



Implementing Project Management and Reporting into a Project Alliance – A Case Study  
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# **Implementing Project Management and Reporting into a Project Alliance – A Case Study**

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## Abstract

The current drought (2001 – 2008) throughout Australia has highlighted the vulnerability of South Eastern Queensland’s water resources. The combined capacity of the Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams as at the beginning of May 2007 had fallen below 19.5% and is expected to fall even further during 2007/8.

To put further strain on water supplies, Southeastern Queensland is also Australia’s fastest growing metropolitan region and is predicted to continue to grow strongly from its 2006 population of 2.7 million to a 2026 population of 4.0 million and 5.1 million in 2051

The State Government has announced a range of initiatives to secure water supply in Southeastern Queensland in the long-term as it faces the worst drought in more than 100 years, the prospect of continuing irregular rainfall due to natural climate variability and long-term climate change and the rapid population growth,

These initiatives, include the Western Corridor Recycle Water Project, as well the construction of a water grid, including the Southern Regional Water Pipeline, the Northern Inter-connector, and the Eastern Inter- connector

This paper will describe how the project was established as a Project Alliance Agreement with multiple partners who included the client (the Queensland State Government) and how the initial project planning was developed and the use of multiple planning packages to deliver the required project reporting.

## Introduction

Drought has always had a major impact in Queensland as back as the early 1900’s Queensland suffered terrible droughts as evinced in the exhibit 1 below. As a result of the long drought, global warming and the



**Exhibit 1 Deadly drought in Queensland, early 1900s**

ever decreasing amount of water in storage caused the government of Premier Peter Beattie in February 2006 to propose a recycled pipeline to reduce the demand for drinking water by industry in the burgeoning western corridor of the State’s south-east to be fast-tracked to be up and running next year.

The project was named the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project for building a water supply network for Southeast Queensland; and would deliver world class technologies using sustainable principles.



The WCRW Project involves constructing a network of about 200km of underground pipelines to link six existing wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) to the three advanced water treatment plants. After further filtration, the purified recycled water will be piped to power stations, industry, and agriculture, and to the Wivenhoe Dam system to supplement water supplies.

At a total cost of \$AUD 2.39 billion, the WCRW Project is Australia's largest recycled water project and the third largest advanced water treatment project in the world. Upon completion in December 2008, the project will supply up to 232 megalitres per day of purified recycled water with the capacity to increase to 310 megalitres per day when more wastewaters become available

. One of the major drivers of the project was to reduce pressure on existing water supplies by piping purified recycled water to power stations and industry and using it to supplement water supplies in Wivenhoe Dam, the region's major water supply. The project was also to contribute substantially to sustainable water management in Southeast Queensland. The two major power stations in the region consumed as much as 120 Megalitres of drinking water each day, and as the drought deepened each day this use of water became unsustainable.

The size of the proposed project was such that it had to be broken into five major elements, and was to be constructed by five Alliances<sup>1</sup> and draw upon local and international engineering, water treatment and construction expertise. To allow progressive delivery of water, the project was to be built over the three stages outlined as shown below.

### **Stage 1A**

To be Completed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007

To supply up to 20 megalitres per day of purified recycled water to Swanbank power station

### **Stage 1B**

To be completed in 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

In combination with Stage 1A, Stage 1B is designed to supply up to 66 megalitres per day of purified recycled water to Swanbank and Tarong power stations

### **Stage 2**

To be completed 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

Is designed to supply up to 116 megalitres per day of purified recycled water to further supplement power station supplies, add drinking water supplies to Wivenhoe Dam and for possible agricultural use

### **Proposed Future upgrade**

To be completed December 2008

Is designed to supply an additional 50 megalitres per day of purified recycled water to supplement drinking water supplies to Wivenhoe Dam

To ensure that the project met its required construction dates, the Queensland Government passed emergency legislation which defined the completion dates as shown above for each of the three stages.



Thus, before a project plan was even put into place, the end date had been imposed. These date impositions were initially declared to be sacrosanct, and a great deal of effort was placed in maintaining them in all the iterations of the initial Project Programme

## **Project Scope & Objectives**

The WCRW project has been stated as an important part of the Queensland Government's \$9 billion Brisbane and Southeast Queensland Water Grid as the largest urban drought response in Australia.

Its prime objective is to ensure the security of the supply of water through: -

1. Adding to the available water supplies that are less dependent on climate trends
2. Providing a system to supply purified recycled water to power stations, industry and agriculture and to replenish drinking water reserves
3. Establishing a sustainable commercial basis for the ongoing operations of the infrastructure developed as part of the Project
4. Delivering in accordance with the community's expected best practice

The project scope of the construction involves laying more than 200km of pipeline by excavating trenches and tunneling; the construction of three advanced water treatment plants, six storage tanks and nine pumping stations.

