

Curriculum Vitae

Contact: (mobile) 0428 693 212

email: murray.smith@ias.com.au

Murray Smith

Director – *Irrigation & Agribusiness Solutions*



Qualified: Associate Diploma in Civil Engineering, Queensland Institute of Technology. Successfully completed, "Introduction to Environmental Design" through University Partnerships, University of New England, Armidale. Graduate Certificate in Business Management, majoring in Project Management, University of Southern Queensland. Graduate Diploma in Business Management, University of Southern Queensland. Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). Committee Member of the AWA Rural Water Specialist Network

Connected – Previous Positions: Board Member – Mareeba Wetland Foundation. President – Mareeba and District Chamber of Commerce. Board Member – Tableland Economic Development Corporation. Steering Committee Member – Tablelands' TAFE Campuses. Executive Member – Coleambally Chamber of Commerce. Secretary – Bondi Group.

Overview: During Murray's career he has gained and applied extensive knowledge and skills relating to management and development of natural resources and the agricultural activities reliant on the sustainable development of such resources. Murray was a Board Member of the Interim Local Management Arrangement for the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Scheme in Far North Queensland.

As CEO of CICL, Murray devised and implemented a strategic direction for the irrigation district which saw it set the world benchmark for water delivery efficiency and a range of other environmental performance outcomes. During this period CICL also collaborated with research bodies and Government in the development of other innovative technologies and policy approaches geared to achieving long-term sustainability of the irrigation area and its community. This collaboration was recognised by Murray's inclusion in the team (Water for a Healthy Country Flagship – Irrigation Team) awarded the CSIRO Medal for Research Achievement for 2007.

As CEO of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP), Murray led the largest irrigation modernisation project in Australia's history. In addition to overall project delivery, Murray was also responsible for the development of two business cases supporting funding bids of approximately \$1 billion each. Murray has led diverse groups of professional, technical, and administrative staff in both Government and private enterprise and developed a constructive rapport with an extensive national and international network of stakeholders within the water and agricultural sectors over his 36 year career.

- Reviewed/refined irrigation led development opportunities to support increased cane production for Isis Central Sugar Mill.
- Reviewed aspects associated with the development of Urannah Dam and potential water distribution network including major irrigation developments
- Reviewed water supply augmentation options for ongoing sugarcane expansion to supply both Maryborough and Tableland Sugar Mills
- Prepared discussion paper on Optimising the Economic Benefit from Available Water Allocations for NBRC
- Reviewed irrigation led development opportunities within the Upper Burnett catchment for NBRC.

GHD, Principal Engineer – Agriculture and Regional Water

Activities included leading teams looking to develop:

- Approx. 12,000 ha of irrigated sugarcane in the Ord, including sugar mill and cogeneration facility
- 15,000 ha of irrigated cotton in the Flinders catchment (North Queensland); including water storage and distribution systems.
- Up to 125,000 ha of irrigated agriculture, major dam and channel distribution network, sugar mill, ethanol facility, cogeneration, rail spur and port facilities in North Queensland.
- Treatment/irrigation facilities for proposed extensive dairy facilities in China

Activities also included:

- Key input and guidance with regard to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Audit and National Water Strategy for Infrastructure Australia.
- Peer review of a proposed major storage and irrigation development in New Zealand including channel lining of main distribution channels.
- Reviewing an innovative solution for improving river operational efficiency to generate a range of benefits, including water savings (Computer Aided River Management Decision Support System).

Murray also has extensive experience at presenting to a wide range of forums and audiences e.g.: Global Foundation (Beijing), USCID (Sacramento), Irrigation Australia (Adelaide and Melbourne), Inbound Investment Forum (Brisbane), IrrigNZ Conference and numerous international delegations.

CEO

Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project | Shepparton

As CEO and the first employee of the organisation, Murray was responsible for developing the organisation from a 'start-up', together with developing both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Business Cases for funding by the State and Commonwealth (Approximately \$2.2 billion). NVIRP was tasked with modernising over 6,300km of channel network and generating over 200,000 ML of water savings.

