CAIRNS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING: CAIRNS WATER COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 22nd August 2001

PRESENT:
His Worship the Mayor Councillor K Byrne
Councillor T James (Chairperson)
Councillor M Cochrane
Councillor P Gregory
Councillor J Pezzutti
Councillor D Ford
Councillor P Freebody

OFFICERS:
D Farmer Chief Executive Officer
B Smyth General Manager Cairns Water
J Hawkes General Manager City Works & Services
P Tabulo General Manager City Development
J Howard General Manager Corporate Strategy
G Schofield Manager Media & Public Relations
B Mitchell Acting Manager Precincts & Facilities
R Jennings Manager Service Delivery
G Clement Acting Manager Technical Support Services
S Devlin Manager Business Development
G Pegoraro Acting Manager Projects
A Bird Business Support Co-ordinator
M Castle Capital Works Co-ordinator
D Ash Public Consultation & Communications Officer
C Cresswell Secretary

OBSERVERS:
Councillor M Gill
Councillor A Sheppard
Councillor J O’Brien
Councillor F Lindsay
1. CAIRNS WATER MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2001..................................................1
   Brian Smyth: 1/3/83-01: #331392

   RECOMMENDATION:

   FORD / COCHRANE

   That this report be noted.

   carried

2. CAIRNS WATER LEAKAGE POLICY FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.................................................................32
   Anthony Bird: 1/58/13-04: #332928

   RECOMMENDATION:

   GREGORY / COCHRANE

   That the Cairns Water Leakage Policy for Residential Consumers be amended to reflect:

   1. Leakage Over Two Billing Periods; and

   2. Owner Rectification of Faulty Plumbing.

   carried

INTRODUCTION:

Cairns Water offers residential customers who have experienced leaks on their property relief from the water charges incurred.

BACKGROUND:

On 21 February 2001, Cairns City Council (the Council) adopted the Cairns Water Leakage Policy for Residential Consumers.

Since the adoption of the policy Cairns Water has provided assistance to 61 properties to a total value of $7,121.
The intent of the policy was to provide all bona fide residential customers with assistance in paying large water bills due to unseen leaks on their properties, e.g., a broken main under the ground. While the policy is effective at providing assistance it does not apply to all residential customers.

Since the introduction of the policy it has become evident that there are two instances that are not being appropriately covered by the policy. These are:

1. Leakage over two billing periods; and
2. Owner rectification of faulty plumbing.

**Leakage Over Two Billing Periods**

In some instances, the identification of the water leak may actually occur over two billing periods. The time delay in identifying the leak may be due to the leak slipping through Cairns Water variance reporting or timing of invoices sent.

Cairns Water is seeking approval to provide assistance to residential customers where this is the case.

**Owner Rectification of Faulty Plumbing**

In some cases, the owner of the property undertakes repairs. This has the effect of voiding the policy as copies of tax invoices and receipts are not provided. It is proposed in the revised policy that when the owner rectifies the faulty plumbing that an appropriate Cairns Water representative inspect the site to validate that repairs have been made.

**COMMENT:**

The broader scope of the proposed policy allows Cairns Water to better target the residential customer segment which was the original intent of the policy.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Statutory:**

N/A

**Policy:**

The scope of the previous policy has changed at the margin to allow better targeting of relief funding.

**Financial:**

For the six month period to date approximately $7,000 has been provided to residential customers. From this it is envisaged that approximately $14,000 shall be expended in any twelve month period.
Social:

The broader scope of the policy provides for greater welfare in provision of relief funding, especially in cases where relief is required over two billing periods.

In cases of owners undertaking their own rectification work there is greater equity as this class of work can now be recognised.

CONSULTATION:

N/A

OPTIONS:

The Council can decline to broaden the scope the policy.

CONCLUSION:

The intent of the Cairns Water Leakage Policy for Residential Consumers was to provide all bona fide residential customers with assistance in paying large water bills due to unseen leaks upon their properties. The policy has been effective at providing assistance though there are two instances that are not being appropriately covered by the policy. These are, leakage over two billing periods and owner rectification of faulty plumbing. Acceptance of the revised policy by Council shall allow Cairns Water to provide relief to all classes of residential consumers.

