

## **WOLOWEYAH PARKS & RESERVES COMMITTEE**

### **MONTHLY MEETING OCTOBER 2021**

**Meeting Opened: 3pm Sunday 3/10/2021**

**Present:** Phill Francis, Marina Popko, Stephan Schulze, Susan Ellem, Dom Ferry

**Apologies:** Kirra Muegge, Mary McDowall, Michael O'Brien, Andrew Bennett

**Minutes of previous meeting:** No September meeting (COVID)

**Correspondence IN/OUT:** (attached) Mov: P Francis Sec: S Schulze

**Treasurer's Report:** c/o as Treasurer still unwell. Transitioning to new Treasurer and end of year report still being finalised.

**General Business:** Festival of Small Hall's event postponed due to COVID restrictions until May 2022.

Spring Ball proposed date is 20/11/21. Dom suggested two local bands play as this would be less problematic if anything had to be cancelled/postponed at short notice due to COVID restrictions as well as giving local bands a much needed booking. Availability of bands to be checked. Committee members are to give thought to possible themes before next meeting. Sue to send group email.

Clarence Valley Council (CVC) have advised of proposed APZ clearing to take place in October. Phill to advise, on behalf of 355 Committee, most suitable days which would be Thurs/Fridays (not Wednesdays). This then to be advertised on WAT page to inform community.

New water tank has been installed with guttering to be completed. Phill to email thanks to CVC, however, mentioning that yet again, 355 Committee was not advised prior to installation and this adversely affected a group who had hired the hall.

Further followup is also needed with CVC regarding much needed clearing behind tennis court area which is now very overgrown.

**Next meeting: Sunday 7/11/21 3pm**



## Floodplain Management Australia

Supporting Wise Planning and Development

[www.floods.org.au](http://www.floods.org.au) ABN 67 007 279 179

President: Ian Dinham 0435 946 525

26 October 2021

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP  
Minister for Local Government  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

### **Request to consider changes to Local Government Act**

Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) is the peak national body for flood risk management practitioners in Australia. FMA promotes wise management of development on floodplains and community awareness of flood-related issues, helping to reduce the risks of flooding to life and property. FMA represents the interests of members at local, state and federal government levels. FMA Members include over 170 local councils, catchment management authorities, federal, state and territory government agencies, businesses and professionals involved in all aspects of urban and rural flood risk management.

At our May 2021 meeting, FMA considered a submission from one of our member organisations, Clarence Valley Council (CVC), concerning the management of flood mitigation assets, specifically levees, within its jurisdiction. In the submission, which is **Attachment 1** of this letter, CVC requests amendments to both s59A and s191A of the Local Government Act. These changes seek to ensure that councils have clear ownership of the flood mitigation assets that they have constructed, and powers of entry and rights to carry out works on those assets.

CVC has experienced landholder barriers where these assets are located on private land without easements benefitting the Council. The costs of acquiring easements is prohibitive. On face value, it appears that adding flood mitigation to the list of asset groups to which these Sections apply (currently water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage) has merit to address these concerns.

However, during further consultation with our members, Rous County Council (RCC) raised concerns with the amendments recommended by CVC. Their submission is **Attachment 2** to this letter. RCC is concerned that the Local Government Act amendments, specifically changes to s59A, could have unintended consequences, such as the transfer of unwanted flood mitigation assets to councils, where their history is ambiguous or not documented in a council asset register.

FMA, on behalf of its members requests that the Office of Local Government considers and provides advice as to the merits of the suggested amendments to the Local Government Act, particularly s59A. The OLG might also consider whether there are alternate measures or approaches that could be put in place to address the tenure concerns over council flood mitigation assets, if amendment to the Act is unlikely.

We look forward to your advice on this matter.

