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Milestone as Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council takes ownership of water assets

The transfer of ownership of water assets worth more than \$90 million from the Queensland Government to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council has been formally acknowledged.

Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said it was a milestone moment for the council, taking ownership of a system that serves the water needs of the five communities of Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico.

“With the treatment plant some 15 kilometres from the water source at the Jardine River, this is a major piece of infrastructure with a replacement value in excess of \$90 million,” Mr Hinchliffe said.



“The Government is supporting the transfer and the ongoing health of the system with \$7.7 million in funded capital projects and a Budget commitment of \$4 million covering rectification and repairs.”

Mr Hinchliffe was represented at the ceremony in Bamaga by Assistant Minister for Treasury Glenn Butcher, the Government’s Ministerial Champion for the Northern Peninsula Area.

Mr Butcher said while the legalities of the ownership change were settled in October 2019, it was considered important to formally recognise the milestone with a handover ceremony.

“I’m pleased to have been present to represent the Palaszczuk Government on this important occasion,” Mr Butcher said.

“I’m especially proud today because I believe this marks a coming of age for the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council as it takes ownership of such a major asset.”

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said the transfer of water assets was a significant event for the State’s far north.

“This gives council confidence in the integrity of the system going forward into this new era of council ownership,” she said.

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Mayor Eddie Newman acknowledged the significance of the occasion.

“I want to thank the Queensland Government for its support as we enter this new era of council owning its own water assets.

“It’s a huge step for council, and it’s good to know the Government is behind us.

“The people of the five communities of the Northern Peninsula Area can rest assured council will continue to strive to provide them with a first class water service.”

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