

Technical Presentations from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW)

Thursday, 05 September, 2024 - convene at 9.45am, presentations and Q&A from 10.00 - 11.30am

1 William Street, Brisbane (and online)

Topic 1:

How engagement shaped the Queensland Water Strategy (QWS) and action underway across four delivery focus areas (Healthy waterways, rivers, aquifers and sustainable water management; First Nations partnerships, access and ownership; Water for regional economic prosperity; Safe and secure water supply)

Presented by Stephenie Hogan, Executive Director, DRDMW

Summary

The Queensland Water Strategy is a sector-wide strategy for the future of water management that values our precious water resources through its entire life-cycle. Deliberative engagement was key to ensuring the Strategy represented the spectrum of water needs, views and interests of stakeholders and communities.

Hear how the Department charted a new course for this initiative with the water sector alongside the stakeholders through the development and launch of the new Strategy in October 2023. The end result is a long-term program of work with strong support from industry, government, and community interests for the vision, purpose and actions in the Strategy. It highlights the growing importance of partnerships to tackle strategic issues together and build trust and advocacy.

You will also get an early look at how the Strategy implementation is tracking ahead of its one-year anniversary.

For more information visit Queensland Water Strategy (rdmw.qld.gov.au).

Ms Stephenie (Steph) Hogan Bio:

As an experienced strategic leader, Steph has spent 25 years within the water industry building policy and planning initiatives, legislative reform, governance and infrastructure delivery, complex stakeholder engagement within the Queensland Government.

Steph is the Executive Director of Strategic Water Initiatives, which is a branch set up over the last two years to address key water challenges facing the Queensland in the future. The branch leads on policy development around national water reforms, First Nations water interest, climate change and urban water risks; as well as tackling complex stakeholder needs like advocating for investment and partnerships.

Topic 2:

The Rural Water Futures Program, including work for WaterIQ and under the Northern Murray-Darling Basin Hydrometric Networks and Remote Sensing Program

Presented by Ian Gordon, Executive Director, DRDMW

Summary

The Rural Water Futures program aims to revolutionise the management, measurement, and reporting of Queensland's water resources. Targeting the optimal usage of the State's 6.9 million megalitres of allocated water, the initiative aspires to establish Queensland as a digital frontrunner in water regulation. Through innovative technologies, policy enhancements, and robust regulation, it seeks to implement a comprehensive and cohesive strategy for the improved measurement and management of the state's water resources.

At the technological forefront, WaterIQ customer service channels, including a user app and customer portal, have been developed to enhance user experience. These digital tools make water usage data more accessible and facilitate the availability of online customer services for the department. Product development has been heavily informed by user trials and feedback, ensuring easy-to-understand interfaces. In the Queensland Murray Darling Basin (QMDB), trials have refined these tools, setting the stage for broader deployment.

There is also an expansion of telemetry devices on surface water meters, with data supporting near real-time water usage and management insights. These initiatives necessitated extensive research, trials, and collaborations, including securing the support of the Commonwealth Government and partnering with industry for technology rollouts in regional Queensland. Additional technological trials, like cost-effective measurement devices and the use of remote sensing data, have been employed to bolster water data, information and insights.

Building on its achievements to date, Rural Water Futures plans to expand the WaterIQ channels and enhance their features. It aims to deploy advanced water management tools across Queensland and strengthen telemetry capabilities in the QMDB. A cutting-edge data platform is also in the works to facilitate comprehensive data analysis, support informed decision-making, and reinforce the regulatory framework.

Ian Gordon Bio:

Ian's three-decade public service career has cemented him as a leading authority in water resource measurement and management, especially within rural sectors of Queensland administered under the Water Act 2000. As the Director of Water Operations and Systems from 2016 until 2023, he has driven significant tech enhancements and operational policies in water management systems.

His expertise has been recognised beyond the department, with Ian sitting on varied boards and steering committees within the water management community and contributes to advisory panels, such as the Queensland Water Modelling Network and Geosciences Australia's Digital Earth Australia Program Board.

Before returning to Brisbane, Ian effectively managed regional water services in Mackay, setting a strong regional and operational foundation for his current role. Today, he leads the Water Act Initiatives team in driving critical reforms and executing business transformation projects like policy improvements, systems enhancements, implementation of the National Water Markets roadmap, and the Rural Water Futures Program.

For those attending the presentations in person on 05 September, 2024, please convene in the foyer of 1 William Street at 9.45am.

We also aim to have people connect in online (as long as they provide their email address to receive an invitation to the session).

Please inform the WRRRA Secretary if you will be attending in person (for security access) or online (in which case you will need to provide an email address to receive a meeting invitation).