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Partnership



Kempsey Shire Council

Macleay Water Integrated Water Cycle
Management Strategy Summary Report

FINAL

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Scope of this Summary Report

The water supply and sewerage business unit of Kempsey Shire Council, Macleay Water, has prepared an Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy to ensure best-practice management of its water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems. This plan has been prepared with the assistance of the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS). This plan is consistent with the Department's *Integrated Water Cycle Management Guidelines for Local Water Utilities*, 2004.

This Summary Report outlines the project objectives, investigation processes, options investigated and the final IWCM strategy adopted by Kempsey Shire Council. Additional information is given in various background reports prepared for the project. These reports include:

-  DHI (2003), Kempsey Integrated Water Cycle Management Bulk Water Supply – WATHNET.
-  Ecoseal (2003), Kempsey Local Government Area - Groundwater Assessment Sherwood Borefield (Sherwood Borefield Model Development, Calibration and Scenarios).
-  Ecoseal (2003), Kempsey Local Government Area - Groundwater Assessment Coastal Borefields (Model Development, Calibration and Scenarios at Crescent Head, Hat Head and South West Rocks).
-  JWP (2005), Macleay Water Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Effluent Management Study.
-  JWP (2005), Macleay Water Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Financial Modelling.
-  JWP (2005), Macleay Water Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Scenario Building and Triple Bottom Line Assessment.
-  JWP (2005), Macleay Water Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Stakeholder Consultation.
-  MWH (2003), Kempsey Shire Council Integrated Water Cycle Plan Historical Demand Analysis and Water and Wastewater Forecasting Report.
-  NSW Department of Commerce (2004) Task 6 Bulk Distribution Analysis Kempsey Integrated Water Cycle Management Draft.
-  NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation (2002), Kempsey Integrated Water Cycle Management Concept Study.

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Integrated Water Cycle Management

As the Kempsey Shire Council local water utility, Macleay Water has been continually planning its water and sewerage business activities. In 2002, Macleay Water committed to developing an Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) strategy for the delivery of urban water services (including water supply, sewerage and stormwater) in the Kempsey Shire.

IWCM is an approach to the management of urban water services that aims to maximise the benefit derived from the available water resources. IWCM encourages the evaluation of opportunities across urban water services e.g. the potential of a rainwater tank to replace demands on a reticulated water supply and to assist in the management of stormwater. This approach allows potential savings in capital and on-going operating costs to be identified. IWCM also integrates the provision of urban water services with the management of the catchment and the available water resources.

An IWCM plan considers issues such as:

-  The future **urban** water service needs of towns and the expectations of customers;
-  The availability of **water resources** including alternative water sources such as rainwater, effluent and stormwater; and
-  The impact of town water use on other water users in the **catchment** including the environment and future generations.

The IWCM strategy sets out a list of actions to be put in place to manage the water cycle issues identified.

Water Cycle Issues Facing Macleay Water

In 2002 DEUS prepared an IWCM Concept Study. The purpose of the IWCM Concept Study was to scope the extent of investigation work to be undertaken in the development of the IWCM strategy. This was done in consultation with key stakeholders by examining and documenting the water cycle issues that require management (or improved management).

A brief summary of some of the identified issues, categorised as catchment, water resource and urban issues is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Concept Study Water Cycle Issues.

Category and Issue	
Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns on the Macleay River floodplain experience periodic flooding. Flood mitigation works exacerbate the impact of floodplain acid sulphate soils on water quality. Groundwater is an important water source however some sources have high iron, manganese and arsenic concentrations. Water stress is evident in the capping of bore water extractions. Hat Head, Crescent Head and South West Rocks town water bores are located within national park aquifers that support groundwater dependent ecosystems. Nutrients from land use, septics, stormwater and effluent discharge sources have resulted in the deterioration of some waterways.
Water Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbidity, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), faecal coliforms and water salinity significantly affect the water quality for some uses. Surface waters are generally not under stress. The Macleay River Alluvium has been identified as being at high risk of over-extraction and land use threats. Town water supply is the biggest extractive use. The extraction rate from the Macleay Coastal Sands is high. The aquifer is at high risk of over-extraction and contamination although relatively little is known about the water source.
Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellbrook, Willawarrin and Stuarts Point rely on septic tanks for sewage services with the potential to contaminate waterways and groundwater sources. PRP notices exist on Crescent Head and West Kempsey sewage treatment plants (STP). Water resources are becoming critical for some service areas. The level of residential water consumption for Kempsey Shire is high compared with the NSW state wide median consumption.

To manage the issues identified, suitable potential management options were investigated.

Scenario Building Approach and Data






Consistent with the methodology, in developing the IWCM strategy, options to manage the on-going provision of urban water services were assessed in a two part process:

- Step 1: Coarse screening: a preliminary assessment of feasible options to identify those options which were technically feasible for each locality within the Macleay Water service area given the prevailing characteristics. This assessment was initially undertaken by DEUS and completed at a

workshop held between Macleay Water, DEUS and the NSW Department of Commerce; and

- Step 2: Fine screening: a detailed assessment of those options which passed the coarse screen including consideration of economic, social and environmental factors. This process is documented in the Scenario Building and Triple Bottom Line Assessment report (JWP 2005). Complementary options that passed the fine screen were bundled together as scenarios.




To assist in the fine screening process, a series of investigation studies were undertaken. These studies were designed to further investigate the water cycle issues raised by stakeholders and to assess the viability of options to manage these issues. These studies included:

-  An historical demand analysis and water and wastewater forecast;
-  A surface water bulk supply assessment;
-  A bulk supply assessment of the two main groundwater sources within the service area;
-  A bulk distribution analysis; and
-  An effluent management study.

