



A Business Unit of  Fraser Coast  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

water today  water tomorrow

2023/24

# Annual Performance Plan

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# Welcome

## ABOUT US

Wide Bay Water is a customer-focused Business Unit of Council delivering sustainable water and sewerage services to build better communities on the Fraser Coast.

As a business unit, Wide Bay Water operates in accordance with the principles of commercialisation, as detailed in the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Wide Bay Water is governed by an Advisory Committee appointed by Council, and Executive Team reporting to the Fraser Coast Regional Council Chief Executive Officer.

This Annual Performance Plan has been prepared in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and presents the business objectives and targets that will guide Wide Bay Water's performance over the 2023/24 financial year.

## PURPOSE

*Wide Bay Water's purpose is to be an efficient customer-focussed business developing and delivering sustainable water services for the benefit of the Fraser Coast community.*



# Business Objectives

In 2023/24 Wide Bay Water is focused on contributing toward the achievement of Council's Corporate Plan 2023/2028 Focus Areas and Objectives.

To do this we aim to meet the financial and non-financial performance targets, as detailed within this Annual Performance Plan, as well as deliver the Corporate initiatives assigned to Wide Bay Water within Council's Operational Plan 2023/24.



# Values

The TRAITS acronym represents the values we consider to be integral to the way we interact as a business, the way we go about our work, and the expectations on how we will serve our community.



## TRAITS

**Trust**  
**Respect**  
**Accountability**  
**Initiative**  
**Teamwork**  
**Service**

# Nature and scope of the significant business activity

The nature and scope of the water and sewerage services provided by Wide Bay Water includes:

## WATER SUPPLY SERVICE



Water Storages and Catchments - Three Dams (Lenthall Dam & Cassava 1 & 2) and Four Weirs (Burrum Weir 1 & 2, Teddington, Tallegalla)



Four Water Treatment Plants;



17 Reservoirs Sites;



>1120km of Water mains;



21 Pump Stations;



Reticulated Supply Network;



>39,000 Water Service Connections.

## SEWERAGE SERVICE



>810km of Sewerage Mains (Gravity and Rising);



123 Pump Stations;



Eight Sewage Treatment Plants;



>74km of Effluent Mains;



Integrated Effluent Reuse System including eight Hardwood Tree Plantations and external customers.

# Customer Experience

Customer focus will be reflected not only in the achievement of our service standards and customer charter, but in the application of our values in every customer interaction.

Section 115 of the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008* requires water service providers to prepare a Customer Service Charter for its water and sewerage services. It also requires the service provider to clearly state the level of service to be provided to customers, the process for service connection, billing, metering, accounting, customer consulting, complaints and dispute resolution.

The Customer Service Standard can be accessed at [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/wide-bay-water-reporting](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/wide-bay-water-reporting)

The Customer Service Charter is prepared in accordance with Regulator Guidelines. It is reviewed every five years in consultation with our Customers.

For 2023/24 Wide Bay Water aims to provide a customer experience consistent with its Customer Service Charter and the Non-financial Performance Indicators defined in this Annual Performance Plan.

