

When Cracks Appear: Resilience for Gympie

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A century-old plant, failing infrastructure, and the resilience behind regional water security

Abstract

The Jones Hill Water Treatment Plant in Gympie, with origins tracing back to 1898, has continuously delivered drinking water to the community for over a century. The current treatment plant configuration, including the sedimentation tank poured in the early 1960s, remains in daily use — but aging infrastructure presents mounting operational challenges.

This paper shares how operators managing deteriorating structures, including extensive cracking, outdated systems, and limited redundancy, became central to driving strategic investment and long-term planning. It highlights the interplay between on-the-ground experience and executive action, telling the story of how a legacy asset's decline catalysed a system-wide response through Gympie's Water Security Strategy.