

**Cr. Debbie Blumel,**  
Major Projects Portfolio, Sunshine Coast Regional Council

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Cr Debbie Blumel was elected in March 2008 to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

Cr Blumel holds the Major Projects Portfolio which includes the Airport Master Plan, the Sunshine Coast Arts and Exhibition Centre and 40 other major infrastructure projects.

Cr Blumel is the Chair of Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast and also represents Queensland local governments on the National Sea Change Taskforce Executive.

Cr Blumel is also a member of the Council of Mayors' Infrastructure Committee and the Council of Mayors' Carbon Sink Taskforce. Prior to her election, Debbie worked as a health professional, Advisor to the Chief Health Officer, Manager of the Population Health Planning Unit, and Strategic Research and Development Advisor.

She has four university degrees and a strong background as a community campaigner and in promoting regional development.

## **ABSTRACT**

**The Community Water Company: delivering climate change adapted sustainable water services to regional Communities**

This paper will outline how decentralised water services can be delivered to a 'greenfield development' using a Community Water Company; demonstrate how a Climate Change Adaptive Urban Development (CCAUD) approach can be used to assure that community based water services are sustainable; indicate the benefits that can accrue to regional communities by reducing dependence on centralised water services by establishing a community based entity.

Ridges at Peregrian Springs, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, is used as a case example.

The CCAUD project proposed for Peregrian Springs is an innovative approach to developing a water sustainable urban community. Operationally, it encompasses wastewater recycling for external use and the capture, treatment and reuse of urban roof water for potable purposes. This will be done within the context of a residential style urban development with the water requirements for residential properties and being delivered using a self-sustaining system. Operationally, it is projected that the scheme could reduce potable water consumption in the order of 94% (subject to detailed water balance modelling).

This project directly addresses potential future water supply shortages and the current over-reliance on traditional centralised water supplies. As such, it may defer the need to augment existing supplies from new dams and desalination plants and provide greater resilience in the region to water shortages due to changing climatic conditions. Importantly, it adds to the suite of water technologies and provides an alternative to the high cost and carbon footprint of desalination technology.