3. BARRON RIVER WATER SUPPLY – UPDATE

Brian Smyth: 24/1/5-011: #331722

RECOMMENDATION:

FORD / FREEBODY

That this report be noted.

carried

INTRODUCTION:

As part of Cairns Water’s continued wish to see Council up-to-date with major strategic issues, this report provides work undertaken by Cairns Water on the Barron River Scheme in the last three (3) months – since Council last discussed the project. The next report will be received by Council in November 2001.
BACKGROUND:

Council at its April 2001 meeting received a report on the Barron River Water Supply Scheme and decided as follows with respect to the Scheme.

“It is recommended that endorsement be provided to Cairns Water to continue the following broad planning proposals in respect of the Barron River Water Supply, subject to existing budget allocations and allocations in the 2001/2002 budget:

- Assessment of demand variation during the year, for water from the Barron River, given access to different water sources and changing requirements by consumers.
- Investigate alternative supply options for Council if the Hydro Power Release Rule prevents any releases for certain periods.
- Investigation, co-ordination and development of proposals for Kuranda weir operation in conjunction with Stanwell, Sunwater and Rafters.
- Have input into the Barron River Water Allocation Management plan and its consequences for Cairns.
- Review overall storage capacity for Cairns City, including the southern parts of the City, where network changes may allow interconnectibility.
- Commence negotiations with SunWater on the pricing regime which will apply to the Barron River water for Council.
- Develop a performance based monitoring and impact mitigation management program.
- Continue to liaise and obtain all necessary planning approvals from the Department of Natural Resources.”

Funding for the further necessary works as set out above has been provided in the 2001/2002 Cairns Water budget.

It is now appropriate that further progress be reported to Council on the Scheme.

REPORT:

- Assessment of demand variation during the year, for water from the Barron River, given access to different water sources and changing requirements by consumers.
- Investigate alternative supply options for Council if the Hydro Power Release Rule prevents any releases for certain periods.
Investigation, co-ordination and development of proposals for Kuranda weir operation in conjunction with Stanwell, SunWater and Rafters.

Commence negotiations with SunWater on the pricing regime which will apply to the Barron River water for Council.

Cairns Water has prepared a Terms of Reference for a Demand Variation Study for the Barron River which are yet to be released.

Issue of the Terms of Reference is pending an examination of the utilisation of the currently redundant sedimentation tanks at the Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant to enhance capacity and delay the construction of the Kamerunga Water Treatment Plant.

The objectives of the current work are to:

- reconsider options that may be available for augmentation of the Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant;
- prepare a broad economic feasibility of identified options in the broader context of the Kamerunga Water Treatment Plant and the infrastructure necessary for the transfer of water from the Barron River to the Freshwater Plant.

Options previously examined have been:

**Option 1 Conversion of the sedimentation tanks to additional direct filtration units similar to the existing filters**

This only provides for small filters which would be subject to the same turbidity controls as are the current filters. Should the Freshwater Creek raw water quality exceed 30NTU, then the existing filters are shut down. This will be of concern in the future when populations dictate that the plant cannot be shut down when turbidity exceeds the set operational figure.

**Option 2 Conversion of the Sedimentation Tanks to Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) Units**

DAF units would provide pre-treatment upstream of the existing filters to accommodate highly turbid waters, with the conversion of the existing sedimentation tanks able to accommodate six (6) DAF units. As this potential capacity is only 44ML/day this option has not been examined further.

**Option 3 Conversion of the Sedimentation Tanks for a Micro-Filtration Installation**

An additional capacity of 50-60ML/day could be achieved using proprietary micro filtration blocks in lieu of the sedimentation tanks.
This offers the significant advantage that it would be capable of handling turbid raw water conditions. In this instance Barron River water would be directed through the new filters. Freshwater Creek water could also be treated, however, by providing an appropriate bypass. This would provide for filtration of turbid raw water from Freshwater Creek when Barron River water was not available – for example if it were not possible to pump from the Barron River.

The filtered water quality would most likely exceed that of the existing filters, with the added advantage of removal of micro-organisms such as Giardia.

The membranes would need to be replaced about every five years.

**Option 4 Conversion of the Sedimentation Tanks to Roughing Filters**

Provision of roughing filters in lieu of the sedimentation tanks would allow the combination of Barron River water and Freshwater Creek water with an increased capacity of 50ML/day.