# Financial and Non-Financial Performance Targets

TABLE 1. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR	FREQUENCY	UNIT	TARGET	EXPLANATION	CALCULATION
Operating Surplus Ratio	Annual	%	20%	Indicates the extent to which revenues (utility charges, fees & charges etc.) raised cover operational expenses (employee, materials & services, depreciation & loan interest payments) which is then available for capital funding or other purposes. It represents % of profit each \$ of revenue generates.	Net result (excluding capital items) divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital items)
Dividend Ratio	Annual	%	20	The dividend payout ratio is the amount of dividends paid to owners (FCRC) relative to the amount of total net income of the entity. The amount that is not paid out in dividends is held to fund growth. The amount that is kept is called retained earnings.	Dividend/Net Profit After Tax
Debt Servicing Ratio (I&R / revenue)	Annual	%	<30%	The debt service coverage ratio, also known as "debt coverage ratio", is the ratio of cash available to debt servicing for loan interest & principal payments. It is used as a measurement of an entity's ability to produce enough cash to cover its debt repayments. It is the % of revenue used to repay debt.	Interest & Redemption Payments/Revenue
Interest Cover (EBITDA/interest expense)	Annual	Times	>8	Times interest coverage ratio is a measure of an entities ability to honor its debt payments. It may be calculated as either EBIT or EBITDA divided by the total interest payable.	EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation & amortisation)/ Interest Expense
<b>Total Distribution to FCRC</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$16.42</b>		
- Dividends			<b>\$5,200,000</b>	Paid to Owner (FCRC) from after tax profits	Refer "Dividend Ratio" above
- Tax			<b>\$10,703,167</b>	Paid to Owner (FCRC)	In accordance with LGTER regime legislation
- Competitive Neutrality			<b>\$517,050</b>	In accordance with the Competitive Neutrality principles contained in <i>Local Government Act 2009 &amp; Local Government Regulation 2012</i>	Based on calculated 5 year ave. debt margin on QTC borrowing rate



**TABLE 2. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
Hervey Bay & Maryborough	Unit	Target
<b>Water</b>		
<b>Continuity and reliability of water supply</b>		
Time for restoration of service within five hours – percentage of unplanned incidents	%	95%
Minimum water pressure at the property boundary for 99% of connected properties (on enquiry or complaint)	kPa	200
Minimum flow at the property boundary for 90% of connected properties (on enquiry or complaint)	L/min	>20
System water loss	ILI	1.5
<b>Water quality</b>		
Water at the point of delivery will meet National Health and Medical Research Council Health Guidelines for Australian Drinking Water	%	100%
Water quality (physical and chemical parameters) at the point of delivery will meet National Health and Medical Research Council Aesthetic Drinking Water Guidelines (not including chlorine, taste or odour)	%	>95%
<b>New service connections - water</b>		
Installation of all 20mm and 25mm diameter property connections within maximum 20 working days.	%	90%
Service connections greater than 25mm diameter.		
(a) Design & notification of construction price (average time from completed application).	Working Days	10
(b) Construction time (average time from payment of fees) subject to building and development regulations being met.	Working Days	20

## TABLE 2. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
Sewerage	Unit	Target
Effective transport of waste		
Total sewage overflows per 100km main	Number Per Annum	<10
Sewage overflows on to customer property per 1,000 connections	Number Per Annum	<5
Sewer odour complaints per 1,000 connections	Number Per Annum	<10
Effluent complies to Environmental Licence	%	100%
Effluent reuse as percentage of Average Dry Weather Flow	%	90%
New service connections- sewer		
Completion of new sewer connections.		
(a) Design & notification of construction price (average time from completed application).	Working Days	10
(b) Construction time (average time from payment of fees) subject to building and development regulations being met.	Working Days	20
Queensland Government – Reportable Indicators		
QG 4.5 - Total water main breaks per 100km of water main	Number Per Annum	<20
QG 4.6 - Total sewerage main breaks and chokes per 100km sewerage main	Number Per Annum	<60
QG 4.7 - Incidence of unplanned water service interruptions to supply per 1000 connected properties	Number Per Annum	<100
QG 4.8 - Average response time for incidents causing an interruption to water supply	Minutes	<60
QG 4.9 - Average response time for incidents causing an interruption to sewerage collection	Minutes	<60
QG 4.10 - Drinking water quality complaints per 1000 connected properties	Number Per Annum	<5
QG 4.11 - Total water and sewerage complaints per 1000 connected properties	Number Per Annum	<40

# Community Service Obligations

A Community Service Obligation is as an obligation the local government imposes on a business entity that is not in the commercial interest of the entity to do.

Wide Bay Water provides a number of community service obligations to the Fraser Coast community, from utility charge

concessions to development incentives and discounts, and the Fraser Coast Regional Council compensates Wide Bay Water for the cost of providing these community service obligations.

