



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

8 May 2026

National Water Reform
Productivity Commission
waterreform2026@pc.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

RE: Productivity Commission Inquiry – National Water Reform 2026

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), as the peak body representing Queensland's 77 local governments, welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry – *National Water Reform 2026* (the Inquiry).

We understand this is the fourth inquiry undertaken by the Productivity Commission on the progress of water reform in Australia and acknowledge that the National Water Initiative (NWI) and associated water reform processes have delivered major advances in sustainability, efficiency and equity in water resources, services, and markets.

The LGAQ appreciates the extension of time to respond to this initial consultation on the terms of reference of the Inquiry. We understand that the Productivity Commission will be seeking further information and feedback from stakeholders following the expected release of an interim report for public consultation in June and July 2026.

Given the short timeframes for this Inquiry, the LGAQ has not been able to fully engage with our members in relation to this consultation. This submission is based on advice provided to the LGAQ by our members in relation to previous submissions and projects and includes relevant agreed policy positions of local government outlined in the [LGAQ Policy Statement \(Attachment 1\)](#) and [LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions \(Attachment 2\)](#).

The LGAQ's previous submission to the Productivity Commission on the *National Water Reform 2024 – Interim Report*¹ on 1 February 2024, included nine recommendations that highlighted the critical role of local governments in delivering water services across Queensland. The LGAQ was pleased to see these recommendations reflected in the final *National Water Reform 2024 - Inquiry Report*, including the recommendation that the new National Water Agreement include "modernised and additional objectives that reflect community expectations for effective, efficient and equitable delivery of water services".

This submission builds on that earlier contribution and focuses specifically on policy areas raised in **Part A** and **Part B** of the information request on matters that are of particular relevance to local government in relation to delivery of secure, resilient and sustainable water, waste and sewerage services.

Response to Part A – NWI Assessment

Progress since the 2024 NWI assessment

The LGAQ notes that the Inquiry does not consider the new *National Water Agreement (NWA)* and instead focusses on the *National Water Initiative 2004* which remains current until finalisation of the NWA.

¹ [LGAQ Submission to the National Water Reform 2024 Interim Report](#)



In September 2024, the LGAQ made a submission to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) in response to the *Discussion Paper – Consultation on the draft principles of a National Water Agreement*, which followed an earlier submission in May 2024 to the Department on the *Discussion Paper – Seeking Views on a Future National Water Agreement*.

The LGAQ understands the National Water Agreement has been revised based on feedback received through submissions received by stakeholders at that time but is yet to reach final agreement.

The LGAQ also acknowledges the Water Ministers' Meeting held in December 2025², noted the achievements made under the NWI. In a Queensland context, the LGAQ has also identified the following examples, which present a view of progress against the NWI since the previous inquiry in 2024:

- Better coordination between State Government departments though the merging of local government and water functions into the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.
- Inclusion of additional local government and First Nations council representation on the Queensland Ministerial Advisory group, the Water Engagement Forum (WEF) and the signing of the Queensland Indigenous Council Leaders Accord³.
- Expansion of QWRAP (the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program) into nine participating regions covering 86 per cent of Queensland's regional, rural and remote councils.

Importantly, the Water Ministers' Meeting has acknowledged the need for governments to continue to work on matters relating to growing demand, water intensive emerging industries, a changing climate and emerging contaminants, which emphasises the importance of strong collaboration across all jurisdictions. The LGAQ seeks assurance that this should include early and effective involvement of, and collaboration with, local governments.

Barriers and Emerging Risks

The LGAQ welcomes the inclusion of water services in the revised national water reform priorities resulting from consultation on the NWA. However, there are a number of barriers to delivery of the desired outcomes of reform that will need to be addressed:

- **Emerging Contaminants** - The potential impact of emerging contaminants and specifically PFAS (Per and Poly Fluoro Alkyl Substances) on the water and sewerage industry is a significant risk to water service providers as passive receivers, and a barrier to water reuse. Clear and transparent policy directions and regulatory frameworks are needed that define the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government. Action is also needed to ban the importation or use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals. The cost of addressing the issue of ubiquitous PFAS contamination in Queensland's urban environments cannot be placed on local government alone.
- **Ageing Infrastructure** - Research undertaken through the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP) in 2018/2019 on the infrastructure cliff⁴ and supported by the 2025 Queensland State of the Assets Report⁵ found the renewal of around \$5.6 billion of water and wastewater infrastructure assets in poor condition and reaching the end of useful life would be critical in the next few decades. The cost of replacing these assets through own source revenue is a significant barrier to councils who operate as small water entities with limited rates bases. Currently, there is no sustainable, ongoing funding program provided by either the State or Federal Government to support councils to upgrade or replace these assets.

