

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES

14th December 2004

DSS7 STEUART MCINTYRE DAM
FILE: W1-25 EU

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the water quality in Steuart McIntyre Dam.



Currently algae and associated taste and odour compounds are virtually non-existent in the Steuart McIntyre Dam. These all time low results continue the improving water quality being obtained from the Dam, since mid-September, when it was put back into service.

The continued positive water quality results, despite the onset of warmer weather, indicates that Macleay Water's Dam Management Plan has been successful to date and that the Dam is settling down with age. Refer to [\(Appendix B\)](#) for details of current results.

Bill Ho, Manager Water Treatment and Dams, Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, congratulates Council on the good results and management procedures undertaken so far. He believes that the good news should be shared with the wider community. "If Council's current successful management of Steuart McIntyre Dam continues, it will save the ratepayers at least 20 million dollars." Refer to [\(Appendix C\)](#).

Although excited about the above results, Macleay Water is cautious in announcing that the Dam's problems are completely solved. Further monitoring under Water level variations and extended summer conditions needs to be carried out before such a stance can be made in full confidence.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

▪ *Environmental*

If current water quality is maintained then the dam will not draw from the river during periods of low flow thereby maintaining environmental flows during drought.

▪ *Social*

If current water quality is maintained in Dam, then high customer service levels regarding water quality can remain during drought times (i.e. better water quality with less restrictions) with no added expense to the community.

- **Economic (Financial)**

If current water quality is maintained in Dam, then 20 million dollars will be saved due to the fact that a 35 Ml/day water filtration plant would no longer be required in the short term.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Continue with water quality monitoring and management procedures as directed by The Steuart McIntyre Dam Algae Management Plan. Also continue to seek advice from The Algal Steering Committee as required.

- **Director's Review**

Council should be pleased with progress to date and the quality of water being provided to customers.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

K J Finnie
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING