

QUILPIE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Quilpie has been fully sewered since 1938, making it one of the first towns in the Commonwealth to receive this essential service. Significant improvements were made in 1966, including an augmentation of the pumping capacity and enhancements to the treatment plant at a cost of \$8778.

This 86 year old infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The 'for-construction' design for its replacement has been completed and the preferred supplier selected.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2019, an audit by the Department of Environment and Science highlighted concerns about the STP's capacity and compliance with water quality standards. MJM Environmental's subsequent investigation confirmed that the STP was nearing the end of its operational life and its effluent quality did not meet mandated standards. Additionally, the plant posed environmental and financial challenges, including high upkeep costs and the need for 7-day operator attendance, along with several Workplace Health and Safety improvements identified in the audit.

FUNDING AND DESIGN EFFORTS

To address these issues proactively, Council secured

\$299,965.13

through Building our Regions Round 6, supplemented by an additional

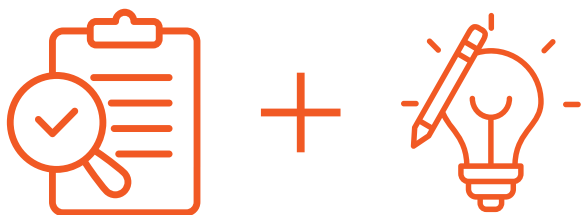
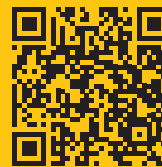
\$700,000.00

from Council, to design a replacement STP.

SCAN ME

To watch the **NEW DESIGN** Quilpie Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade flythrough.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=grSKCuJyPbg



Ganden Engineers were appointed in April 2023 to provide an analysis and preliminary design brief. The project advanced to the tender stage, with Pensar Pty Ltd selected for their value-for-money proposal based on Ganden's preliminary design. Pensar's proven track record includes successful STP projects in remote areas, such as Cunnamulla.

PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING NEEDS

The total project cost is estimated at \$10.9M, combining \$1M spent on design work to date and a forecasted construction cost of \$9.9M. An earlier grant application for State Government funding under the 2024-28 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program was unsuccessful. State Government funding is crucial to ensure the STP upgrade proceeds, enabling compliance with Environmental Authority requirements and expanding the plant's capacity to accommodate Quilpie's growing population.

Since 2021, 16 new dwellings have been constructed in town, with 10 more expected in 2024-2025, adding to the load on the aging infrastructure.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ahead of the October 2024 State Election, Council workshopped local issues and adopted an advocacy document outlining three key priorities, including securing funding for the STP upgrade. This advocacy aligns with Council's long-term strategic documents, such as the Asset Management Plans, Long Term Financial Forecast, and the 2022-2027 Quilpie Shire Council Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan, developed with significant community input, emphasises a strong and sustainable community with well-planned, livable communities, optimal asset management practices, and long-term financial sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The successful upgrade of this 86 year old STP is vital for maintaining effective asset management, meeting regulatory requirements, and fulfilling community expectations to provide essential infrastructure. State Government funding is crucial to ensure this critical infrastructure project proceeds, supporting Quilpie's growth and sustainability.