



CWMS reform at the LGA

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CWMS reform

- CWMS Program
- Mid-term review
- Sector reform
- Findings
- Next steps

LGA CWMS Program

- Operating since mid-1990s
- Funding Agreement between State Government and the LGA
 - Includes State Government policy for CWMS
- Funding aims to provide capital subsidies to Council CWMS infrastructure to close the gap
- Also includes sector support/reform

Mid-term review

- Halfway through current 10-year funding deed
 - Outcome: assess the ongoing reform of the community wastewater management sector
- State Government policy:
 - Ensure CWMS are managed in a financially and operationally sustainable manner
 - Support work to improve the management of CWMS including:
 - Improvement in managements of CWMS
 - Better application and adherence to regulatory standards
 - Support technical and management tools within the sector

Criteria for the review

- State Government policy outcomes used to develop the criteria
- Following criteria were assessed:
 - Compliance with public health standards
 - Compliance with environmental standards
 - Financial management of CWMS
 - Operational management of CWMS infrastructure

Regulatory feedback

Legislation	Government agency	Assessment criteria
Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013	SA Health	Public Health Operation
Local Government Act 1999	Minister for Local Government	Financial Asset Management
Water Industry Act 2012	ESCOSA	Financial
	Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR)	Asset management Operation
Environmental Protection (EPA) Act 1993	EPA	Environment

Sector feedback

Stakeholder feedback	Assessment criteria
CWMS Roadshow 2020 (all CWMS Councils)	Regulatory compliance Operational
Legatus CWMS Risk Assessment workshop	Regulatory compliance Financial Operational
CWMS conference 2021 workshop	Regulatory compliance Financial Operational
Legatus CWMS Discussion paper	Financial Operational


Other information

- History of STEDs/CWMS
- Previous reform undertaken by the LGA STEDs program
- South East joint services project
- Post millennium drought
- Current reform projects

Current reform projects

- CWMS Design Criteria
- CWMS Technical Specifications
- CWMS Accounting principles
- CWMS Property Units Code
- CWMS WOL cost calculator model
- HRAP design guideless
- CWMS Operational and Maintenance manual guidance document and model O&M manual for WWTPs
- Trade Waste Guidelines and model trade waste policy (yet to commence)

Compliance with public health standards

- Some room for improvement but doing ok 
 - 83% of Council submitted annual reports on time but no statistics on compliance rates
- On-going issues with:
 - Not enough samples collected
 - Recycled water being used incorrectly
 - Corrective actions not documented when it did not comply with standards
 - Approval conditions were not always met

Compliance with environmental standards

- Good news story
- Sector is considered to be low risk with good compliance (EPA) ✓✓✓
- Sites generally show good compliance with license conditions
- Only 2 Councils are ranked as “medium-to-moderate” risk category 🏆



Financial management

- 67% have approved IAMPs by EMs
 - What about plan efficacy?
- 59% are achieving full cost recovery
 - Various reasons that are legitimate
- Aging infrastructure is poorly understood
 - Sometimes don't even know where it is.

Operational management

- Varied reports.
 - This isn't well understood or measured
 - Councils agree that more attention is needed
- Better O&M and asset management is needed 
- Relationship between maintenance, performance, condition assessment and asset management is poorly understood
- Improving the above leads to improvements in improved regulatory compliance and financial management.

Some recommendations

- We need DATA and information!  not  !!!
 - Need consent from each individual Council CEO so that LGA can access data
 - Send me your case studies so we can learn from each other
- Joint regulatory reporting –leverage NPR
- More guidance about asset management is needed
- Can we benchmark? Needs to be meaningful

Some more recommendations

- Investigate current resourcing levels  
- Operator competency framework
 - In addition to training
 - Cert 3, Regulatory training project, Brown card
- Consider re-forming regional CWMS user groups (funded by CWMS Program)

- Good work being done but the program aim is to help make things even better
- Next steps?
 - Wait for outcome of mid-term review
 - Sector consultation
 - Reform plan