Should you require further information, or wish to discuss this matter, please contact FMA Technical Director, Danny Rose on 02 6670 2476 or at: [drose@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:drose@tweed.nsw.gov.au)

Yours Faithfully



Ian Dinham  
**President**

***Attachments***

*Attachment 1: Clarence Valley Council 29 April 2021*

*Attachment: 2 Rous County Council 3 June 2021*

*CC: General Manager Clarence Valley Council  
General Manager Rous County Council*

Please address correspondence to:

Glenn Evans Executive Officer Floodplain Management Australia

115 Marshall Street Garden Suburb NSW 2289

Email [eo@floods.org.au](mailto:eo@floods.org.au)

Phone 0415 873353



**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A791136

Mr Ashley Lindsay  
General Manager  
Clarence Valley Council  
Locked Bag 23  
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Email: [ashley.lindsay@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ashley.lindsay@clarence.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Lindsay

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 September 2021 regarding Clarence Valley Council's acquisition of the Nymboida Water Assets from Essential Energy in conjunction with Coffs Harbour Council.

I applaud Council in working with the NSW Government in providing sustainable water conservation practices, planning and water demand management which encourages the effective and efficient delivery of water supply and sewerage services throughout NSW.

I understand this transfer will address a high priority risk identified in the draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy and secures water for the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour communities.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the Government's attention and providing me with your detailed briefing regarding this acquisition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shelley Hancock'.

**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Minister for Local Government

29 OCT 2021

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29 October 2021

Ref: 9165

Mr Ashley Lindsay  
General Manager  
Clarence Valley Council  
Locked Bag 23  
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Mr Lindsay *Ashley*

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October 2021 advising that Council has written to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) requesting a review of the intersection treatment of Pound and Villiers Street, Grafton, following concerns raised by members of the local Traffic Committee.

As a regular user of this intersection, I concur with the concerns raised by members of the Traffic Committee in respect to the intersection geometry and traffic flow.

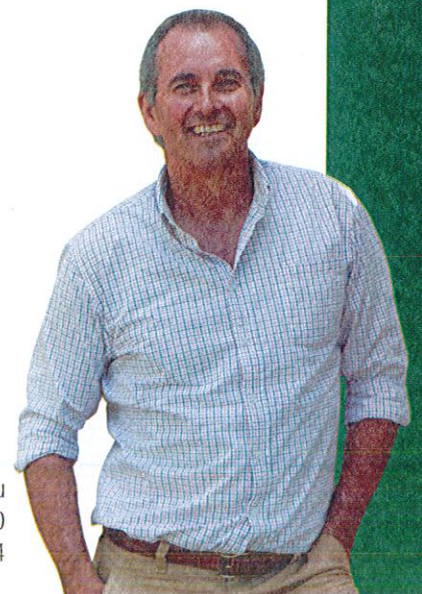
I have been pleased to support Council's request for a review by TfNSW.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Gulaptis*

**CHRIS GULAPTIS, MP**  
Nationals MP for Clarence  
Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture & Forestry

CG.dn





**Water Efficiency Working Group Meeting 2/11/2021 - Environmental Learning Facility & MS Teams**

**Attendance:** Cr Toms (CVC), Cr Sally Townley (CHCC), Tina Young (left 10:45), John Edwards, Leonie Blain  
**Staff:** Melissa Hinkley & Gabrielle Ryan (CHCC), Greg Mashiah, Chris Hellyer & Richard Roper (CVC)  
**Apologies:** Nil  
**Observers:** Ant van Haren

**1. Opening and Apologies**

The meeting opened at 9:57 with Cr Toms in the Chair. Cr Toms welcomed the committee members and observer. The traditional owners were acknowledged.

**Blain/Toms: The minutes of the 29 April 2021 WEWG meeting be accepted. (Carried)**

**2. Business Arising**

- a) RWS Agreement – negotiations with CHCC on a new agreement are commencing within the next few weeks when transfer of the Essential Energy assets are completed. It will be up to the two newly elected Councils whether the agreement is a confidential document or is publicly available.
- b) Change from 5/10/20 to 5/10/10 rule – a response from DPIE Water outlining the reasons for the change was circulated to the committee by email on 31/05 (copy Attached)
- c) Briefing on water issues – Cr Toms suggested the WEWG be briefed next year

**3. CVC Water Efficiency Report**

Chris Hellyer (CVC) presented CVC's water efficiency report (see attached presentation).