**COMPARISON OF OPTIONS (PRELIMINARY)**

The features of the four (4) options are as set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Option 1 Direct Filtration</th>
<th>Option 2 DAF</th>
<th>Option 3 Micro-Filtration</th>
<th>Option 4 Roughing Filters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of new filters</td>
<td>65 ML/d</td>
<td>44 ML/d</td>
<td>50-60 ML/d</td>
<td>170 ML/d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional plant capacity provided</td>
<td>65 ML/d</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>50-60 ML/d</td>
<td>50 ML/d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can handle turbid water?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of complexity</td>
<td>Highly complex</td>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Option 1 is not considered viable because of the extensive modifications required to the existing sedimentation tanks.

Option 2 does not provide any additional treatment capacity.

Option 3 and Option 4 are considered worthy of further consideration.

**ECONOMIC COMPARISON**

The above options have been examined on a broad economic basis, based on the following cases:
Base Case

Construction of Kamerunga WTP with no augmentation of Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant.

Option 3

Augmentation of Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant to 170 ML/day by adding micro-filtration with a capacity of 50 ML/day for water from the Barron River pumped via the Kamerunga-Freshwater Southern Transfer Pipeline, construction of which is brought forward.

Option 4a

As per Option 3, but using adsorption clarifiers as a roughing filter.

Option 4b

As per Option 4a but with a new dedicated 50 ML/day raw water main from Kamerunga WTP to Freshwater WTP instead of bringing forward the Kamerunga-Freshwater Southern Transfer Pipeline.

There are costs common to all options as follows:

- construction of the intake tower, pumps and pipeline from the Barron River to the Kamerunga WTP;
- costs of water treatment, assuming that the cost of treatment at Kamerunga WTP are similar to those at Freshwater Creek WTP;
- cost of high-lift pumping, which will be required for treated water in the case of Kamerunga WTP and for raw water in the case of Freshwater Creek WTP (the slightly different quantities pumped after allowance for backwash losses are insignificant).

The net present cost calculation on broad assessment shows the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discount rate</th>
<th>Base Case ($M)</th>
<th>Option 3 ($M)</th>
<th>Option 4a ($M)</th>
<th>Option 4b ($M)</th>
<th>Option 4c ($M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>22.04</td>
<td>29.08</td>
<td>25.20</td>
<td>20.59</td>
<td>23.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21.24</td>
<td>28.11</td>
<td>24.30</td>
<td>19.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>20.49</td>
<td>27.19</td>
<td>23.45</td>
<td>19/03</td>
<td>21.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19.79</td>
<td>26.32</td>
<td>22.65</td>
<td>18.32</td>
<td>20.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These costs are for comparison purposes only and do not represent total expenditure on the adopted scheme.
Should, upon detailed analysis, the above be proved to be operationally acceptable, the potential attractions are:

- it reduces the capital outlay
- it retains treatment at a single plant for a further 6 years with potential benefits in terms of staffing
- it would enable additional water to be taken from Freshwater Creek when excess water is available, thereby reducing pumping costs;
- it delays the decision on construction of the new plant, thereby postponing the need to commit to particular technologies and delivery systems for a number of years.

Given the above, work is continuing on assessing the suitability of micro-filtration/ultra-filtration and roughing filters for conversion within the existing sedimentation tanks. This is the critical issue as the whole exercise is geared at utilising the existing un-used tankage.

Significant further work needs to occur in respect of utilising the tankage and therefore the operability within that framework of the roughing filters and filtration units.

Vivendi Water Systems has recently assumed control of the US filter business incorporating the absorption clarifier process. Limiting operational conditions of turbidity and colour are now in place to allow comparisons to be made with the Freshwater Creek and Barron River raw water quality. A similar size plant (40 ML/day) has been constructed at Nepean, however raw water quality does not have the variability that Cairns Water is faced with from the sources – Freshwater Creek and Barron River. Operationally, Vivendi has roughing filters in place on the west coast of the U.S. and information on their performance against raw water quality is now being obtained.

Standalone micro-filtration plants of similar sizes have also been recently completed and operational in New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand. Details of these are being obtained.

