


# Building our Regions

## New bore secures Charleville’s water supply

 <b>Funding*</b>	
<b>Total project cost</b>	<b>\$495,000</b>
BoR funding	\$485,000
Council funding	\$10,000

A new 600-metre-deep bore will prevent around 100 Charleville homes and businesses losing access to the town water supply during floods, and will provide capacity for up to 100 new developments on the western side of the Warrego River.

With a population of 3,500 Charleville is the region’s largest service town—with a hospital, doctor and dental services, schools, emergency services, Royal Flying Doctor Service base, government departments, Queensland Rail depot and airport with daily flights to Brisbane.

And like most other outback towns, Charleville is totally dependent on bores for its water supply.

Prior to the installation of the new western bore near the Diamantina Developmental Road, residential properties and businesses relied on water supplied by two mains under the Warrego River. At times of peak use, pressure and flow to these properties could drop to unusably low levels.

The new bore relieves Charleville's five other bores, three of which are more than 80 years old, including one which is almost 130 years old. With the operational lifespan of a bore estimated at around 80 years, Charleville’s water supply has been running on borrowed time.



*Murweh Shire Council engineer Paul O'Connor with Mayor Annie Liston. Photo credit: Rockhampton Morning Bulletin.*

Murweh Shire Council Mayor Annie Liston said the town's water supply would be under serious threat should one of the old bores fail.

Charleville has experienced four major floods in the past 25 years, adding a further challenge to water supply security. One of the two water mains connecting the old bores to the western bank was cut twice in 2016, leaving many properties without water.

The new bore has enabled council to also replace the water mains crossing the river at a depth that will not be affected by floods or debris.

"The total dependence on mains crossing the river has now been eliminated," Cr Liston said.

The augmentation provided by the new bore—while welcome now—could prove to be a lifesaver should floods or supply failure occur again.

"The community can now have confidence in the water supply," Cr Liston said. "And of course there are the intangible benefits that flow from a reliable water supply that lead to businesses starting and growing, and jobs for our people."

A secure water supply will encourage further residential and rural business development, and support the resource and cattle sectors, a new abattoir and a planned new industrial estate.

Many families with school-aged children (council estimates 35 primary and 15 secondary students), and businesses operating from home, live in the initial 100 residences to benefit from the new bore and better water pressure.

\* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.