Due to the scale of this construction work, it was established that an Alliance style of construction management should be the method chosen to control the total project. This resulted in the development of five Alliances to deliver the major project components, including:

1. The Luggage Point Advanced Water Treatment Plant
2. The Gibson Island Advanced Water Treatment Plant
3. The Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant
4. The Eastern Pipeline
5. The Western Pipeline

The five alliances were named as follows: -

- Bundamba Alliance
- Eastern Alliance (for whom I worked for)
- Gibson Island Alliance
- Luggage Point Alliance
- Western Alliance

## Project Overview

The Eastern Pipeline was to be built by the Eastern Pipeline Alliance and was 104 km in length and was to link existing wastewater treatment plants with the new advanced water treatment plants, and to transfer purified recycled water produced at the advanced water treatment plants to end users.

Due to the number of road / rail and river crossings involved in the construction of the pipeline it was constructed in two distinct sections, Oxley to Bundamba and Luggage Point to Bundamba.

The Oxley to Bundamba pipeline linked existing wastewater treatment plants at Oxley, Wacol and Goodna to the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant. Construction was planning to begin in March 2007 and was due for completion in June 2008. It is 46 km in length and up to 1.1m in diameter and involves 15 underground road and rail crossings. Includes three pumping stations at Goodna, Oxley and Wacol and three parallel pipes between Bundamba and Goodna to carry different types of treated water; Exhibit two shows part of the pipeline, which consists of:-

1. secondary treated wastewater for treatment at Bundamba
2. reverse osmosis discharge from Bundamba
3. purified recycled water to Swanbank and Tarong power stations and Wivenhoe Dam



**Exhibit 2: Section of the Oxley to Bundamba Pipeline**

The pipeline starts at the existing Oxley WWTP and extends west to the Bundamba AWTP via existing WWTPs at Wacol and Goodna. It will pipe treated wastewater from these WWTPs to the Bundamba AWTP, where it will be further treated using the Reverse Osmosis process to produce purified recycled water (refer to the water recycling fact sheet for more information).

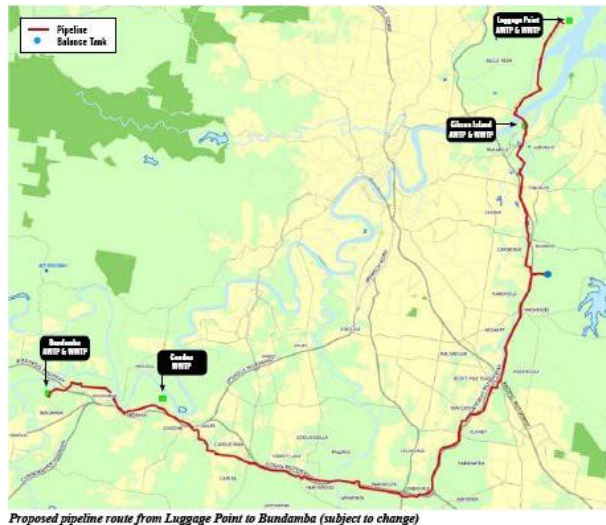
The pipeline consists of:

- 1086OD Mild Steel Epoxy Lined (MSEL) pipe between the Oxley WWTP and Wacol WWTP
- 1086OD MSEL pipe between the Wacol WWTP and Goodna WWTP
- 1086OD Mild Steel Cement Lined (MSCL) pipe between the Goodna WWTP and the Bundamba AWTP

An existing WWTP at Bundamba will also be linked to Bundamba's new AWTP. A pipeline connecting the two facilities will be laid during construction of the Bundamba AWTP.

The Luggage Point to Bundamba pipeline linked the Luggage Point and Gibson Island Advanced Water Treatment Plants to the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant. Construction was planned to begin in October 2007 and is due for completion in October 2008. It is 58km in length and 1.1m in diameter. Exhibit 3 shows the location of the Eastern Pipeline across the City of Brisbane.

It involves 35 underground road and rail crossings and two major crossings of the Brisbane River and Aquarium Passage within Bulimba Creek using horizontal directional drilling. It was originally intended to



**Exhibit 3 Location Plan of Eastern Pipeline**

use Micro Tunneling techniques to bore across the Brisbane River, however due to the size of the shafts and the depth necessary to comply with environmental requirements, horizontal directional drilling was deemed to be more appropriate. The pipeline also includes two pumping stations at Gibson Island and Luggage Point, and a balance tank at Mt Petrie.

