

From: Keith Pattinson [Keith.Pattinson@moretonbay.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 August 2010 5:18 PM
To: Water (External)
Cc: John Rauber; Daryl Hitzman
Subject: Unitywater Price Monitoring Submission - Moreton Bay Regional Council

Dear Mr Hall,

Moreton Bay Regional Council is concerned with the price shocks caused to our residents as a result of the creation of the Unitywater Water and Wastewater distribution and Retail entity and the Southeast Queensland water reforms.

In order to lessen the price shock in 2010/11 and 2011/12, MBRC has introduced a subsidy scheme for Unitywater customers in the MBRC local government area who paid the Council for their water and wastewater services in the 2009/10 year. This subsidy comprises 50% of the increase in the water and sewerage access charges over the 2009/10 level in 2010/11. The subsidy then reduces to 50% of the level of subsidy paid in 2010/11 for the 2011/12 financial year. This subsidy was provided by way of direct payment to Unitywater who - in turn - reduced the amount charged to customers in the Moreton Bay Local Government area, by the amount of the subsidy, on their Unitywater account.

This subsidy from the Council is designed to allow Unitywater customers in the MBRC local government area to get used to, and to ease in, the Unitywater pricing regime.

The major area in which Council believes issues exist is the differing prices across the entity's customer base. MBRC believes that a consolidated price is required across the entire area serviced by Unitywater and not one that differs based on Council's local government areas. This, in the opinion of our Council, cannot happen soon enough. This will eliminate current perceptions of inequity and move the region into utility based thinking much more quickly.

If you require any further information in regards to this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Keith Pattinson. His contact details are below.

Regards
KP

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