**Questions and Comments**

- Greg Mashiah noted that the changes in reporting will assist with the annual reporting requirements to DPIE (which are also partially used by the Bureau of Meteorology in the National Water Performance reporting).
- John Edwards asked about flushing on the trunk main causing minor flooding at Ti Tree Creek? Greg Mashiah advised the raw water main is flushed each time the water supply to the Nymboida is turned on to manage water quality (turbidity) in the raw water being received at the unfiltered Rushforth Road Water Treatment Plant. When the 100ML reservoir was recently emptied and cleaned the last 20ML needed to be released due to possible drinking water quality impacts from deposited sediment in the base of the reservoir.
- Metered standpipes for Council vehicles – Greg Mashiah advised that the cost of metered standpipes is currently being assessed.
- Smart Metering – a business case is being prepared for budgetary consideration by the new Council commencing in 2022/23. The estimated cost of the roll-out of smart metering is \$5 million, but there are significant operational benefits. Due to the cost this will need to be tendered. It is likely there will be a pilot program in the first year of the roll out followed by a full roll out to all customers in the second year. An advantage of the roll out is that it will significantly reduce the water meter fleet age. As water meters tend to under read, this will have benefits in terms of accurately recording (and billing) consumption.

- Tina Young advised that there has been an increase in the number of rebate enquiries regarding changing toilets. Tina also suggested increased awareness/education of customers and offered to provide some information to Chris.
- Cr Toms asked about *The Pipeline* newsletter distribution to rental properties? Chris Hellyer advised that copies are available at the Council offices and that it could be distributed to other outlets. Cr Toms suggested it be included in the weekly Council “noticeboard” email.
- Leonie Blain asked what happens with people who received electronic bills? Chris Hellyer advised that it is included as an attachment with the electronic bills.
- Concern was expressed by various committee members regarding the removal of water efficiency information from the new CVC website and that some information is out of date.
- Leonie Blain asked what was the frequency of updating water consumption information on the CVC website? Greg Mashiah advised the aim is weekly.
- The 4% increase in the number of water connections is mainly due to an audit which indicated that many Department of Housing properties were incorrectly charged as a single connection whereas under Best Practice Pricing each dwelling unit should have been considered as a separate connection. This audit will have a beneficial impact on revenue due to availability charges being applied to each connection.

#### 4. CHCC Water Efficiency Report

Gabrielle Ryan (CHCC) presented CHCC’s water efficiency report (see attached presentation).

#### 5. Review WEWG Constitution

A copy of the WEWG’s current constitution was circulated with the meeting agenda. Greg Mashiah noted that the Governance Officer is currently reviewing the model constitution for advisory committees, and that some information (with this committee in mind) has been provided to assist with the review.

- Leonie Blain noted that as this Committee is an inter-Council committee the constitution may need some tweaking.
- Members agreed that indigenous representation on the committee is desirable and that a First Nations position be included in the committee membership.
- Community members need to be encouraged to nominate for the committee.
- Committee members noted the role of the Committee needs to be better defined to guide (without limiting) the committee’s role.

*Action: Chris Hellyer to circulate the draft constitution for comment when available*

#### 6. General Business

- Leonie Blain – why is the dam level being maintained at 92%? The spillway dissipator is currently being prepared following damage in the December 2018 flood and leaving 8% of the dam unfilled minimises the risk of the construction work being flooded.
- Leonie Blain – currency of Shannon Creek Dam licence? The dam licence was renewed but no conditions were changed. All licences are on the NSW Water licence register.
- John Edwards- status of sustainable yield assessment for the Nymboida? A sustainable yield assessment will be the first stage of an Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWCM),

which is currently on hold pending the release of the Regional Water Strategy. One issue for CVC is that it does not have filtration so extraction is limited by turbidity.