Community Service Obligations are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the development of the annual budget and in 2023/24 are forecast to include:

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION	ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST	REFERENCE
Utility charge concession/discount – community group	\$556,082	Community Group Concession Policy v17
Utility charge concession - other	\$10,000	Water Charge Relief Policy v7
Developer Contribution – discount/incentive	\$665,533	Infrastructure Charges Incentives Council Policy March 2022 v1

# Proposed Major Investments

MAJOR INVESTMENTS PLANNED FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDE:

## WATER SUPPLY

Water Pump Stations **\$1.5M**



Water Reservoirs **\$0.4M**



Water Mains - Non-trunk **\$4M**



Water Mains - Trunk **\$3.7M**



Water Treatment **\$7.0M**



Water Collection **\$1.2M**



## SEWERAGE

Sewerage Pump Stations **\$0.4M**



Sewerage Collection - Trunk **\$0.8M**



Sewerage Collection - Non-trunk **\$0.7M**



Sewerage Treatment **\$6.4M**



## EFFLUENT REUSE

Effluent Reuse **\$1M**



# Financial Structure

Wide Bay Water shows as separate units within Fraser Coast Regional Council's financial ledgers.

## CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The consolidated capital structure of Wide Bay Water will comprise community equity to the value of assets less liabilities.

The 10-year Debt to Debt + Equity level shall be in the range of 35-55%.

## PHYSICAL ASSETS

In accordance with the initial Wide Bay Water establishment plan, the capital structure of Wide Bay Water will include all current and non-current assets and liabilities and equity shown in the financial statements.

## MONETARY ASSETS

All current monetary assets as recorded for Wide Bay Water activities shall be managed by Fraser Coast Regional Council's Financial Services section.

## WORKING CAPITAL FACILITY

Fraser Coast Regional Council maintains a working capital facility for Wide Bay Water. The interest rates to be applied to short term working capital balances held by Fraser Coast Regional Council on behalf of Wide Bay Water shall be as follows:

**Credit Balances** – Interest will be payable by Fraser Coast Regional Council monthly in arrears on the working capital balance held after adjusting for the monthly Wide Bay Water financial performance. The interest rates applied will be based on Council's average monthly return for term deposits as published in the Monthly Investment Report less a 0.1% management fee.

**Overdrawn Balances** – Interest will be payable by Wide Bay Water monthly in arrears on the working capital balance held after adjusting for the monthly Wide Bay Water financial performance. The interest rate applied will be based on the Queensland Treasury Corporation Working Capital rate plus a calculated debt guarantee margin using the margin as calculated quarterly by Queensland Treasury Corporation.

The working capital facility is not intended to be a substitute for long term fixed borrowing therefore an overdrawn balance exceeding \$5M in any one month or \$1M in any three consecutive months will be a trigger for raising a long term fixed interest rate loan.

## LOANS

Wide Bay Water will use debt to fund large infrastructure projects associated with the generation of revenue in line with corporate guidelines and Fraser Coast Regional

Council direction. Wide Bay Water has a loan balance of \$26,268,157 as at 31st March 2023. Projected borrowings for 2023/24 are \$20M. These borrowings are included in the Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

## GRANTS AND SUBSIDY

Wide Bay Water will optimise the use of available grants and subsidies by managing the forward planning of future works programs.

## RECOGNITION OF ASSETS

Assets will be recognised using industry standards and the methodologies developed through Council's asset valuation policy, the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and the Australian Accounting Standards.

## DEPRECIATION

Wide Bay Water will depreciate its assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards having regard for contemporary depreciation methods.

## PRICING POLICIES

Wide Bay Water will price its services in accordance with National Competition Policy methodologies and Fraser Coast Regional Council policies. This may include introducing additional user type fees and charges.

Water charges are set as a two-part tariff – an access charge and a consumption charge.

Sewerage charges are set as one tariff based on sewer units.

Commercial and industrial properties are charged on a per lot and/or per pedestal or equivalent pedestal (urinal) basis.