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CEO

Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Ltd (CICL); Coleambally Irrigation Mutual Co-operative (CIMCL) | Coleambally

As CEO of the dual co-operative structure, Murray was responsible for developing and leading a dynamic team that positioned CICL at the vanguard of water industry reform. In doing so, the clear aim was to ensure the businesses, customer/members, and the local community were best equipped to cope with change and able to take advantage of opportunities that were created as part of the water reform process.

Chief Operating Officer

Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Ltd | Coleambally

Murray was employed to resolve operational aspects of CICL's water delivery business. A key element involved working with customers and *Rubicon* to address Total Channel Control implementation issues and lift overall operational aspects. All targets were surpassed.

Manager

Canegrowers Tableland District | Mareeba

Murray represented the interests of sugarcane growers on the Atherton Tableland. Activities included the development and adoption of best management practice (including irrigation) to enhance the economic viability and long-term sustainability of the industry. The position involved negotiations with sugar millers and Government and raising the community profile of matters related to the sugar industry.

Senior Project Officer

Queensland Department of Natural Resources Mines and Water; Water Industry Planning and Development | Mareeba

Murray was involved across broad ranging planning functions associated with natural resource assessment, water infrastructure, impact assessment and community engagement. Outcomes delivered included comprehensive planning reports across large areas of Far North Queensland and Impact Assessment reports. This position led project teams looking at irrigation and water supply development opportunities across FNQ.

Operations Manager

Resource Management | Mareeba

Murray was responsible for approximately 100 professional, technical, operational and administrative staff in offices in Mareeba, Atherton, Walkamin Research Station, Kairi Research Station, and South Johnstone Office and Research Station. Murray was involved in an extremely diverse sphere of activity covering regulatory functions (e.g. waterworks licensing, tree clearing guidelines), an agricultural chemical laboratory, soils science, water quality monitoring and hydrography, groundwater monitoring, integrated catchment management, forestry management, Water Resource Planning, development of guidelines for preparing property land and water management plans (and regulatory requirement) and farm extension activities.

Area Manager

State Water Projects (now SunWater) | Mareeba

Murray was responsible for the ongoing operation of the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area. He was also responsible for the environmental monitoring requirements associated with the scheme. This included a major storage (Tinaroo Falls Dam) and a number of smaller weirs.

Senior Technical Officer

North Queensland's Technical Group |

Mareeba

Murray managed the North Queensland Region's Technical Services Group that encompassed Engineering, Drafting, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Survey and Ecological Services.

Policy, Regulatory Compliance and Governance Experience:

- Policy development around modernising major irrigation systems including the setting of appropriate market signals.
- Establishment of water pricing policy
- Annual Reports for NVIRP, CICL and CIMCL.
- OHS and risk management frameworks for NVIRP, CICL and CIMCL.
- CICL's Annual Environment Reports.
- Prepared the Environmental Management Plan for the development and ongoing operation of the Mareeba Wetlands.
- Chaired the Atherton Tableland Regional Development Organisation's Sub-Committee on Infrastructure.
- Negotiated funding deeds with Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Treasury for NVIRP Stage 1 funding (\$1 billion).
- Negotiating funding arrangements with SEWPaC for NVIRP Stage 2 funding (\$1.2 billion).
- Oversight of NVIRP's Corporate Plan development and led NVIRP Strategic Planning.
- Oversight of MoU's with the Rural Finance Corporation and Water for Rivers.
- Negotiated with Government, including the ACCC over the development of Access and Termination Fees associated with permanent water trading.
- Negotiated Enterprise/Workplace Agreements with staff and unions.
- Led CIMCL's efforts in achieving a political solution to taxation issues associated with 'winding-up rules' of not for profit entities as they related to the Mutuality Principle [CIMCL v Federal Commissioner of Taxation]. This ultimately resulted in the Federal Government introducing the Tax Laws Amendment (2005 Measures No. 6) Bill 2005. This included challenging the ATO to the full bench of the Federal Court and a further challenge to the High Court as the political solution was sought and ultimately realised.