DON’T MENTION THE BORE! – A TRANSITION FROM TWO WATER RETICULATION SYSTEMS TO ONE RETICULATION SYSTEM

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Abstract
I will present a history of water supply for Longreach and track its journey from a bore water system to a bore water and river water supply to a blended system of the two. The transition has been a slow one due to many variables ranging from water quality & supply to political constraints and public outrage. The final solution was probably a good compromise which culminated in Longreach being able to satisfy its Fluoridation obligations, which prompted legislation to be amended to accommodate Longreach’s proposal of blending bore water with the potable river water system. The presentation will cover asset management and explain why Longreach ended up with two systems in a reasonably poor state. I will explain the decision making process and the interaction between council staff & councillors and provide details of the public consultation process. The main issue that influenced the decision was obviously finances (the communities ability and will to pay for the luxury of two services), but also included drought proofing, water supply augmentations, efficient use of resources and the affect on the sewer system. I will also comment on the affects of amalgamations on the whole issue, maybe some good did come of amalgamations. I will then provide a description of Longreach’s (as it would appear) unique fluoridation system and its effectiveness. The system is due to be commissioned by April 2013.

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