- John Edwards – catchment management plan for the Nymboida? Council is not the consent authority for many of the issues and the committee/council can only lobby the state government.
- Leonie Blain – status of the North Coast Regional Water Strategy? DPIE indicated the final strategy was scheduled for release in October 2021.
- Cr Karen Toms thanked the Committee members for their service.

**Blain/Edwards                      That Nymboida Catchment Management (which effects water quality and hence ultimate yield) be added to the agenda as a standing item. (Carried)**

#### **7. Next meeting**

TBC following the Council election and appointment of the committee.

**Meeting closed: 12:25**

#### **Attachments:**

DPIE Water email of 31/05/21 re change from 5/10/20 to 5/10/10 rule

CVC Water Efficiency Annual Presentation

CHCC Water Efficiency Annual Presentation





# REPORT TO WATER EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP

November, 2021



# Targets: 2020/2021



Partnerships



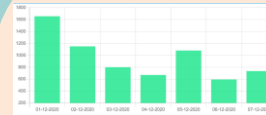
Monitoring,  
Evaluation  
and  
Reporting



Water Loss  
Management



Water  
Efficient  
Partner  
Program



Smart  
Metering



Rebates



Community  
Engagement  
and  
Education

**Staffing update**

- Oct 2020 – Jan 2021 no Water Efficiency Officer in role (3 months)
- Jan 2021 – April 2021 temporary Officer in role (3 months)
- April 2021 – Aug 2021 no Officer in role (4 months)
- Aug 2021 – end Nov 2021, temporary Officer in role (3 months)





# Target 1: Partnerships

## TARGETS

- Smart Approved WaterMark
- Identify new potential partnerships and opportunities for collaboration

## OUTCOMES

- 21 October 2021 - DPIE announced subsidised partnership offering new subscribers 3 years for price of one year subscription with SAWM. Council staff to attend webinar 10 November 2021 with view to subscribe.
- Engaged Council's Sustainable Living Team to incorporate water efficiency in their water quality talk, and for schools who win water conservation grants to utilise the Waterwise education program as part of their Action Plan.
- Potential to engage with local universities – to be investigated 2022.





# Target 2: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



## TARGETS

- Develop standard procedure for reporting of WEIP action status and KPI'S
- Develop standardised definitions of connection types across the region.

## OUTCOMES

- Report abbreviated for ease of reporting for this first year.
- More detailed reporting to be provided next year (possible bi-annual 2022 meeting to provide further update to Committee)
- Standard definitions review in progress by CVC.
- CHCC to reconvene with CVC and determine if standard definitions are practical for both Councils given potential Rate System changes.





# Target 3: Water Loss Management



## TARGETS

- Develop and implement WLMPs, action and targets for each Council
- Identify and implement actions to predict, identify and repair leaks in the distribution systems

## OUTCOMES

- The WEIP directs a budget toward both Councils for developing a WLMP - potentially consultant task, for further discussion between Councils.
- Ongoing meter exchange program (planned and unplanned)
- Ongoing visual mains inspections



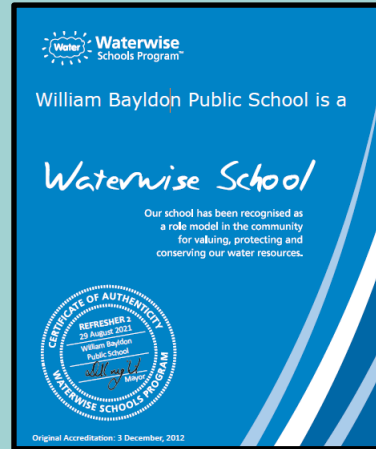
# Target 4: Water Efficient Partner Program

## TARGETS

- Develop a communication and engagement strategy to promote the WEPP to target customers
- Council Projects

## OUTCOMES

- Communication strategy to be developed following identification of target customers and priorities.
- Utilised Water Week entry form to gather qualitative and quantitative information for future education programs (~149 entries)
- Schools provided with a report card on progress through the Waterwise Schools program.
- 8 x Refreshers completed despite COVID-19. 3 schools to complete Refresher 1.
- NIL visitors to water & sewer facilities due to COVID-19 (88 in 19/20)



School - Boambee Public  
 Original Accreditation – 2011  
 Level achieved so far – Refresher completed 2020 (Level 1)  
 Next refresher due – Refresher due 2025

A	B	C	D	E
<b>Outstanding achievement</b>	High achievement	Sound achievement	Basic achievement	Limited achievement

Report outcome – You are up to date - Keep up the Great Work!