This work will then culminate in the Demand Variation Study being completed which will take into account the various other demands on the Barron River.

- Review overall storage capacity for Cairns City, including the southern parts of the City, where network changes may allow interconnectibility.

A storage strategy is presently under preparation which has the following aims:

- a review of the age profile of existing water storages
- a review of current water storage for the City
- a strategy for development of further storages over the period 2002 to 2025 and the size of each proposed storage
- identification of land required for the provision of water storage.
This work also includes a review of the storages required in the rural schemes of:

- Fishery Falls - Goldborough
- Bellenden Kerr - Orchid Valley
- Frenchmans Creek (Babinda) - Bessie Point
- Pugh Creek (Miriwinni) - Mountain View
- Bartle Frere - Bramston Beach.

The draft strategy will be available for review in early October with a report to be presented to Council in November 2001.

♦ Develop a performance based monitoring and impact mitigation management program.

This program is required by the Wet Tropics Management Authority as part of the permit issued to Council.

A three-pronged monitoring protocol is being prepared which includes:

- monitoring of base flow of the Barron River above and below the abstraction point
- monitoring of riparian vegetation
- monitoring of near-shore benthic macro invertebrate communities.

Timing for the completion of the program is that it must be received accepted by the WTMA by 31 December 2001. Under the current project schedule, this will be met.

♦ Have input into the Barron River Water Allocation Management plan and its consequences for Cairns.

The Barron River WAMP was scheduled for release by the State Government in the second half of 2001. While the contents of the Plan have yet to be fully provided to Cairns Water, Council can be assured that the future requirements for Cairns was included in the detailed discussions held with the Department of Natural Resources in late 2000, early 2001. It is understood these requirements will be carried forward into the Plan.

♦ Continue to liaise and obtain all necessary planning approvals from the Department of Natural Resources.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines have been included on a progressive basis on the continued planning for the Barron River scheme. At the moment, pending resolution of the strategy to be adopted with respect to any treatment plant works, no further approvals are necessary.
4. CAIRNS WATER INCIDENT PLANNING 2001

Brian Smyth: #328346

RECOMMENDATION:

COCHRANE / FREEBODY

That this report be noted.

carried

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Risk Management process used within Cairns Water, an Incident Planning scheme will be undertaken by Cairns Water staff over the next four (4) months. The scheme will culminate with an internal Cairns Water mock cyclone reaction on 28 November 2001.

The Incident Planning scheme will require Cairns Water operational staff to assess a number of different scenarios and comment on how reaction and rectification would occur within Cairns Water.

REPORT:

It is intended that each scenario will be assessed by employees advising what resources and communication techniques and timing would be used in rectifying the problems. This will be a staged process, working within their work teams, leading to a presentation workshop prior to the mock cyclone. This presentation workshop will be attended by the Disaster Co-Ordinator, EPA and an external reviewer.

The various scenarios are as follows:

Scenario 1. Two (2) rural intakes out of action due to storm damage and a fire at Babinda Hospital.

Scenario 2. Pump Station K rising main broken and two (2) pipe lengths lost.

Scenario 3. Loss of Behana Trunk Main during peak consumption period by a Mulgrave Mill loco coming off the Gordon Creek Bridge and breaking the Western Bypass Main.

Scenario 4. Partial collapse of the Oxidation Ditch wall at the Edmonton Wastewater Plant.

Scenario 5. Loss of No. 1 Crossing on Freshwater Creek of the Freshwater Gravitation Mains.
Scenario 6. Complete failure of pump station T1.

Scenario 7. Major slip under Robson Street reservoir.

Scenario 8. Full power loss to the Northern and Marlin Coast Plants with access partially blocked.

Scenario 9. Complete loss of Kamerunga main under Kamerunga Bridge and fire at Smithfield Shopping Centre and Novotel.

Scenario 10. Major fish kill Avondale Creek.

Scenario 11. Major power loss to high level reservoirs with access restricted.

Scenario 12. Large ships anchor pulls up the diffuser to the southern outfall.


A summary report on the results of the Incident Planning scheme will be provided to Council in December 2001.

