

CAIRNS WATER SECURITY STAGE 1

JOHN
HOLLAND



PROJECT NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2024

Introduction

Welcome to our Cairns Water Security Stage 1 Project quarterly newsletter.

Through this, and future newsletters, we will keep you informed of current and upcoming works and explain how we are delivering a new drinking water supply for the Cairns community.

About the project

Construction at the water treatment plant site at Jones Road, Gordonvale, commenced in July. Bulk earthworks to shape the site and create a building platform for the water treatment plant and supporting infrastructure are progressing well. By the time we complete bulk earthworks in November, our excavators, graders, dump trucks and scrapers will have excavated and moved approximately 120,000m³ of existing material. That's equivalent to the amount of material it would take to fill 48 Olympic size swimming pools! Cultural Heritage Monitors are on site to check the excavated material for any cultural heritage finds.

The construction of the access road up the hillside to where the water reservoir will be constructed is also

progressing well, with steel mesh and concrete being used to stabilise the slope.

To support the facility's construction, the project team has recently relocated to a temporary compound on the site, which includes offices, amenities and parking.

Outside the Jones Road site, geotechnical investigations continue for the network of pipelines needed to take raw water from the Mulgrave River to the treatment plant and treated water from the plant to residents.

Works will also soon commence on an additional site compound on Maher Road, Gordonvale, where the pipes and supporting material will be stored.



This National Water Grid project is funded by the Australian and Queensland governments and delivered in partnership with Cairns Regional Council.

The project has officially launched



Mayor Amy Eden and John Holland's Executive General Manager Infrastructure Rob Evans were joined by State and Federal Government representatives for a 'pipe signing' to mark the start of the project.

The Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) Project was officially launched in late August at the construction site at Jones Road, Gordonvale.

This \$472 million project, the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by Cairns Regional Council, is jointly funded by Council and the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Cairns Mayor Amy Eden was joined at the launch ceremony by Queensland Premier Steven Miles; the Federal Minister for Emergency Management and Minister for Cities, Sen. Jenny McAllister; the Queensland Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, Hon. Glenn Butcher; and Rob Evans, John Holland's Executive General Manager, Infrastructure in signing a large pipe which will be displayed outside the new water treatment plant as a symbol of collective commitment towards the project success.

Three months works lookahead

OCTOBER 2024

- Continue excavation works at the Jones Road site for the water treatment plant, reservoir and access road
- Continue installing steel mesh and concrete to stabilise the hill for the access road to the water reservoir site
- Commence foundation works for the water treatment plant
- Ongoing design investigations
- Continue upgrades to Jones Road
- Establish the Maher Road compound

NOVEMBER 2024

- Continue excavation works at the Jones Road site for the water treatment plant, reservoir and access road
- Continue foundation works for the water treatment plant
- Commencement of water treatment plant concrete works
- Continue upgrades to Jones Road
- Continue installing steel mesh and concrete to stabilise the hill for the access road to the water reservoir site
- Commence installation of pipes at the water treatment plant
- Continue the establishment of the Maher Road compound
- Commence installation of testing wells as part of the Mulgrave River intake

DECEMBER 2024

- Continue construction of the reservoir access road
- Continue the water treatment plant concrete works
- Commence construction of the reservoir
- Continue installing pipes at the water treatment plant
- Continue upgrades to Jones Road
- Continue installation of the testing wells as part of the Mulgrave River intake
- Commence delivery of pipe to Maher Road compound
- Commence trenchless pipe installation on Maher Road

John Holland partners with CSQ to BUILDHER

The John Holland team recently joined forces with Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) to host the first BUILDHER event aimed at giving girls a chance to explore careers in construction.

More than 40 female students from local high schools joined in the fun, which included putting their engineering skills to the test and constructing working catapults from wooden ice cream sticks, straws and rubber bands. The winning catapult launched a marshmallow 7.2 metres!

The next one they make might be using real construction materials if one student's response to the day is any gauge... she told the team "I did want to study physiotherapy but now it might be engineering!"



John Holland working with local students in catapulting their construction career!

We're proud of our role in helping young women start on the path to becoming the engineers of tomorrow - one catapult at a time!

A network of new pipes

To deliver a reliable water supply, a new network of both raw water and treated water pipelines needs to be installed underground between Behana Gorge, Aloomba and the water treatment plant site at Jones Road, Gordonvale.

The work will take place, on routes outlined on the map. Work on the new pipeline along Maher Road, Gordonvale, is expected to start in December 2024 with the majority of other pipeline works taking place in 2025. Works include installing approximately 30 kilometres of pipe using standard trenching methods along with trenchless excavation technology.

The standard trenching method will be carried out by an excavator, backhoe or similar machinery, while the trenchless excavation will be undertaken using a horizontal drilling technique.

The community will be kept informed during the construction phase with the majority of the pipelines to be installed within road verges. Once the pipe work is completed, the verge, footpaths, roads and other surfaces will be restored to their previous condition in consultation with Cairns Regional Council and Transport and Main Roads.



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Connecting with the community



Over 50 local business representatives and locals interested in being involved in the project, attended the 'Meet the Contractor' session held at the Gordonvale Bowls Club in July.

The project director, engineers, members of our community team and representatives from Cairns Regional Council were on hand to explain the works and overall project.

John Holland is committed to keeping locals updated about construction progress. Information about work on site will be communicated via community works notifications either in your letterbox, via email or the project website www.cairns.qld.gov.au/CWSS1.

Christmas shutdown

The majority of activities at the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project construction sites will shut down from Saturday 21 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025 inclusive. Our project team will carry out some minor activities and regular environmental inspections during this time.

Over this time, you can still contact our team by phone on 1300 69 22 47 or email council@cairns.qld.gov.au if you have any questions.

Fauna spotting

An important part of constructing the Cairns Water Security Stage 1 project is minimising the impact on the animals and plants within the construction area.

The project team takes this aspect of the construction process seriously and follows strict protocols to ensure the project's footprint is minimised.

As required by Local, State and Federal Government environmental approvals, environment personnel, spotters and ecologists undertake a range of activities including pre-clearance surveys. They were also present during the removal of vegetation on the hillslope where the future water reservoir will be built. The majority of the cleared vegetation has been retained onsite to create new fauna habitats.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Cairns Water Security Stage 1 (CWSS1) project is being developed on Yidinji Country. Cairns Regional Council and John Holland acknowledge and pay their respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands covered by the project area, the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji, and Madjandji peoples. We extend this respect to all Elders past, present and future.

Want to find out more? Visit cairns.qld.gov.au/CWSS1 or scan the QR code.



CONTACT US 1300 69 22 47
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