# Target 5: Smart Metering

## TARGETS

- Review program objectives and scope, technologies / suppliers for infrastructure, software and devices

## OUTCOMES

Council had a drive by remote metering system (Elster) with 168 water meters connected.

This technology had failings with battery life, radio signal and software.

Council has now initiated a revised minor pilot program with remote metering using the Sigfox network.

Council will have a total of 49 devices as part of our revised pilot with data collection commencing by end December 2021.







# Target 6: Rebates



## TARGETS

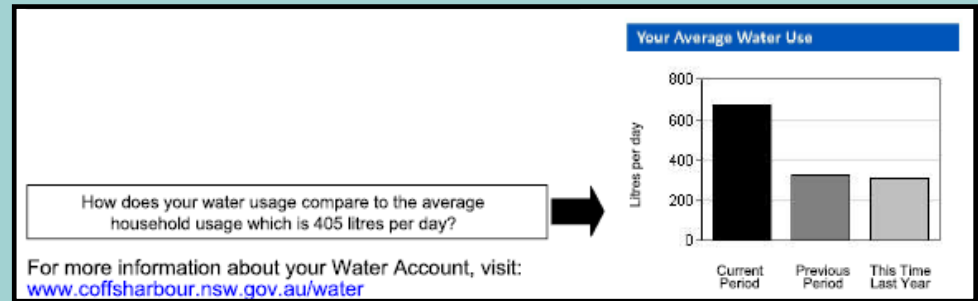
- Review and finalise rebate program including suppliers
- Develop local residential and total demand targets
- Implement rebate program

## OUTCOMES

- CHCC have existing rebate program in place, review for 2022
- 20/21 Residential Charges:
  - Tier 1 = \$3.25/kl
  - Tier 2 = \$4.88/kl
- 187 - rainwater tanks with combined capacity = 684,350L
- 1 - New for Old shower swaps
- 4 - Dual flush toilet rebates
- 0 - Shower rebates



# Target 7: Community Engagement and Education



## TARGETS

- Develop and implement a communication and education program
- Develop communication materials including webpage, fact sheets, media releases and social media posts
- Develop improved water bills to be utilised across the region
- School education program
- High residential water users program

## OUTCOMES

- Review of CHCC web pages being undertaken. Linkage to SAWM materials and further review pending webinar and subscription.
- CHCC Water Bills identify average household usage and comparison to previous periods for each premises.
- Waterwise Schools Program continued despite COVID-19. AGM to review future options to accommodate COVID-19 planning.
- Rates data review required prior to initiating High residential water users program.