5. CONSULTANCY NO. CW10/2001 – REVIEW OF WASTE WATER PLANT PLANNING
   - NORTHERN WASTEWATER PLANT
   - SOUTHERN WASTEWATER PLANT

Brian Smyth: 24/20/23-01: #332976

RECOMMENDATION:

COCHRANE / FREEBODY

That this report be noted.

carried

BACKGROUND:

Council will be aware of the continued need to maintain and update its wastewater treatment plants in accordance with its licence and community expectations.

While the treatment plants do achieve licence compliance, it is necessary for Cairns Water to have its future planning in place for the plants, taking into account growth requirements as well as anticipated pressures to be placed on effluent quality from the draft coastal management strategy of the State Government.
REPORT:

Cairns Water has recently commissioned, following the review of submissions from four (4) consultants, John Wilson and Partners to undertake the consultancy.

The consultants will review current planning to date for both the Northern and Southern Wastewater Plants, taking into account:

♦ Performance of both plants against the existing licence
♦ latest planning for both plants without BNR considerations
♦ planning to date on BNR upgrading
   ~ to be based on achieving: 5mg/l BOD/5mg/L SS/5mg/L TN and 1mg/L TP all on a 50th%ile basis.

Note:

BNR = Biological Nutrient Removal
BOD = Biochemical Oxygen Demand
SS = Suspend Solids
TN = Total Nitrogen
TP = Total Phosphorous

Recommendations will be made for each plant with respect to the need for additional Final Clarifier and return activated sludge capacity. The reports shall also provide an implementation strategy on a staged basis for each plant.

The consultancy will provide a report which:

♦ is able to support Cairns Water’s application for funding for any works
♦ has the support of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Environmental Protection Agency
♦ incorporates an Executive Summary produced in language which can be readily conveyed to Councillors and the interested public.

The process of the consultancy will require workshops with Council staff, with a major workshop with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Environmental Protection Agency on the draft report.

Timing of the consultant’s final report allows it to be presented to Council at the November meeting.

This is an important initiative of Cairns Water, maintains the focus on ensuring compliance with licence conditions and meshes with the bio-solids treatment/disposal strategy adopted by Council in July.
6. WHITE ROCK SEWERAGE........................................................................50
Brian Smyth: 24/20/11-01: #333624

RECOMMENDATION:

PEZZUTTI / BYRNE

That:

1. Approaches be made initially to the residents/property owners in Johnson Road/Mission Road/western end of Fretwell Road for the implementation of a Council provided street pressure main and individual private pump stations;

2. A report on the responses and funding be provided to October 2001 Ordinary Meeting.

carried

BACKGROUND:

Council last considered the issue of sewerage services for the larger allotment section of White Rock in late 2000. The consideration then was for a universal sewerage system to provide a gravity (traditional) system to the seventy allotments involved.

At the time it was estimated that the annual sewerage rates component for these properties would be approximately $1100 and was not accepted by the residents.

The problem, however, has not been solved and alternatives have been investigated to provide relief for the residents currently experiencing problems.

REPORT:

Many of the properties involved are still experiencing problems with the performance of their soakage trenches. Additionally several properties have recently submitted updated soil reports indicating an inability for correct soakage trench disposal.

In reviewing the current situation, Council has four (4) options:

1. Do nothing
   ~ while correct with respect to the land zoning, does not provide a solution and will continue to frustrate the residents;

2. Reconsider the 2000 proposal
   ~ not acceptable to the residents given the significant on-going sewerage rate burden;
3. Allow individual residents to pump into the existing gravity system
   ~ this would be feasible and remove the onus on Council with respect to infrastructure provision;
   ~ however, highly undesirable to have private pipelines on road reserve under the control of Council with consequent environmental concerns on spillage etc.

4. Council provide a street pressure main for residents to pump to
   ~ overcomes a myriad of private mains in the street;
   ~ provides an adequate maintenance regime in the case of spillage;
   ~ reduces significantly the capital cost to Council over that of the gravity system.

Option 4 above provides the certainty that the residents are seeking to overcome the current problems.

This will:
   ~ require Council to provide a pressure main in the respective streets at a likely cost of $100,000;
   ~ require the residents to convert their septic tanks to small pump stations and provide small pressure mains in their properties to connect with the Council street main;
   ~ require the residents to provide back-up power for their pump stations where applicable or continue to use existing soakage trenches in the case of power outage;
   ~ require Council to rate the properties concerned for annual sewerage rates of approximately $400.

