

ORDINARY MEETING	8
1 MAY 2024	

DECLARATION OF SERVICE AREAS (WATER AND SEWERAGE)

87/15/1-01 | #7402095

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Declare amended water and sewerage service areas as part of an annual review pursuant to section 161 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.**
2. **Make mapping of the updated declared water service area and the declared sewerage service area publicly available by publishing on the Cairns Regional Council website.**

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

It is a requirement for Council to declare amended water and sewerage service areas to meet statutory compliance obligations.

Following legislative amendments to the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* in May 2019, all local governments must declare their water and/or sewerage service areas by Council resolution and publish maps showing these areas and the related infrastructure. On 13 May 2020 Council unanimously resolved to declare water and sewerage service areas pursuant to section 161 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*. That both the declared water service area and the declared sewerage service area be made publicly available by publishing on the Cairns Regional Council website.

In addition, legislation requires that declared services area mapping be reviewed annually and that Council may amend adding or removing areas by resolution.

BACKGROUND:

As a registered water and sewage service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* ('the Act'), Cairns Regional Council ensures that connections, disconnections and changes to water supply and sewerage infrastructure are systematically managed to meet customer needs, protect public health and minimise the impact on the environment.

The Act, which is administered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW), provides the framework for delivering water and sewerage services in Queensland, including the requirement of local governments as entities under the Act to identify and map relevant service areas.

On 24 May 2019, amendments to section 161 of the Act commenced which requires local governments in Queensland that supply a reticulated water service or sewage service, to 'declare' service areas for those Services.

For local governments that had not declared service areas for the Services under the former 161(1) of the Act, those local governments were required to, by resolution, make a certain declaration in relation to those Services by 24 May 2020. Resolution was carried unanimously by Council on 13 May 2020 and the regulator notified on 22 May 2020.

The purpose of the declaration of water and sewerage service areas is to provide clarity about who can and who cannot be connected to Council's water and sewerage infrastructure.

Legislation also requires that that declared services area mapping be reviewed annually, and that Council may amend adding or removing areas by resolution. This annual review has been undertaken each year since the original adoption, enabling Council to update the Declared Services are to include any new areas of development and to ensure all information is kept current.

In March 2024 Council undertook the annual review of the declared water and sewerage service areas, this resulted in some minor amendments. These minor amendments have been mapped and will be made publicly available on the Cairns Regional Council website.

COMMENT:

During the current annual review period there have been minor changes to the Declared Services Area (Water and Sewer) that are consistent with development within the region. No significant changes to Declared Service Areas have been noted.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council declare amended water and sewerage service areas pursuant to section 161 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*. That the declared water service area and the declared sewerage service area be publicly available by publishing on the Cairns Regional Council website.

Option 2:

That Council does not support the amended water and sewerage service areas and requests additional information from Council officers.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

Governance, accountability and ethical decision

It is a legislative requirement that local government must declare their water and/or sewerage service areas and review on an annual basis.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

No budget allowance considerations and no costs associated with the declaration request.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

Improved access for community to view updated water and wastewater service delivery areas through Council website.

Natural Environment:

No natural environment considerations associated with the declaration request.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The services forming the basis of this report relate to the following goals in Council's Corporate Plan 2021 to 2026:

- Robust Economy: "Supporting a diversified and resilient economy"; and
- Design for Liveability: "Creating a safe, sustainable and connected place that supports a quality of life".

Statutory:

It is a statutory requirement pursuant to section 161 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* that Council amend and make publicly available declared water and sewerage service areas.

Policy:

Cairns Regional Council Drinking Water Quality Policy #4964552 v3.