# Regulatory mechanisms to reduce / manage water demand

**LEVEL 1**  
WATER RESTRICTIONS

**APPLY FROM**  
**MONDAY 16TH**  
**DECEMBER 2019**

PERMANENT WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES
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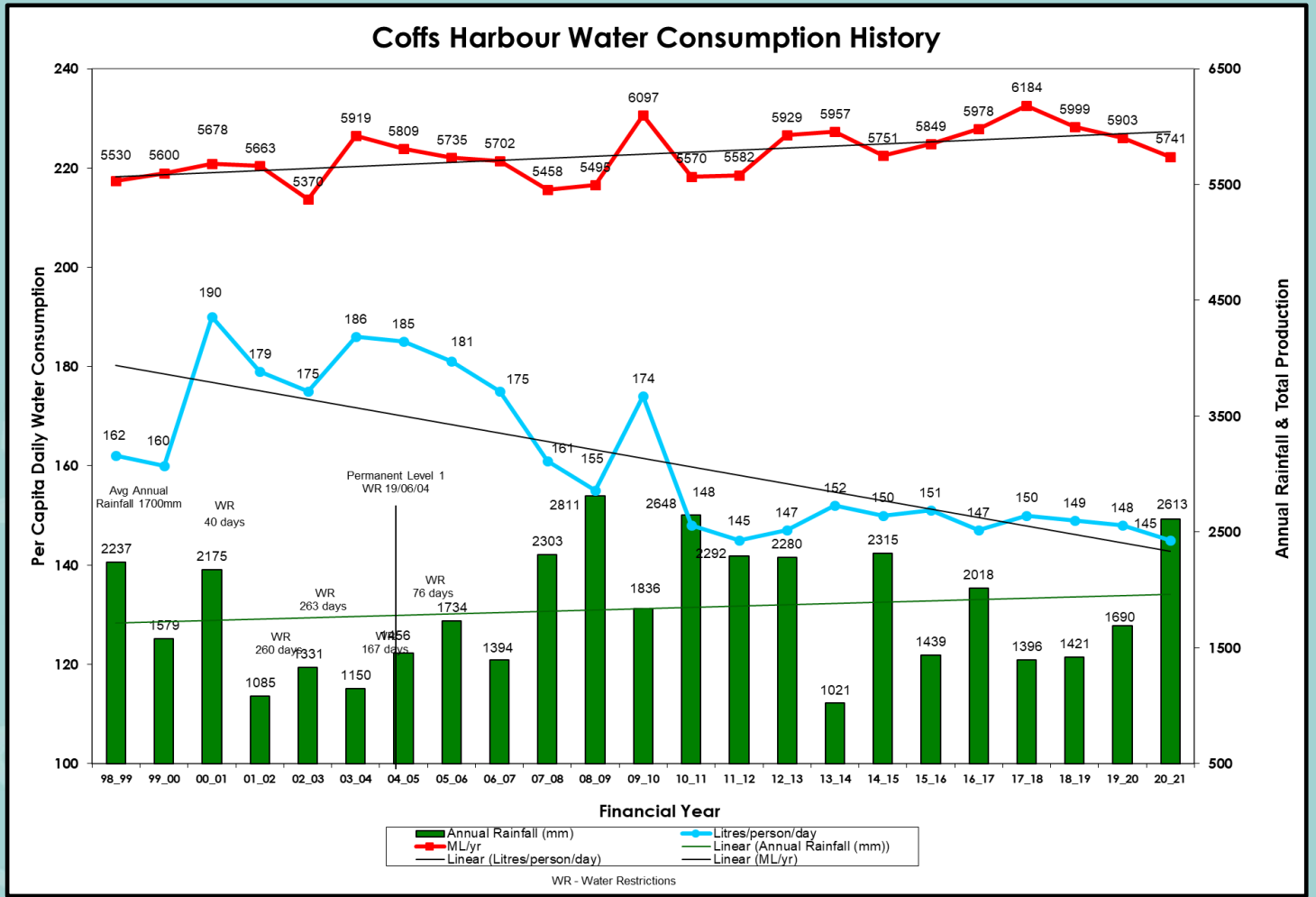
Level 1 Water Restrictions details available at Coffs Harbour City Council website  
[www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Water restrictions

- Level 1 Water Restrictions were introduced on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- Restrictions were lifted 16 June 2021, to Permanent Water Conservation Measures.
- Advertising Expenditure \$12,020.46
- Advertising increased from monthly to weekly for a period.