The risk associated with this option is that Council could proceed in good faith, and on the apparent positive advice on connection of the residents, only to find at the end of Council’s project that some residents fail to connect. However, by proper communication and advice, based on discussions to date, this occurrence may be minimal.

Funding for the suggested work has not been specifically provided in the 2001/2002 Cairns Water budget, however funding is likely to be available due to savings on other capital projects. This will be reported separately when responses from the residents are available.

Option 4 has been discussed in a preliminary form with some of the residents of the affected area with at least six (6) of the properties expressing a willingness to connect as soon as availability occurs.
Should Council endorse the suggestion, a likely time frame would be (assuming resident acceptance):

- preliminary design 14 September 2001
- responses from residents 28 September 2001
- sign-off from Council 25 October 2001
- implementation November/December 2001

This would meet the timeframe for connection prior to the next wet season.

7. WATER CONNECTIONS

Ross Jennings: 1/58/13-04: #334134

RECOMMENDATION:

FORD / COCHRANE

That:

1. Council discontinue with the practice of separate metered domestic and unmetered fire services;

2. Council adopt the single domestic/fire service with fire check valve and metered by-pass;

3. All such new configurations be listed at $7000.00.

Carried

BACKGROUND:

Over previous months, during water service complaint investigations, it has been found that in many instances domestic supplies on developments have been connected to fire services systems. Historically fire services have been unmetered and separate to the domestic supply. In many instances it is known that the fire service and fire hose reels are being utilised for the purpose of wash down water and also for landscaping purposes. A recent check has also revealed the use of such unmetered fire service for domestic purposes. A glaring example of this is part of the Navy complex in Draper Street where a new building extension has its domestic supply from an unmetered fire service. This is being rectified with the Navy.
REPORT:

To ensure appropriate usage patterns for all users of the potable water that is supplied by Cairns Water, it is considered necessary that where developments require separate domestic and fire services to meet hydraulic requirements, that the current standard of metered domestic and unmetered fire services be replaced with the configuration of a fire check valve and metered by-pass. Such arrangement maintains the metered potable water connection for domestic purposes and ensures an adequate fire service for legitimate fire usage. It also prevents back flow into Cairns Water distribution system should an illegal connection occur.

The suggested arrangement will:

- ensure all the legitimate usage of water is captured by the meter;
- in many instances provide a deterrent for water wastage;
- satisfy fire service requirements in respect of new developments.

Present fees and charges for larger water services are set at:

- domestic - 100mm water service - deposit of $7,000
- fire service - 100mm fire main - deposit of $1,000
- - 150mm fire main - deposit of $1,500

As the new configuration will be very similar to a domestic service installation, it is recommended that the $1,000 deposit be discontinued and all fire services be recognised at the same deposit fee as a water service. Developments which are retrospective to the suggestion will be investigated and discussions commenced with the property owners concerning necessary alterations to ensure the dot points above are achieved.

This could be by either discontinuation of the separate fire service and incorporating that into the new suggested configuration or by paying the necessary service size deposit and the service be reconfigured to cater for both functions.
8. POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB

Anthony Bird: 1/58/13-04: #333935

RECOMMENDATION:

FREEBODY / FORD

That the Police Citizens Youth Club receive assistance to the value of fifty percent on their water usage notice subject to the Police Citizens Youth Club supplying Cairns Water with documentation demonstrating that a leak had been repaired on their property.

*carried*

INTRODUCTION:

On 13 June 2001 the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) was issued a water usage notice for $6,836.72.

On 18 June 2001 (see attached SKIDS 313404) the PCYC wrote to Cairns City Council (the Council) requesting an investigation into:

- The ability of Cairns Water to levy (and stop levying) the PCYC water charges; and
- The meters recording the consumption of the PCYC

BACKGROUND:

The Ability to Charge the PCYC Water Charges

The PCYC on 13 June 2001 was issued with its first water usage notice. It is not known why the PCYC was not charged water usage charges previously, nor are there any Council minutes to support the non-charging of the PCYC.

