



chapter 6

hunter water australia

ABOUT US

Hunter Water Australia Pty Limited (HWA) is a subsidiary of Hunter Water Corporation and provides a range of specialist technical and operational services to water agencies, Councils and industry, mainly in Australia. The company commenced trading independently in March 1998, although many of HWA's trading activities had been marketed externally for a decade prior to this time via Hunter Water.

Mr Ron Robson, who is Chairman of Hunter Water Corporation, chairs HWA's Board. Other directors are Mr Alan Chappel, Director, Hunter Water Corporation; Mr Jeff Eather, Director, Hunter Water Corporation (appointed 9 June 2009) and Mr Kevin Young, Managing Director, Hunter Water Corporation. Mr Jim Keary is HWA's General Manager and Ms Andrea Swan is the Company Secretary.

WHAT WE DO

HWA operates in the fields of water, wastewater, stormwater, catchment and environmental issues, specialising in:

- operation of water and wastewater treatment plants,
- water and wastewater planning and investigations,
- process and structural design of water and wastewater treatment plants and other infrastructure,
- laboratory testing of water and wastewater,
- community education and environmental assessment,
- surveying and electronic mapping,
- materials and corrosion engineering,
- dams monitoring and assessment
- asset management,
- pricing and institutional studies,
- project management; and
- irrigation engineering.

The company continues to work closely with clients to develop specialist services and support their operational needs.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

The net profit after tax year for ended 30 June 2009 amounted to \$5,374,632 which was a very good result.

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HIGHLY SKILLED

HWA are directly involved in the operation of over 50 water and wastewater treatment plants, provide a full range of engineering and specialist consultancy services, and operate an advanced environmental laboratory. Their approach is to help their customers get the most out of existing infrastructure through better operations and practical improvements before undertaking large capital works, using skilled people including planning and design engineers, scientists, drafters, surveyors, management and economic experts and many skilled operations staff.

hwa projects & capabilities



Whilst many projects were undertaken in 2008/09, the following are examples of the wide range of projects that the company is involved in.

SUSTAINABILITY

During 2008/09 HWA continued its ongoing commitment to providing sustainable infrastructure and technology solutions for clients.

HWA's recognised experience and expertise in brownfield projects means that clients can get full service life out of expensive civil assets before embarking on a construction of a new facility. Coupled with our commitment to selecting and recommending problem solutions based on capital and operating costs, HWA's capabilities in regard to forecasting and minimising greenhouse gas emissions on new projects means that clients are able to select low emission solutions with low lifecycle costs to better serve their customers.

WATER PROCESS DESIGN

Hunter Water Australia has one of the largest water treatment process teams in Australasia. The team is currently working on a range of projects including:

- upgrade program at Townsville for the existing Douglas and new northern water treatment plants,
- master Planning for Auckland Watercare and the upgrade of their water treatment infrastructure,

- upgrade of Teddington Water treatment plant for Fraser Coast Water to address disinfection by-product issues,
- upgrade strategy for water treatment infrastructure in the Hunter at Grahamstown and Dungog,
- upgrade of Armidale water treatment plant to protect against algae and its associated organic contaminants,
- the process proving of Mildura West water treatment plant for Lower Murray Water; and
- upgrade of Red Cliffs and Robinvale water treatment plants for Lower Murray Water to provide reliable automatic operation.

WASTEWATER PROCESS DESIGN

HWA has one of the largest and best wastewater treatment process teams in Australia. The team is currently working on a range of projects including upgrades of:

- the Mareeba sewage treatment plant for the Tableland Regional Council in northern Queensland,
- Mt St John sewage treatment plant to provide capacity for ongoing growth in the Townsville region as well as enhanced nutrient removal for increased protection of the Great Barrier Reef,
- Morpeth, Farley, Paxton and Shortland wastewater treatment plants in the Hunter,
- Koorlong sewage treatment plant for Lower Murray Water; and

- South West Rocks sewage treatment plant for Macleay Water.

The team's operational background is highly valued by our clients since it delivers robust and workable designs that meet their ongoing needs.

OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS

HWA has been developing world class operational systems to assist in the day-to-day operation of water and wastewater treatment plants. The systems include web-based operating systems, advanced process optimisation tools and troubleshooting support systems. These systems have had a positive impact on the performance of treatment plants in the Hunter. The team at HWA have also been working with many regional clients in developing similar systems to assist in operation and optimisation of their treatment plants.

PARTNERSHIP AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT

During 2008/09, HWA developed strategic partnerships with many of our regional clients. We work with these clients to assist with solving their specific issues. Work ranged from capital works planning and procurements, plant optimisation, asset management, water pricing, plant audits, operator training and development of operational systems.

HWA's focus has been on working closely with regional Australian communities to assist them in dealing with the many issues they face. The team has also been working on providing support to a number of indigenous communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Over the years of operation, Hunter Water has established an international reputation for its asset management expertise. During 2008/09, HWA continued to service the needs of Canadian and North American water and wastewater entities.

the hwa year ahead

Hunter Water Australia will continue to focus on its core strengths in the year ahead i.e. running treatment plants really well, delivering high class laboratory services and being responsive and innovative about serving the specialist technical and project needs of its clients.

There will be continued recruitment and development amongst our professional staff and more joint activities with the staff of HWC and our regional clients meeting their priorities and business objectives.

Specialist engineers will be designing and involved with delivery of some of the largest and most advanced freshwater and wastewater treatment plants in Australia including commissioning the new membrane water treatment plant at Bray Park near Murwillimbah in northern NSW.

There will be increased output for the laboratory with the new organics capability being able to test to parts per billion and detect taste and odour compounds such as geosmin and MIB. The laboratory also has started to test for legionella and this is of significant benefit for clients on the Central Coast, Hunter region and northern NSW due to the quicker turn-around time.

Based on our highly efficient operations capabilities for treatment plants, more support will be given to helping municipalities and water agencies achieve gains through use of our advanced knowledge management system for treatment plants and pumping stations, and through providing relief operators.

The range of projects continues to increase and vary from planning

work in Auckland, specialist advisory work in northern Tasmania, water quality activities in Bussellton to work on water supplies for indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

The new premises at Steel River in the Hunter region now houses one of the best specialist water and wastewater engineering teams in Australia and they are connected through advanced information technology to clients throughout the world.

