

18 September 2014

26 Spindrift Avenue  
Coolum Beach Qld. 4573

Dr. Malcolm Roberts  
Chairman  
Queensland Competition Authority (QCA)  
G.P.O. 2257  
Brisbane Qld.4001

QLD COMPETITION AUTHORITY

19 SEP 2014

DATE RECEIVED

Re: Review of SEQwater bulk water charges 2015-18

Dear Dr. Roberts,

Please accept the following public submission regarding this long-term prices monitoring review of bulk water prices imposed by Government owned water entities throughout South East Queensland (SEQ).

Despite my submission dated 17 February 2014 requesting due process be afforded to the SEQ 2013-15 Prices Monitoring investigation submissions Nos 5 and 6, the Authority continues to fail in its duty to investigate issues raised and protect households against possible monopoly abuse embedded in the service charges of Unitywater.

Please now refer to the cover letter dated 5 May 2014 signed by the Queensland Treasurer. Paragraph two suggests collusion between Treasury and Authority officers which again deprives Coolum Beach households protection against possible predatory pricing by SEQWater.

Terms of Reference item (B) (1) issued by the Treasurer prevents the Authority from performing its review objectives items (a), (c), and (d) as set out in the SEQ Pricing Principles issued last March. Such an instruction again prevents the Authority's performance of its primary duty to protect Coolum Beach households against monopoly pricing abuse by commercial business entities owned and controlled by the Queensland Government.

Please note from enclosed correspondence from Treasury dated 28 April 2010, the Queensland Treasurer has policy responsibility for COAG water reform agreements of 2004. Like all past SEQ prices monitoring investigations involving Unitywater, this exercise is a waste of public resources.

Yours sincerely,



Amy-Rose West (Ms.)

Enc. Letter from Federal Treasury dated 28 April 2010

Cc. Federal Parliamentary Secretary - Urban Water



**Australian Government**

**The Treasury**

28 April 2010

Ms Amy-Rose West  
26 Spindrift Avenue  
COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573

Dear Ms West

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2010 to the Treasury concerning utilities charges.

We note that your first correspondence with the Treasury was in January 2009 and there were a number of subsequent emails with the department. Due to internal communication issues there was a significant delay in responding to you. We sincerely apologise for this delay. The Treasury acknowledges that the handling of your correspondence was not satisfactory. We are modifying our processes to ensure that such delays do not occur again.

Whilst we acknowledge your concerns about local government charges for water and sewerage, the Australian Government has no authority to amend these local government charges. However, we understand that the ten local government water businesses in South-East Queensland (including the Maroochy area) are currently being consolidated into three distribution-retail water authorities. We have been advised that, from the time they commence operations on 1 July 2010, these new entities will be subject to a price monitoring regulatory regime administered by the independent Queensland Competition Authority.

Should you need any further information about this new regulatory framework, we would encourage you to write to the Queensland Treasurer, the Hon Andrew Fraser MP, who has policy responsibility for these reforms.

Yours sincerely

Tony Murray  
Acting General Manager  
Ministerial and Communications Division  
Corporate Services Group