

Cherbourg aboriginal shire council's journey to being funded.

Matthew Bock (Operations manager)

Jackson Cobbo (Water and Sewerage Manager)

Cherbourg aboriginal shire council

The councils water treatment plant had received upgrades in 2020 funded through an indigenous water infrastructure funding provided by the state government to address water quality issues. The plant previously had sodium hypochlorite dosing for disinfection and Alum for coagulation in the upgrade these were changed to chlorine gas and an ACH blend. After the upgrades council continued to have water quality issues. With a new management team in place, council embarked on the journey to fix the water quality issues. Between 2022 and 2024 there was many reported incidents due to water quality issues and plant failures. Constant boil water alerts were issued the longest lasting 18 months. Low chlorine levels were the major factor in the water quality issues. Faults were identified throughout every process of treatment causing algae and dissolved organic break through which led low chlorine retention. Council worked with the Strategic Water Initiatives team in RDMW to assist in applying for funding through the national water grid fund through the federal government. Funding was granted after a 3 year process of identifying faults and working with an underperforming plant.