² [Communique – Water Minister's Meeting \(December 2025\)](#)

³ [Queensland Indigenous council Leaders Accord](#)

⁴ [QWRAP Infrastructure Cliff Research Project 2018](#)

⁵ [Queensland State of the Assets Report 2025](#)



- **Dam safety requirements** – Nine of Queensland’s referrable dams currently scheduled for safety upgrades in line with the State Government regulated Dam Safety Management Guidelines⁶ and Guidelines on Safety Assessments for Referrable Dams⁷ are owned by local governments. There is currently no State or Federal funding program to support councils to carry out this work. For one council, the cost to upgrade their dam to the standard required is estimated at \$270 million. The council has so far secured a \$54 million commitment from the State Government to support this upgrade, but the remaining cost remains a large burden.
- **Workforce** - The Workforce Skills Survey Report (2024)⁸ identified that the water services industry experiences higher than average vacancy rates compared to similar sectors, with vacancies across all roles and with some positions reported as high as 45% in 2022 with more than half (57%) of positions remaining unfilled for more than 13 months. Federal Government has a role to assist local government in finding practical and productive solutions to current challenges related to developing, attracting and retaining a skilled water industry workforce particularly in regional and remote councils. Following the departure of Queensland TAFE from the water training under the National Water Package in 2022, only four private RTOs can provide subsidised training, emphasising the importance of continued government support.
- **Financial sustainability** – Queensland councils are navigating a challenging financial environment as evidenced by the 2024 Queensland Audit Office report into local government financial sustainability, which found Queensland councils continue to remain heavily reliant on external funding sources to deliver the services that their communities rely upon.⁹ This is further exacerbated by the need for councils across Queensland, the country’s most decentralised state, to either step in to deliver services due to market failure, or to deliver services that should be the purview of the State or Federal Government, but without commensurate funding to support this. The LGAQ’s research on cost-shifting¹⁰ sought to quantify this impact on council budgets and found cost-shifting onto Queensland councils increased from \$47 million a year in 2001/2002 to \$360 million in 2021/2022.

Forward Reform Priorities

In response to the current consultation, the LGAQ understands the Commission is seeking feedback on the top 1-3 reform priorities that would most improve outcomes in each jurisdiction or operating context over the next three years.

Based on the barriers and emerging risks outlined above, the following policy areas remain a focus for local government in Queensland in relation to national (and state) water reform:

1. Pricing and regulatory frameworks that reflect local service contexts and constraints recognising that for councils there are a range of external pressures to deliver services and keep urban water prices low while meeting regulatory compliance. This is combined with a limited capacity to recover the full cost of service delivery in small and remote communities with small water schemes across dispersed networks and small customer bases.
2. A long-term, risk-based funding partnership across all levels of government to support councils in the replacement and upgrading of ageing critical water and wastewater infrastructure.
3. A partnership across all levels of government to address workforce skills shortages.
4. Improved intergovernmental coordination, particularly early engagement with local government, to assist in identifying impacts, emerging risks and challenges to water security and water service delivery and practical, service-focused solutions.

⁶ [Dam Safety Management Guideline](#)

⁷ [Guidelines on Safety Assessments for Referrable Dams](#)

⁸ [Workforce Skills Survey Report 2024](#)

⁹ [Queensland Audit Office Report - Local Government 2024](#)

¹⁰ [A fairer funding deal for Queensland communities](#)



Response to Part B – Secure, resilient and sustainable services

Overall

In Queensland, local government is key to the delivery of safe and secure water to urban communities and plays a critical role in ensuring healthy waterways and reef and therefore are partners in delivery of the objectives of the NWI. Local government water service provision in Queensland is subject to oversight and regulation by State Government, coordinated through the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV) with environmental regulation of wastewater managed through the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

In response to the four themes contained in the Productivity Commission's Inquiry Consultation paper, the LGAQ makes the following comments:

Theme 1: Pricing and economic regulation

Councils face strong pressure to keep water prices low while many, particularly small, regional, remote and First Nations councils have limited capacity to recover the full costs of service delivery. As population shifts and rate bases change, so does the ability of councils to raise their own revenue.