THANK YOU





# Clarence Valley Council ANNUAL WATER EFFICIENCY REPORTING 2020 - 2021

# Reporting on

## IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW WATER EFFICIENCY STRATEGIC PLAN

**2020 - 2021**

1. Partnerships
2. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
3. Water Loss Management
4. Water Efficient Partner Program
5. Smart Metering
6. Rebates
7. Community Engagement and Education

# 1. PARTNERSHIPS

## Smart Approved WaterMark

- Subscription now supported by DPIE
- Upcoming webinar attendance in view of joining
- Comprehensive suite of materials which can be co-branded

## Water Efficiency Working Group

- Council elections prompt us to review constitution and plan recruitment of members

## New partnerships and opportunities

- Active member of the AWA Water Efficiency Specialist Network
- Aim to develop partnership with CVC Living Sustainably Awards
- Investigate/promote government initiatives and grants





## 2. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

### Standardising procedure for reporting

- Draft reporting framework will be assessed and implemented as new programs are developed
- Currently evaluating each council's connection categories and definitions
- Awaiting latest census data to determine population served and local residential density
- Determination of local demand water demand targets to follow definition of “zones” and population data.
- Quarterly water efficiency and water balance data reporting going forward



## 3. WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT

### Develop and implement WLMPs

- Engagement of consultant and budget pending
- Development of standardized actions, targets and reporting across both councils
- Particularly to address non-revenue water
- Mains flushing by council will be metered in the future



# 4. WATER EFFICIENT PARTNER PROGRAM

## Development a high-consumer 'partner' program

- Program to run across both councils
- To include commercial high consumers, AND council
- Program scope and approach to be determined

### Initial approach:

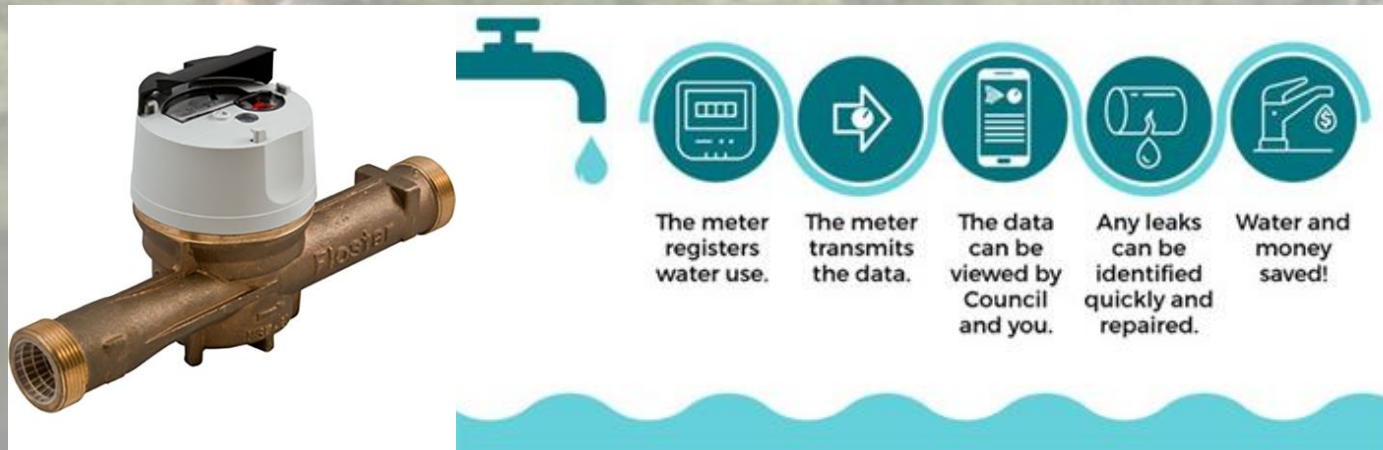
- Council audits and promotion of subsequent council water saving actions to precede a commercial program (link with Action 3)
- High residential customer engagement, survey, education and follow-up (link Action 7)