The notice of 13 June 2001 was issued due to Cairns Water personnel investigating arrangements surrounding the PCYC and discovering that a lease agreement existed between the PCYC and Cairns City Council that required the PCYC to pay:

- All local authority rates and charges levied in respect of the demised land; and
- All excess water rates attributable to the demised land.

The issue of payment has been compounded by the fact that the PCYC allege a leak occurred through a crack in its internal water main. Cairns Water has not received information to support this, though consumption figures indicate usage that may normally be associated with an underground leak.
Table 1.1 shows previous readings and the corresponding Average Daily Consumption for the meter attached to the PCYC:

Table 1.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meter Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Daily Average</th>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>03/09/1997</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

Meters Recording the Consumption of the PCYC

The PCYC indicated in its documentation that it was believed one of the meters on its property should in fact be invoiced to the Edge Hill Soccer Grounds. Investigations by Cairns Water reveal this to be the case and the meter has subsequently been removed from the PCYC account and a new invoice issued. The value of the revised invoice issued was $6,754.44.

**COMMENT:**

Cairns Water believes that it has a valid claim in charging the PCYC for water consumed.

The issue has been compounded due to the fact that the PCYC state water was leaking through a cracked main.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Statutory:**

N/A
Policy:

Due to the commercial nature of the operation, Cairns Water is unable to offer assistance. The 50/50 policy of Cairns Water only applies currently to residential properties.

Financial:

There are financial considerations for Cairns Water and the Council. The value of the total invoice is $6,754.44, which represents water consumed.

Assistance to the value of $3,377.22 (50%) could be provided should Council wish to extend the 50/50 policy in this instance.

Cairns Water considers that subject to satisfactory documentation being furnished by the PCYC this 50/50 outcome would be reasonable.

Social:

The PCYC provides a service to the youth of Cairns. Full payment of the water usage notice may impact on programs being run by the PCYC.

CONSULTATION:

N/A

OPTIONS:

Council can waive the water usage notice
Council can provide assistance to the value of 50% of the water usage notice

CONCLUSION:

The issue of payment of the water usage notice issued by Cairns Water has been complicated by the PCYC not receiving notices in the past and also an alleged large leak occurring on its property that has meant an invoice of over $6,500.

On information gathered, the charges are valid, however, these charges would provide a significant impost on the PCYC. In similar circumstances, residential customers would have the opportunity to access relief to the value of 50%.
9. **KENNING INVESTMENTS PTY LTD – OUTSTANDING WATER ACCOUNT**  
**ASSESSMENT No. 250829……………………………………………60**  
Anthony Bird: 1/58/13-04: #333850

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**COCHRANE / GREGORY**

**That**

1. The Council resolution of 26 July 2001 be amended to reflect:

2. Kenning Investments Pty Ltd be offered a reduction for their account issued on 22 November 1999 for 50% to a total value of $791.85.

*carried*

**INTRODUCTION:**

On 18 July 2001, the Cairns Water Committee received a report recommending that Kenning Investments Pty Ltd be offered a reduction of their account for an invoice issued on 22 November 2000. The actual date of issue of the invoice in question was 22 November 1999.

The purpose of this report is to amend the Council resolution passed on 26 July 2001.

**BACKGROUND:**

See Minutes Cairns Water Committee 18 July 2001.
10. PYRAMID POLOCROSSE CLUB LTD.................................................................61
Anthony Bird: 24/1/1-18: #333369

RECOMMENDATION:

GREGORY / PEZZUTTI

That the Council resolution of 28 June 2001 be amended to reflect:-

That Council cover the cost of water supply to the public toilets alongside the Pyramid Polocrosse Club on Redbank Road under water meter M562283 and credit the Pyramid Polocrosse Club for the amount of $59.84, recently charged to the Club from this meter

carried

INTRODUCTION:

At its meeting of 28 June 2001 Council resolved that it would cover the cost of water supply to the public toilets alongside the Pyramid Polocrosse Club on Redbank Road. The resolution called for Council to cover the cost of water through meter ME2143. Meter ME2143 measures water for the Pyramid Polocrosse Club.

The meter that feeds the public toilet is M562283.

COMMENT:

Currently as the resolution stands, it appears that Council’s intent is to cover the cost of water supply to the public toilets. However, this is not reflected in the meter that is having the cost of water covered by Council.

The meeting closed at 1:15pm.