



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

1 William St Brisbane
GPO Box 611 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 07 3719 7100
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.treasury.qld.gov.au

ABN 90 856 020 239

Our Ref: 01883-2024

Professor Flavio Menezes
Chair
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Professor Menezes

Flavio,

Please find enclosed an amending referral notice issued under section 23A(6) of the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (the Act), amending the referral issued under section 23A of the Act to the Authority on 14 December 2023, referring the Monopoly Business Activities of the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) for a price monitoring investigation.

The referral issued on 14 December 2023 is amended and restated so that the provisions of the referral are as set out in the amending referral notice, to exclude the investigation of the allowable costs associated with the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) from the current price monitoring investigation.

This change allows additional time to assess the implications of FGP on GAWB operations, including related cost increases and the impact on bulk water prices for GAWB's customers. The pricing impacts of FGP costs can be considered with greater precision by the Queensland Competition Authority closer to the date of commissioning, which is expected by mid-2026.

Officers from Queensland Treasury and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) have consulted with staff from the Authority in the preparation of this amending referral notice and will continue to work with the Authority to finalise an approach for a subsequent FGP pricing investigation in due course. DRDMW has advised GAWB about the government's decision to exclude the FGP from the current price monitoring investigation.

In the interests of ensuring adequate stakeholder consultation, and in keeping with the time frames that have been established for the current investigation, I suggest the notice given and published by the Authority on receipt of this amending referral notice seeks that GAWB provide its submission by no later than 31 May 2024, and that stakeholders provide submissions by no later than 31 July 2024.

I look forward to receiving the Authority's findings on the matters outlined in the enclosed amending referral notice and appreciate the ongoing and effective regulatory oversight role provided by the Authority with respect to GAWB's monopoly business activities.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Mr [REDACTED] Director, Strategic Coordination and Economics, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

23 / 05 / 2024

Encl. (1)

Cc: The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water