

## WHITSUNDAY CONSERVATION COUNCIL – MEDIA RELEASE

4 March 2022

### Piping water from Urannah will be a burden on ratepayers



PETER FAUST DAM

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Whitsunday Conservation Council has called on Whitsunday Mayor, Andrew Wilcox, to come clean about the cost of drought-proofing the Whitsundays by piping water from the proposed Urannah Dam to Peter Faust Dam, Proserpine.

Water piped to the dam could cost more than nine times the price of treated drinking water that residents currently purchase from Whitsunday Regional Council according to a report submitted by the dam's proponents to the Federal Government.

On Monday (28 February 2022), Andrew Wilcox, Whitsunday Mayor and LNP candidate for Dawson, told Channel 7 News "[it will essentially drought-proof the Whitsundays ... there can be a pipeline from Urannah into Peter Faust Dam](#)".

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSMackay/videos/644929453277744/>

[The report by engineering consultants, SMEC, \(Appendix 7, Irrigation and Distribution\)](#) calculated that pumping raw water from Urannah to Peter Faust Dam will cost between \$9,000 and \$21,600 per megalitre. [Whitsunday Regional Council's website](#) shows that a resident using one megalitre of treated water currently pays \$2,300 to \$3,000 depending on their tariff.

Whitsunday Conservation Council spokesperson, Tony Fontes, said "We don't know what the final cost of water pumped from the proposed Urannah Dam to Peter Faust Dam will be for residents, but you can be sure that a big increase in water costs will be a burden that many Whitsunday residents can't afford."

Whitsunday Conservation Council has called on Mayor Wilcox to detail the cost of providing water from the proposed privately owned and operated Urannah Dam to Whitsunday farmers and residents. The Whitsunday Conservation Council also called on the Mayor to clarify whether there is any intention to build the pipeline at all.

"We understand that Bowen River Utilities, the company managing the Urannah project, is doubtful about the economic feasibility of building the pipeline," Mr Fontes said.

"That is probably why they have asked the Federal Government to hand over another \$480 million in taxpayers funds to subsidise their proposed dam.

"It is clear that the economics of this project are very doubtful."

**ENDS**

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**Table: Cost of pumping water from Urannah to Peter Faust Dam**

ANNUAL DEMAND (ML)	FLOW (ML/D)	LENGTH (KM)	PUMP BOOST (M)	DIA (MM)	INDICATIVE CAPEX (\$M)	CAPEX + 40% CONTINGENCY (\$M)	POWER COST ANNUAL (\$M)	POWER COST NPV (\$M)	O&M COST NPV (\$M)	TOTAL COST (\$M)	CAPEX + 40% / ANN. DEMAND (\$/ML)	TOTAL COST / ANN. DEMAND (\$/ML)
<b>Pipeline 10 - PFD Pipeline</b>												
5,000	13.70	66.5	227.0	450	67.4	94.3	\$0.89	\$11.0	\$2.8	\$108.1	\$18,900	\$21,600
7,500	20.55	66.5	360.0	450	69.1	96.7	\$2.12	\$26.3	\$3.0	\$126.0	\$12,900	\$16,800
10,000	27.40	66.5	212.0	600	90.9	127.3	\$1.66	\$20.6	\$3.8	\$151.7	\$12,700	\$15,200
15,000	41.09	66.5	183.0	750	112.8	157.9	\$2.15	\$26.7	\$4.6	\$189.2	\$10,500	\$12,600
20,000	54.81	66.5	232.0	750	114.3	160.1	\$3.64	\$45.1	\$4.9	\$210.1	\$8,000	\$10,500
25,000	68.50	66.5	187.0	900	125.0	175.0	\$3.66	\$45.5	\$5.3	\$225.7	\$7,000	\$9,000

Source: Urannah Dam preliminary business case - Appendix 7 Irrigation and Distribution, p.12  
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