### Initial Project Plan

The initial project plan was created in Micro Planner X-Pert for Windows and was later processed using Primavera 3.1. It was decomposed into the three stages, a) TCE1A - Early Works and Stage 1A, b) TCE1B - Stage 1B and c) TCE2 - Stage 2, each stage are represented as Micro Planner sub projects, these were :-

1. The Master ALT Overall Schedule showing ‘Progressed’ high level Hammocks and Milestones and certain tasks. This model has been limited to approximately 150 tasks as per the Programme Management Group Report Specification.
2. Engineering Sub Project for Stage 1A
3. Goodna – Bundamba Pipeline – Stage 1A
4. Early Works Stage 1A
5. Road Crossings Stage 1A
  - Railway 1 Crossing
  - Warrego Highway Crossing
  - Weedman / Railway Crossing
  - Railway 2 Crossing
  - River Road Crossing
  - Archer Street Crossing
  - Monash Road
6. Goodna Pump Station Stage 1A



7. Bundamba Pump Station Stage 1A
8. Dinmore Pump Station Stage 1A
9. Engineering Sub Project for Stage 1B
10. Wacol Pump Station Stage 1B
11. Oxley Pump Station Stage 1B
12. River Crossings Stage 1B and Stage 2
  - Priors Pocket – Wacol - River Crossing Stage 1B
  - Priors Pocket – Goodna - River Crossing Stage 1B
  - Gibson Island – River Crossing Stage 2
  - Aquarium Passage Crossing Stage 2
  - Bulimba Creek Crossing Stage 2

Reporting to Project Management in February 2007 there were still Stage 2 sub projects to be created, which were awaiting the design detail.

Sub Projects which were created are: -

13. Oxley – Goodna Pipeline Stage 1B network (currently awaiting design data)
14. GHD Engineering Sub Project for Stage 2
15. Luggage Point to Goodna Pipeline Stage 2
16. Pump Stations for Stage 2
  - Luggage Point
  - Mt Petrie (Tanks only)
  - Gibson Island)

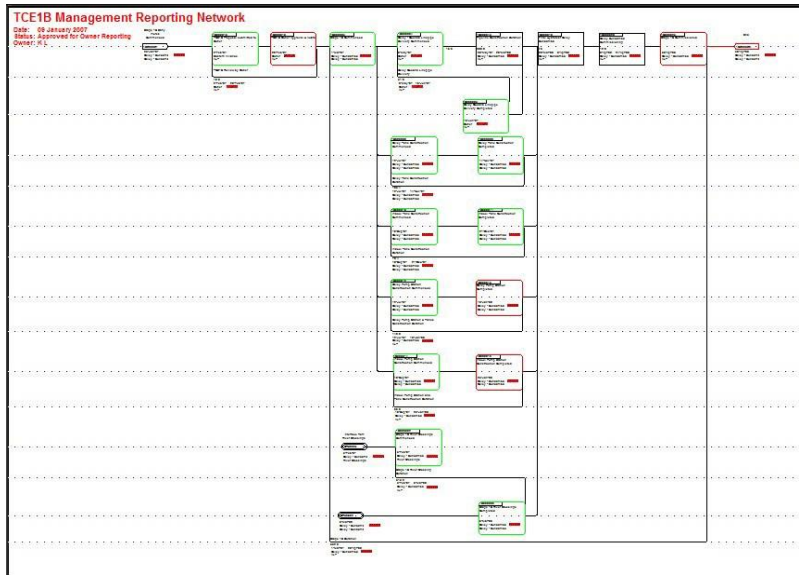
Each of the 28-sub project had its own Critical Path computed. When all the data for all stages has been entered the programme will be changed to use the total project critical path process.

Once all the task and milestones data had been entered into the project plan, it was ready to run resource scheduling. This meant identification of resource crews, sub-contractors and in house trades and the like. The workload was defined in the Senior Planner and Schedulers duties which are shown as Appendix 1.

Having performed resource scheduling on the project plan, the next stage was to enter the cost information required to produce the Earned Value curves.

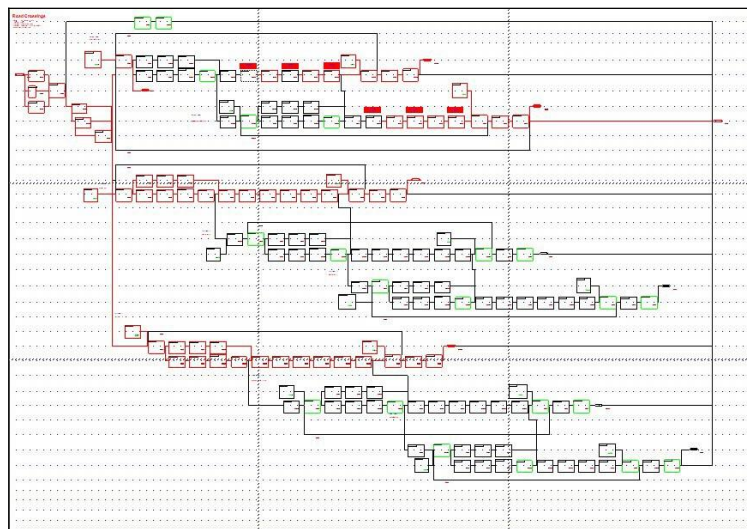
So as can be seen the number of critical path networks that was created was quite considerable.

