

Building our Regions

Boulia Reservoir Upgrade



Funding*

Total project cost	\$479,680
BoR funding	\$479,680

More than a hundred million years ago, Boulia lay on the western edge of a vast inland sea, home to marine reptiles that now appear in world-class fossil collections.

Today, water is still the lifeblood for Boulia residents, along with the thousands of tourists each year who fill up here when journeying to and from the Great Sandy Desert.

Home of the iconic Camel Races and the mysterious Min Min lights, Boulia's water is supplied by five sub-artesian bores pumped into a 1,140kL ground level reservoir and a 26 metre-high 314kL elevated reservoir.

As with most bore water, Boulia's liquid gold has a distinctive colour and taste that's not to everyone's liking. And until recently, the risk of water-borne health issues was a real concern for residents and visitors.

Boulia Shire Council's water plan identified a need to replace the main reservoir roof to address corrosion and structural concerns and improve the reliability and quality of the town's drinking water.

Funding through the Queensland Government's Building our Regions program has seen a new reservoir roof designed and built, removing the danger of water contamination from birds and animals and improving the security of supply.



Above: the Boulia Reservoir with the roof removed, ahead of a new and secure covering.



The project included demolition of the corroded roof and installation of a new zincalume covering while the reservoir remained in operation. New valve inlets, walkways, sealed access and anchor points improved safety and reliability.

Council Chief Executive Officer Lynn Moore said that while Boulia’s water still may not suit all tastes, it has a safe and reliable supply.

And this could lead to future benefits for the town through additional water capacity able to supply future industrial expansion and residential subdivision.

The Building our Regions funding meant that council could deliver the project without placing a huge burden on the shire’s small population. The nine-month project—completed in May 2017—employed plumbers, concreters, metal fabricators, truck drivers and labourers during construction.



Above: the new roof in place on the Boulia Reservoir.

The reservoir upgrade has improved safety for operators accessing the facility for weekly water quality inspections, and improved compliance with safe drinking water requirements. Importantly, the facility meets building standards with safer access, hand rails and lockable hatches that protect the health and safety of staff and the public.

A reliable water supply also ensures the ongoing operations of local businesses and services. The new roof will protect the water supply from contamination by vermin, dust and sunlight, and reduce the risk of water-borne health issues.

Council’s drinking water management plan and continued work with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will ensure water standards are met for a safe and reliable water supply.

* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.