STEERING COMMITTEE ASSURANCE ADVISOR ADVICE NOTE #15 – CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT**

63/5/3-03 | #7809851v2

EDEN / VALLELY

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes the Advice Note #15.

*carried unanimously*

#### **4.3. RESOURCE AND OPERATIONAL READINESS UPDATE – CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1 (CWSS1) PROJECT**

CIA 63/5/3-03 | #7715238v6

MOLLER / TICKNER

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*

#### **4.4. RESERVOIR EMERGENT WORKS PROGRAM BRIEFING UPDATE #5**

CIA 63/5/3-03 | #7817575

OLDS / VALLELY

It is recommended that the Steering Committee notes the Reservoir Emergent Works Program Briefing Update #5.

*carried unanimously*

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

NIL

### **6. BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

NIL

### **7. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

- 7.1. Steve Abson will draft letter a to JHQ commending JHQ on their One Million Work Hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI) on the CWSS1 Project.
- 7.2. Health check review to include the Mayor, CEO, CFO and members of the CWSS1 ELT.
- 7.3. Cairns Youth Council to undertake a site tour of the WTP site.
- 7.4. Next Steering Committee meeting to be held at site.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:30AM**