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Wide Bay Water will provide to Council a surplus made up of dividend, income tax, competitive neutrality adjustments and internal debt finance structuring.

Tax on operating capability is in accordance with the Local Government Tax Equivalents Regime guidelines.

Dividend: The annual dividend from Wide Bay Water to Council will be determined by Council each year as part of the budget process and generally be in line with its net profit after tax target percentage. WBW will endeavor to provide the maximum value of the dividend to Council each year.

In the draft budget WBW will propose a dividend amount having regard to its ability to fund its planned capital works for the year from operating cash flow and debt (internal or external),

provided it does not exceed a debt/equity ratio in the range of 35%–55% or as otherwise approved by council.

To achieve the surplus the following parameters will need to be considered:

- Revenue: Water and sewerage increased in line with long-term pricing and financial modelling of Maximum Allowable Revenue.
- Revenues should be modelled to meet the requirements and commercial rates of return required by National Competition Policy reforms.
- Expenses: Wages increases in line with Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and commercial activity needs.
- Goods and services increased by no greater than Consumer Price Index, growth and environmental or legislative influences.

## DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTED ASSETS

Donated assets will be recorded as revenue and the value recorded to the balance sheet as a non-current asset. Donated assets will be recorded in the electronic asset register and as constructed data recorded in the GIS system.



# Delegated Authority

An important aspect of Wide Bay Water's operating environment is the allocation of roles and responsibilities in Water and Sewerage service delivery between Wide Bay Water and Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Council is ultimately accountable for water and sewerage service delivery to the Fraser Coast. Wide Bay Water is responsible for operational performance against established service standards and targets.

The governance model between Fraser Coast Regional Council and Wide Bay Water determines the appropriate delegation of accountabilities and responsibilities that maximise the opportunity of achieving the business objective and performance targets in this plan.

Accordingly, the governance model between Fraser Coast Regional Council and Wide Bay Water for core business activities is consistent with the following separation:

- **Environmental, Technical and Service Standards** – Fraser Coast Regional Council are accountable to the community for water and sewerage service outcomes against these requirements. Wide Bay Water are responsible for implementing and reporting corporate, business and operating plans to achieve these service standards.
- **Economic and Technical Regulation** – Fraser Coast Regional Council are accountable to the community for the economic

and financial performance and outcomes, and health of the infrastructure, providing water and sewerage services to the Fraser Coast community.

Fraser Coast Regional Council provides Wide Bay Water with clear responsibilities and performance standards for its operations through the setting of Wide Bay Water's economic regulatory regime including,

- the allowed price, increases or decreases,
- required rate of return on capital,
- expected dividends, and
- performance of Community Service Obligations.

## WIDE BAY WATER ADVISORY ROLE TO FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

It is important that Wide Bay Water does not determine its own environmental, technical and customer service standards while also being responsible for determining the least cost options to achieve these standards.

Despite this, there are several areas where Wide Bay Water would advise Council on the appropriateness of standards or targets:

- Risk to the community – health and service levels.
- Ultimate costs to the community – impact on Wide Bay Water’s costs to provide different levels of water and sewerage standards and/or services as measured by differing revenue requirements and average prices to be levied on customers.
- Sustainability impacts – examine the likely impact of standards on environmental and asset performance over the longer term.

- It is the responsibility of Wide Bay Water to achieve the targets in the delivery of water and sewerage services through actively choosing the least cost of supply to deliver these services.

Fraser Coast Regional Council sets Quality and Reliability Standards for Wide Bay Water. Accordingly, Council resolve the non-financial performance indicators for water and sewerage services as detailed in this performance plan.

As a business unit of Council, Wide Bay Water’s delegated authorities are established in accordance with Chapter 7 Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

To permit Wide Bay Water to operate autonomously and in accordance with its legislative framework, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated powers to Officers in accordance with s259 of the Act.

Delegated powers are recorded in Council’s delegation register and include powers under:

- » ***Local Government Act 2009***
- » ***Environmental Protection Act 1994***
- » ***Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008***
- » ***Water Act 2000***
- » ***Water Fluoridation Act 2008***
- » ***Planning Act 2016***.