Copies of each of these studies, including a presentation of analysis methods and results, are presented in the final strategy documents.

Macleay Water IWCMS Scenarios

Drawing on the results of the investigation studies, five water cycle management scenarios were developed. These scenarios included:

-  A 'do nothing' solution; a baseline scenario;
-  A traditional solution: where all three urban water supply services are managed separately; and
-  Three integrated solutions: the integrated solutions involve an increasing movement towards the combined management of the urban water cycle (water supply, sewage treatment and stormwater) services.

To identify a preferred scenario for implementation, each scenario was assessed against a set of triple bottom line (TBL - economic, environmental and social) criteria developed in consultation with stakeholders. Based on their performance against these criteria, the scenarios were ranked in order of preference for implementation.

The process of developing and assessing a scenario is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Developing and Assessing a Scenario.



As part of the community consultation efforts that were undertaken to develop the strategy, the inputs of the project reference group (made up of representatives from local organisations), government agencies and Macleay Water staff were utilised to refine a set of assessment criteria originally developed by DEUS.

The criteria developed are set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Triple Bottom Line Assessment Criteria.

TBL	Assessment Criteria
Economic	Net present value (\$)
Environmental	Proportion of town water consumption saved (%)
	Proportion of effluent generated that is used (%)
	Energy consumed (\$ million)
Social	Change in typical residential bill (TRB) (\$)
	Improved level of service
	Relative expected social acceptability

Based on the criteria set out above, an assessment of each of the scenarios was undertaken. Data from the investigation studies was used to quantify the criteria for each scenario.

Based on the quantification of each of the measurable criteria for each of the scenarios developed, a score from 0 to 5 was assigned. For each criterion, the maximum score was assigned to the best performing scenario. Each subsequent scenario received a proportionately lower score.

However, the relative expected social acceptability and improved level of service criteria were difficult to measure directly. As part of the community consultation program that supported the development of the strategy (see *Macleay Water IWCM Stakeholder Consultation, JWP 2005*), participants at the community meetings were presented with the draft scenarios and asked to comment on the relative acceptability of the scenarios.

The resulting social and environmental scores for each criterion are set out in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Scenario Social and Environmental Scores.

Scenario	Environmental Criteria			Social Criteria		
	Water	Effluent	Energy	TRB	Service	Accept
Do Nothing	0.0	1.1	5.0	5.0	0.0	1.0
Traditional	0.5	2.1	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.0
Integrated 1	2.1	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.0	4.0
Integrated 2	2.4	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.0
Integrated 3	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.5	2.0	1.0

In order to rank the scenarios, the weighted average of the social and environmental scores of each scenario was divided by the net present value of the costs of implementing the scenario. The results are set out in **Table 4**. As illustrated, Integrated Scenario 1 ranked most highly.

Table 4: Scenario Rankings.







Scenario	Ranking
Do Nothing	5
Traditional	3
Integrated 1	1
Integrated 2	2
Integrated 3	3

Preferred Scenario




Based on the results of the scenario ranking, Integrated Scenario 1 was identified as the preferred scenario for implementation. However, there were some aspects of Integrated Scenario 2 (the sewerage component only) that were considered valuable, including the potential to consider dual reticulation options in South Kempsey and the potential addition of microfiltration to West Kempsey sewage treatment plant. The combination of the Integrated 1 Water and Sewer Scenarios with these additional options formed the final preferred scenario.

Key features of the preferred scenario (which may be implemented over the next 30 years) include:





A Demand Management Program

-  Pricing Adjustment
-  Community Education (external use target)
-  Residential Showerhead Retrofit
-  Active Leak Detection
-  Business Water Audits
-  Recycled Water to New Development




Upgrades to the Water Transfer System

-  A new reservoir replacing Hyplon Dam at Crescent Head
-  Crescent Head distribution system augmentation
-  South West Rock distribution system augmentation


Groundwater Source monitoring and augmentation

-  Maguires Crossing (1 production bore, 6 observation bores)
-  Hat Head borefield (1 production bore, 3 observation bores)
-  South West Rocks borefield (2 production bores, 5 observation bores)
-  Kinchela Emergency borefield (3 observation bores)


Water Treatment


-  Improved water treatment at Crescent Head
-  Improved water treatment at South West Rocks
-  Improved water treatment at Kempsey

Reticulated Sewerage

-  Potential reticulated sewerage schemes for Bellbrook, Willawarrin, and Stuarts Point


Sewage Treatment


-  Augmentation of South Kempsey STP

 Augmentation of South West Rocks STP

 New West Kempsey STP

Recycled Water

 Use of recycled effluent for agricultural irrigation at Bellbrook, Willawarrin, South Kempsey, West Kempsey, Crescent Head, Frederickton, and Stuarts Point

 Use of recycled effluent for municipal irrigation at Bellbrook, Willawarrin, South Kempsey, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point, West Kempsey, and Smithtown/Gladstone




 Potential dual reticulation at Bellbrook, Willawarrin, Stuarts Point, new development in South West Rocks, and new (opportunistic) development in South Kempsey

Implementing the Preferred Scenario

The capital works programs of the preferred scenario are presented in **Table 4** and **Table 5**.

Monitoring and Revising the IWCMS

The DEUS guidelines require that the IWCMS is reviewed once every five years. However, annual review, as part of the management planning processes of Council and the strategic business planning processes of Macleay water, is required for some key elements of the strategy in order to ensure the issues identified are actually being managed and that no new issues have arisen. In particular, annual review of the following will be required:

-  Growth in assessments;
-  Changes in water demand;
-  Changes in costs associated with infrastructure provision, operation and maintenance.

Where changes in those parameters are noted, the capital works programs and financial models of the water and sewer businesses should be appropriately revised.