## 5. SMART METERING

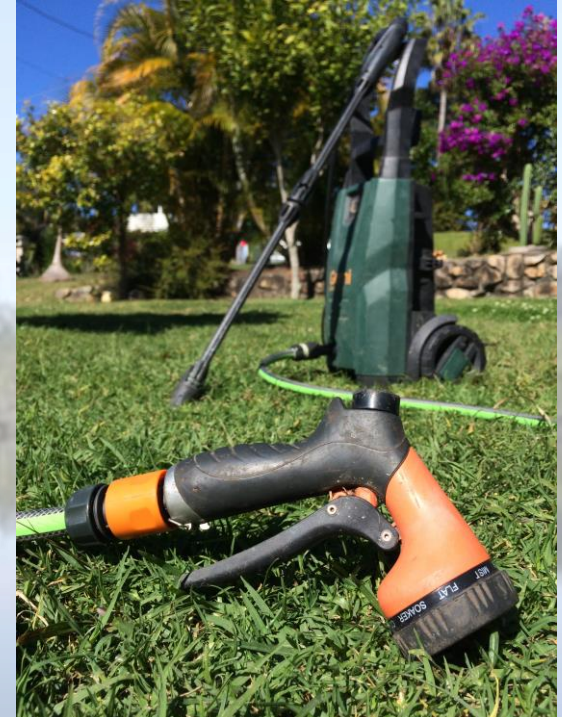
- Smart meter roll-out by CVC Water Cycle operations
- WEWG update from Greg



## 6. REBATES

### New CVC rebate program 2022

- **Currently assessing value and criteria of current program (20-21, Toilet x 2, Tank x 6)**
- **Expansion of program to include other products with possible inclusion of efficient garden products**
- **WEPP (action 4) may include rebate style incentives**
- **Promotion of new program in early 2022**



## 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

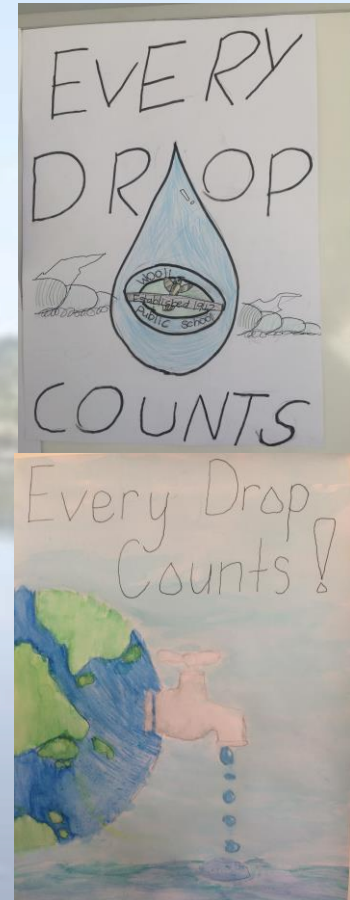
### Develop and implement a communication and education program

- Will include the integration of SAWM materials, and promotion of rebate and WEPP programs

### Improved water bills

- CVC aims to adopt similar format to CHCC
- The Pipeline newsletter has been maintained

### Waterwise schools limited by covid: 4 in 2020/21





# REGULATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT

## Water Restrictions

- In place from 1 July 2020 until 16 June 2021 (a total of 18 months!)

## Water restriction review

- Completed 2021 to bring CVC water use guidelines in-line with CHCC

## Promotion of new policy

- Following lifting of restrictions we promoted the new water conservation measures in our newsletter, social media, and during water week.





## Clarence Valley Council Water Use Statistical Information 2020/21

<b>Total Annual Clarence Valley Consumption (billed)</b>	<b>5,177 ML</b> (5,978 ML*)	<b>Number of properties connected (total)</b>	<b>20,879</b> (20,013*, 4% increase)
<b>Average Daily Consumption</b>	<b>14 ML</b> (16 ML*)	<b>Average annual residential household consumption</b>	<b>164 kL/y</b> (128 kL/y*)

\*Figure from previous year

### Water Usage by Category Type

Category	No. Properties	Total Consumption (ML)	Category	No. Properties	Total Consumption (ML)
Residential	18,360	3,229	Industrial	160	548
Commercial	1,168	807	Rural	909	453
Recreational	168	80	Raw	159	60