The Wide Bay Water and Waste Advisory Committee has no delegated authority or power of the Fraser Coast Regional Council.





# Reporting Framework

Wide Bay Water's reporting framework can be divided into those corporate reporting functions required to meet the key principles of commercialisation as defined in the Local Government Regulation, along with the broad range of regulatory reports required of a water and sewerage service provider.

## Corporate reporting requirements include:

- Executive Management Team reports.
- Advisory Committee meeting reports including; Director Performance Report, Financial reports, Operational and Capital performance summaries, Safety and Environmental Performance, and Officer Reports.
- Wide Bay Water Annual Operations Report.
- Council Officer reports, and
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Operational Plan.

## OUR REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

### WATER SERVICES

1. Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Annual Report
2. Annual Performance Report – KPI reports
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics reports
4. Bureau of Meteorology water utility reports
5. National Performance Report
6. Petroleum and Gas Annual Report

### ENVIRONMENTAL

1. Annual Reports and licence returns
2. National Pollutant Inventory
3. Environmental Authority Pump Station Annual Report

### BULK WATER & DAMS

1. Resource Operations Licence Quarterly/Annual report

### DAM SAFETY

1. Emergency Action Plan Annual Review
2. Condition Schedule Annual Review (Data book, Operations Manual, Standard Operating Procedures)

**TABLE 3. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2023/24**

Operational Plan Action for 2023-2024	Directorate Measures of Success	Completion FY	Responsible Officer
<b>RESILIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE REGION</b>			
<b>To shaping a healthy future for the Fraser Coast region and creating a destination for generations to come.</b>			
Plan for and provide high quality public infrastructure to keep pace with growth.	Completion of the Preliminary Evaluation and Business Case development of a Fraser Coast Water Grid.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Engineering & Technical Services
Plan for and provide high quality public infrastructure to keep pace with growth.	Review and update Drought Management Framework as a pillar of Council's Water Supply Strategy.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Engineering & Technical Services
Plan for and provide high quality public infrastructure to keep pace with growth.	Completion of Granville Security of supply study.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Engineering & Technical Services
Plan for and provide high quality public infrastructure to keep pace with growth.	Completion of Trade Waste Planning Report.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Engineering & Technical Services
Manage our activities in a way that reduces our environmental footprint.	Expression of Interest process for recycled water on Vanderwolf Road alignment.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Process Operations
<b>FOCUSED SERVICE DELIVERY</b>			
<b>To provide positive customer experiences and deliver services and infrastructure to meet the unique needs of our growing community.</b>			
Effectively manage and maintain our assets to reduce asset failure.	Review and update of Council's Smart Water Meter Strategy as a pillar in Council's Water Supply Strategy.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Engineering & Technical Services
Effectively manage and maintain our assets to reduce asset failure.	Development of a Water Reservoir Asset Management Plan including an adopted investment strategy.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Network Operations and Maintenance
Effectively manage and maintain our assets to reduce asset failure.	Finalisation of the Water Network Asset Management Plan including an adopted investment strategy.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Network Operations and Maintenance
Effectively manage and maintain our assets to reduce asset failure.	Develop an Operational Technology Strategy.	2023-2024	Executive Manager Process Operations
<b>FOCUSED ORGANISATION AND LEADERSHIP</b>			
<b>To be a leader in local government, instilling confidence in the community we serve and the stakeholders we partner with.</b>			
Demonstrate good leadership, and effective and ethical decision making to foster confidence within our community.	New Business Plan for the WBWWS Business.	2023-2024	Director/Business Services Manager
<b>ENGAGED AND AGILE WORKFORCE</b>			
<b>To attract, engage and retain the best people, empowering our capable workforce to serve and support our community now and into the future.</b>			
Improve workplace health and safety, and employee wellbeing to better support the physical and mental health of our employees.	Completion of an Arc Flash Hazard Analysis	2023-2024	Executive Manager Network Operations and Maintenance



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