CONSULTATION:

Representatives of the following Council departments were consulted during the 2024 review:

- Engineering Services – Cairns Infrastructure and Assets
- Business Performance and Compliance – Cairns Infrastructure and Assets
- Business Improvement – Cairns Infrastructure and Assets
- Information and Technology Services – Finance and Business Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Declared Water and Sewerage Service Areas maps – 2024 review



Catherine Horne
Executive Manager Business Performance and Compliance



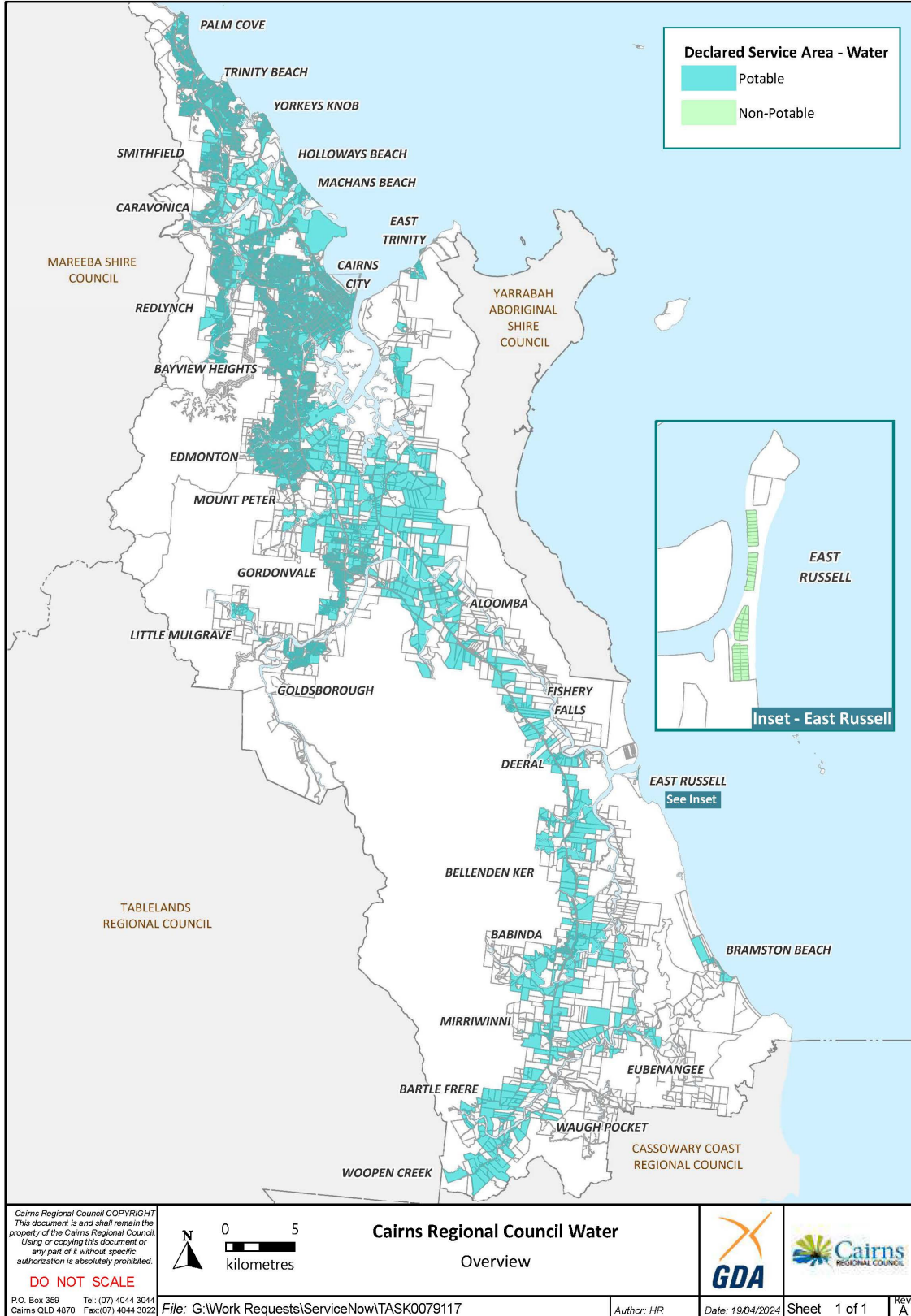
Gary Everson
Associate Director Service Delivery



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Attachment 1 - Declared Water and Sewerage Service Areas maps – 2024 review

Declared Service Area Water Overview 2024



Declared Service Area Sewerage Overview 2024

