



### **Miriam Vale Shire Council**

36 Roe Street, Miriam Vale QLD 4677

Tel. (07) 4974 6222

Fax. (07) 4674 6299

Email. [info@miriamvale.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@miriamvale.qld.gov.au)

Web. [www.miriamvale.qld.gov.au](http://www.miriamvale.qld.gov.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

23 August 2007

### **COUNCIL COMMITTED TO PROVIDING WATER TO SEVENTEEN SEVENTY AND AGNES WATER**

Council confirmed its commitment to providing water to Seventeen Seventy and Agnes Water via a desalination plant after meeting with Department of Local Government Planning Sport and Recreation representatives to ensure the project was guaranteed progression to completion.

Mayor Tom Jeffery said Council was aware of some community concern about the proposed plan. However, Council's overarching commitment was to ensure that the community has enough water to meet its short to medium term needs.

"The current water supply in Agnes Water is failing (as evidenced by recently increased water restrictions) and an alternative source needs to be commissioned soon," Cr Jeffery said.

"Council undertook extensive research on water supply options before committing to the current integrated water strategy.

"We can assure all residents that funding is in place to undertake the entire project including a recycling plant and water and sewerage reticulation in Seventeen Seventy.

"Tenders have been called and will close in early October.

"Our concern is that should the project be delayed, interested tenderers will move on to other projects and the initiative will be lost. Delaying the project will also jeopardise funding."

Cr Jeffery said a petition currently circulating around the community unfortunately contained some misinformation. "For example, jurisdiction for supplying water under the new local government structure may not rest with the new Council but could be under the umbrella of an expanded Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB)," Cr Jeffery said.

"At this stage this is unknown and the status of GAWB was raised in the Local Government Reform Report as a matter to be addressed. It is unlikely that any new Council or other entity would be in a position to immediately consider the water supply needs of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy in March 2008 and some delays of up to two years could be expected, particularly if another option such as a pipeline were to be considered.

12

Cr Jeffery said environmental requirements have been addressed and approvals are now in place or substantially advanced with all Commonwealth and State Government regulatory bodies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

“All tenderers are aware of the environmental conditions and will be submitting a construction methodology and environment management plan before any work will commence.

“The local community will be kept fully informed of the construction plans and are certainly encouraged to have their say.

“Council has a number of fact sheets and other information available and will continue to develop these as more information comes to hand. In addition, following Council’s display at the Seventeen Seventy Festival earlier this year, it will be continuing community information sessions when a preferred tenderer is announced and when it is possible to provide more specific details about the construction plans.

Cr Jeffery said affordability issues had been considered over a ten year timeframe and could be accommodated.

“A far more expensive pipeline option cannot be considered because it could not be afforded even if it attracted higher subsidies.

“The full report underpinning Council’s decision to adopt the desalination option as the prime source of water is available on the front page of Council’s website. I encourage community members to read this report and Council will be happy to address any questions.”

Cr Jeffery said information on the integrated water strategy can be found on Council’s website, [www.miriamvale.qld.gov.au](http://www.miriamvale.qld.gov.au) or by telephoning Council on 4974 6222.

For further information Mayor Tom Jeffery – Telephone 0428 749 213