

WBBROC – 20 years: 1999-2019

This year marks a 20-year milestone for WBBROC. The initial meeting of 23 Wide Bay Burnett Councils was held on 5 February 1999, with Cr Bill Trevor (Isis Shire) acting as Chair.

Local government amalgamations in 2007 reduced the number of Wide Bay Burnett Councils to 6 and the collaboration between these Councils has gone from strength to strength.

Achievements over the years include the collaboration on telecommunications blackspots with all 6 Councils combining to engage an independent consultant to collect data and develop a detailed report. The Wide Bay Burnett region received 17% of federal black spot funding in Queensland – close to twice as much as it should have received, due to this collaboration.

There have been many other achievements, but below are listed just some of the achievements of the current 4-year term of Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

WBBROC achievements – 2016-2019

During the current 4-year term of WBB Mayors and Deputy Mayors, a great deal has been achieved at a regional level by WBBROC.

Below are some examples of achievements.

These were achieved by:



- A united approach by WBBROC members
- Collaboration on gathering data and background information to build a strong case
- A professional and constructive advocacy approach with Ministers
- The collaborative work of Councils officers involved in WBBROC advisory Committees.

Working together:

1. Waste to Energy Feasibility Study
2. Study investigating economic benefits of a regional landfill
3. Addressing communication gaps with the regulator (DES)
4. Regional Water Trails – interactive map on Perfect Place website (and printed booklet)
5. Sharing of recycling education templates and combined television adverts
6. Annual Economic Growth Forum
7. Development of a standard D&C Code across the region
8. Ministers listening
9. Regular meetings at Parliament.

Successful procurement:

1. Sewer relining tenders (\$6M and \$10M) – saving 50% of mobilization costs, prices similar to Local Buy, plus increase quality and service (4 x CCTV checks of pipes before, during and after project)
2. WBBROC receives IPWEA award for sewer relining
3. Water quality tender at landfill sites – 10-25% savings (varied between Councils) on previous contracts
4. Exploring regional procurement and funding for flood and rain gauges.



Successful collaboration with government:

1. Development of the Burnett Flood Resilience Strategy – with the QRA
2. WBBROC receives Resilience Award for Burnett Flood Resilience Strategy



3. Development of the Mary Regional Resilience Strategy – being finalized with the QRA



4. Port of Bundaberg SDA – DSDMIP and Coordinator General.

Successful funding:

1. Regional Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan – with 75% funding from Sport and Recreation Services
2. Better Partnership funding – Biosecurity Queensland. Engagement of a Regional Coordinator for 2 years, plus various initiatives
3. QDRF funding – Funding to engage a Regional Coordinator for 2 years
4. \$500M ARIP funding for 12 innovation projects across the region.

Development of regional strategies:

1. Regional Economic Development Strategy – with strong support from the Department and written support from the Minister
2. Regional Water Position Paper
3. Regional Biosecurity Strategy
4. Regional Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan
5. Regional RRTG Strategy
6. Regional Mosquito Strategy to eliminate Dengue Fever (for approval November 2019).

