

James Howey

Director

Profile

James has 20 years private and public experience in the areas of water, environment and asset management. Over the last 10 years he has built Viridis Consultants organically to be one of the best regarded water quality consultancies in Australia.

James specialises in risk management and auditing but has a broad practical knowledge. This expertise has been gained through 20 years of experience and qualifications in auditing, chemistry and environmental management. He has a background in quality management systems and has worked in highly quality-controlled environments and has developed and audited systems. Most recently he gained ISO 9001 certification for Viridis.

James was the first Queenslandeer to be certified as a Drinking Water Quality Management Lead Auditor with Exemplar Global and is now a skills assessor, determining the ability of new and recertifying auditors. James has audited a significant number of Australian utilities across three states. This has given him great experience and understanding of how to provide safe and secure water services.

James was heavily involved with the SEQ Water Grid. He has undertaken risk assessments of all the major assets including the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, Tugun Desalination Plant, 40 water treatment plants and the bulk distribution network. This experience is now being utilised in projects across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, with recent engagement by utilities, NSW Health, IPART, Department of Health and Human Service Victoria and Queensland Health.

James enjoys collaborating with clients and providing practical solutions to problems. He has undertaken a Lean Six Sigma qualification (Green Belt) to help systematic problem solving and the use data to identify and solve problems.

He understands the value of knowledge sharing, where there is value, he will try and pass on learnings during the course of a project. This is seen as an important part of the work he does in regional and remote areas, where collaboration with peers and training opportunities are limited.

Project Experience

Mareeba Shire Council – HBT Assessment (2018)

James was the Project Director for the HBT assessment of the Chillagoe, Dimbulah, Mareeba and Kuranda supply schemes. He provided technical oversight of the sanitary survey, vulnerability assessment, treatment process assessment, water safety assessment and the development of Water Safety Improvement Plan.

Various - Regulatory Audits of Nine Utilities (2017-18)

James undertook the regulator audits of nine water service providers. These were as follows: Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Weipa Town Authority, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, Central Highland Regional Council, Maroon Regional Council, Balonne Shire Council,

Suez Water Australia and New Zealand – KIWS Licence Plan Audit (2017)

Viridis was engaged by Suez to undertake a licence plan audit of the Kooragang Industrial Water Scheme. This audit was required by IPART to be undertaken within 3 months of commencing commercial operation. The scheme treats tertiary treated wastewater effluent for us by industrial customers.



Qualifications

- BSc (Applied Chemistry)
- MSc (Environmental Management)

Certifications

- Exemplar Global – Drinking & Recycled Water QMS Lead Auditor
- Exemplar Global – Associate EMS Auditor
- Exemplar Global – Skills Assessor
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt

Memberships

- Australian Water Association
- Water Research Australia

Specialisations

- Environmental Licensing and Compliance
- Risk Management
- Asset Management
- Environmental Auditing
- Drinking & Recycled Water Quality
- Auditing
- Lean Six Sigma

Work History

2008 - Present

Viridis Consultants Pty Ltd
Director

2005 – 2008

Opus International Consultants (PCA) Ltd,
Brisbane
Work Group Manager Environmental
Management

2004 – 2005

Brisbane Water
Senior Environmental Officer

2001 – 2004

Biolytix Technologies, QLD
Operations Manager

Barwon Water - HEMP and RWQMP Audit (2013 & 2017)

Viridis was engaged by Barwon Water to undertake external audits of their Health and Environmental Management Plan and Recycled Water Quality Management Plan. This scheme supplies recycled water to an oil refinery and the audit had to consider environmental and public health issues.

Seqwater – Regulatory Audit (2016)

Viridis was engaged to undertake Seqwater's first regulatory audit since they implemented a DWQMP. Seqwater collect, store and treat all the drinking water for South East Queensland. James was the lead auditor for this project.

IPART – Hunter and Sydney Water Audits (2018)

James lead the water quality and environmental components of the Sydney Water and Hunter Water operational licence audits for IPART. These audits are very thorough following the IPART guidelines and cover full audits of the drinking and recycled water management systems, as well as the environmental management system.

Stockland – Risk Assessment for Stormwater Reuse for Caloundra South (Aura) (2017)

Viridis was invited to run risk assessment workshops and develop a risk assessment for the Caloundra South development. The project intends to divert stormwater from the development into a dam used for drinking water. The project will reduce the environmental impact of the project by protecting sensitive estuarine ecosystems from changes in salinity. The project looks at a broad range of water quality risks affecting the environment, public health, reputation and operation of the scheme.

Queensland Health - Investigation: Effect of Incoming Water Quality on Legionella Proliferation in Hospitals (2014)

Viridis investigated the impact of incoming water quality on the risk of *Legionella* growth in hospital water reticulation systems. The project identified risk factors for *Legionella* growth and provided a tool allows healthcare facilities to determine the potential of *Legionella* proliferation.

DEWS – Review and Update of Recycled Water and Drinking Water Guidelines (2017)

Viridis was engaged to review and update the drinking water quality management plan and recycled water management plan guidelines that are supplied to water service providers in Queensland. James was the Project Manager for this job and was directly involved

UnityWater – ISO 22000 Development and Implementation (2015)

Viridis was engaged to gain ISO 22000 certification for UnityWater, using the current ISO 9000 system and DWQMP as a base. Viridis worked closely with UnityWater and developed a system that leveraged off the existing systems whilst meeting all of the new requirements. UnityWater Achieved third-party certification for this system developed by Viridis in March 2016. James was the Project Manager for this job.

Brisbane City Council – Environmental Improvement Project (2013)

Viridis defined and set up the Environmental Objectives and Targets register in compliance with the Environmental Management Standard, reviewed and finalised the respective procedure. Also included in the scope of works, Viridis reviewed and finalise the Legal and other Requirements Procedure and scoped out the Environmental Improvements Programs in compliance with ISO14001.

2000 – 2001

Logan City Council
Environmental Management Officer

1999 – 2000

Hornsby Shire Council
Environmental Officer

1997 – 1999

Searle Pharmaceuticals Ltd, UK
Quality Assurance Chemist

1993 – 1994

Sandoz Chemicals (UK) Ltd, UK
Research & Development Chemist

Achievements

Design of a package domestic wastewater treatment plant, developed a prototype and gained certification to AS/NZS 1546.3

First Exemplar Global certified Drinking Water QMS Lead Auditor in Queensland.

Director/Owner of Viridis Consultants

Achieving ISO 9001 certification for Viridis Consultants.

Publications

Ozwater 2015. Technical paper – Lean Six Sigma Application to Water Utilities: Getting Value for Money out of Water Quality Monitoring. 2015

BusinessBNE. Carbon Tax – Good, Bad or Ugly?, Edition 3, 2011.

North Queensland AWA Regional Conference. Technical paper – Water Quality Risk Assessment – Useful Tool or Expensive Doorstop. 2009.