These networks were then rolled up into the three major management Total Cost Estimates packages, for each stage. The three overview critical path networks were used to provide rapid response to project management queries regarding the delivery dates. Exhibit 4 illustrates one of TCE sub projects.



**Exhibit 4 Total Cost Estimate 1B sub project**

Each of the stages was examined to develop as many standard templates as possible for each of the major areas within the stage. For example, the Road Crossings were found to fall into two basic formats and thus two templates were produced. Exhibit 5 shows one of the Road Crossing sub projects using the template for each of the various crossings designed in Micro Planner X-Per for Windows



**Exhibit 5 Major Road Crossings showing use of template**

The road crossings were divided into packages depending on the type of boring machine used to drill under the road, as well as drilling machines some road crossings were trenched where this was possible, always bearing in mind the environmental impact that trenching can cause. Environmental studies and authorizations took place constantly and had to be considered carefully as the whole process of approvals could take up to seventy business days. So, we produce a series of specific environmental critical path networks for major environmental areas, especially close to the rivers which also had to be crossed. Each





## **What is an Alliance?**

A project alliance is a commercial legal framework between a government agency or department as the project 'owner' and one or more private sector parties as 'service providers' for delivering capital works projects.

Project alliances are characterized by: risk and reward sharing a no fault, no blame, no dispute culture unanimous principle-based decision making on key issues.

In a project alliance an integrated project team is selected based on the best person for each position.

## **The Eastern Alliance**

AJ Lucas, Transfield Services, GHD and Sun Water are working together to design and construct the Eastern Pipeline between Luggage Point and Bundamba advanced water treatment plants.

### **AJ Lucas**

AJ Lucas is an infrastructure and pipeline specialist and the largest directional drilling company in the Asia-Pacific region and a major world innovator in this advanced technology for infrastructure installation.

### **Transfield Services**

Transfield Services is a leading international provider of operations, maintenance, asset management and project management services.

### **GHD**

GHD is an international professional services company that serves the global market sectors of infrastructure, mining & industry, defense, property and buildings and the environment.

### **SunWater**

Sun Water is a leading company providing water infrastructure and supply solutions throughout Queensland, Australia and internationally.

## **Acknowledgment**

My thanks to the Eastern Alliance Project Management team for their support in the preparation of this paper.



## Appendix 1

### The Senior Planner & Scheduler's Duties on the Project

- Planning, directing, and coordinating all aspects of the use of “Micro Planner X-Pert and / or Primavera P3 for Windows” project management service delivery in relation to alliance proposals and construction contracts.
- Scheduling and management of the Micro Planner X-Pert for Windows and / or Primavera P3 service delivery program across all planned Eastern Alliance contracts, including resource scheduling and Earned Value Performance Measurement (cost control)
- Establish project charter, baseline budget and baseline schedule
- Establish and maintain Forecasting, tracking and reporting of scope, risk, schedule and cost issue register and status reports for all Eastern Alliance construction service delivery activities.
- Provide revised forecast of budget and schedule against baseline
- Assign work priorities, establish, and manage the critical path
- Manage and gain approval of variations to scope, schedule and budget
- Ensure adherence to quality and auditable processes
- Close projects upon completion
- Identify and manage risks, issues, assumptions, and dependencies
- Ensure that service delivery is planned and conducted so as to achieve Eastern Alliance's commercial objectives as well as the owners' requirements.
- Management of all scheduler and planner's relationships with respect to service delivery and service quality assurance.
- Management of relationships with employees, sub-contractors and suppliers involved in project management service delivery.
- Project management tasks including reporting, governance, risk management, issue resolution and budget management Formulating project, business and work plans, budgets and exercise decision making for the work area
- Assisting in the delivery of business benefits associated with these projects
- Developing organizational capability to lead and manage projects through the development of junior staff for future bids
- Building and maintaining strong relationships across Eastern Alliance, with relevant boards and committees, and other third parties
- Monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating project delivery with a view to continuous improvement, strategic alignment and compliance with CLERP9 and Sarbanes-Oxley regulations
- Complete project governance & reports
- Contributing to the development and promulgation of a strong project management framework for use in the Eastern Alliance for future bids
- Actively review and contribute to project management and development methodology and framework definition.