

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Thank for the opportunity to provide comment on the SEQ Bulk Water Price Path Draft Report 2015-18. I make these comments on behalf of residents in Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Water pricing is a significant concern for the residents of Moreton Bay Regional Council, particularly as local residents pay significantly more than people living in other regions.

For example, based on an average usage of 200.75 kilolitres a year, house occupants in Moreton Bay Regional Council area pay \$1816.02¹ annually for water and sewerage services. This is up to \$461 more than residents in Brisbane City and Sunshine Coast/Noosa Council areas where households are charged annually \$1354.83² and \$1443.35³ respectively.

Residents welcome the draft report's recommendation of a 1.6%⁴ decrease in the bulk water price from 1 July 2015 instead of the proposed 9%⁵ increase. For the average household this represents a saving of \$57 which will help families cope with significantly larger water bills than residents in neighbouring communities. Local residents, particularly pensioners, are doing it tough with rising costs, and any savings help.

Therefore on behalf of residents, I request that the following occur:

- The savings outlined in the report are adopted immediately.
- The Department of Energy and Water Supply and UnityWater work to identify further savings in the water and sewerage supply chain.
- The final report acknowledges that Moreton Bay Regional Council as the majority shareholder of Unitywater has a responsibility to all ratepayers to ensure these savings are passed on in full. This includes ensuring that Unitywater does not increase their retail water prices to absorb the savings, rather than pass them onto local families and pensioners who need water price relief.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft report. If you would like any further information, please contact me anytime.

Chris Kelly
Candidate for Division 8
Moreton Bay Regional Council

¹ <http://www.unitywater.com.au/My-account/Moreton-Bay-customer-bill-impacts.aspx> accessed 16/01/2015

² <http://www.urbanutilities.com.au/residential/accounts-and-billing/rates-and-charges-2014-15> accessed 16/01/2015 (calculations performed based on 200.75KL/pa)

³ <http://www.unitywater.com.au/Sunshine-Coast-and-Noosa-customer-bill-impacts> accessed 16/01/2015

⁴ *Draft Recommendation 7.3* <http://www.qca.org.au/getattachment/a394bdd4-8f68-43b7-8641-8df147518d9e/Draft-Report.aspx> accessed 16 January 2015

⁵ *Bulk water prices (\$/household)* <https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/policies-initiatives/water-sector-reform/water-pricing/bulk-water-prices> accessed 16 January 2015.