Additionally, in Queensland the State's infrastructure charging regime under the *Planning Act 2016* has been capped since 2011 and is much lower than the true cost that councils incur to provide critical infrastructure, such as water and wastewater. Research¹¹ commissioned by the LGAQ in 2024 highlighted a \$2.2 billion trunk infrastructure funding gap for Queensland councils, placing enormous pressure on the financial sustainability of local government. Pricing and regulatory frameworks, therefore, must better reflect local service contexts and constraints to avoid undermining long-term service viability.

The LGAQ understands the NWI pricing principles, established by the Federal Government, guide rural and urban water pricing practices and assist jurisdictions to implement their pricing commitments under the NWI in a consistent way.

Many small and medium sized councils outside of South East Queensland (SEQ) purchase their bulk untreated water from [Sunwater](#).

In SEQ, there are five council water businesses that all buy their treated bulk water from [Seqwater](#), the State Government's bulk water authority. These water service providers include:

- Three councils (i.e. Redland City Council, Logan City Council and City of Gold Coast) that independently and directly provide water and sewerage services in their local government areas,
- Two council-owned distributor-retailers including Urban Utilities (jointly owned by Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, and Somerset Regional Council), and Unitywater (jointly owned by Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Council and the City of Moreton Bay).

There is currently no independent, consistent oversight of *bulk* urban water prices in Queensland. However, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) does maintain regulatory oversight over irrigation pricing and in 2025, the State Government announced¹² it would commence a review of Unitywater and Urban Utilities water prices through the QCA, with this work currently underway.

Consistent with the LGAQ Policy Statement, local government accepts that significant local government water retailers should be subject to price oversight by an independent body. However, *retail* water

¹¹ [LGAQ's 'Fixing Queensland's Trunk Infrastructure Funding Framework' Report \(2024\)](#)

¹² [Media Release: 'Crisafulli Government delivers more transparent water prices across SEQ' \(29 September 2025\)](#)



pricing must remain the responsibility of each water retailer, recognising the varying circumstances that exist.

In relation to bulk water pricing, the LGAQ worked with Sunwater and key stakeholders throughout 2021-2023 through an Urban Water Pricing Strategic Policy Group and called on the State Government to “Establish a transparent and sustainable pricing method for regional bulk water providers”. Four key principles were supported by the LGAQ Policy Executive at that time:

- Principle 1: Bulk urban water prices should be set using a consistent approach for all customers.
- Principle 2: The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) should have a role in assessing the prudence and efficiency of expenditure underpinning bulk urban water prices.
- Principle 3: Bulk urban water prices should be set to recover the costs associated with providing a bulk urban water service including:
 - Part a: Prudent and efficient operating and renewals costs (Lower Bound).
 - Part b: A contribution toward the prudent and efficient costs of the original capital investment (Upper Bound).
 - Uniform / postage stamp pricing is a fair and reasonable approach to balancing economic efficiency and fairness, for capital contributions.
- Principle 4: Any transition to new bulk urban water prices should be over time, and account for the impact on end customers.

Theme 2: Governance, accountability and coordination

Local government plays a more direct role in water management in Queensland than in many other States and Territories. This reflects Queensland’s high level of council ownership and operation of water and sewerage infrastructure. Unlike jurisdictions that have consolidated services under large, state-owned regional utilities, Queensland retains a highly decentralised model, with 69 councils or council-owned entities registered as water service providers as of 2025.

As such, local government recognises it has primary responsibility for providing potable water services to Queensland communities and that water is a resource that should be shared equitably across each region through institutional arrangements that best facilitate efficient service delivery and resource use.

Effective regional collaboration is essential to achieving water reform objectives. In Queensland, initiatives such as the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP)¹³ and the Statewide Water Information Management system (SWIM)¹⁴ demonstrate how coordinated governance can improve efficiency, accountability and capability while reducing regulatory burden.

It is important that any national reforms take into account the differing governance and coordination arrangements across the States and Territories and are fit-for-purpose for local circumstances.

Theme 3: Regional, remote and equity consideration

Queensland’s water sector is dominated by small providers, with 50 of 77 councils servicing fewer than 10,000 connections each. These regional and remote councils are managing ageing, dispersed infrastructure networks across vast geographic areas, yet operate with the smallest revenue bases. The Queensland State of Assets Report (2025) found that around \$5.6 billion of water and wastewater infrastructure assets in poor condition and reaching the end of useful life would be critical in the next few decades. The cost of replacing these assets through own source revenue is a significant barrier to councils who operate as small water entities with limited rates bases.

Without support from other levels of government, the ability for councils to bear the cost of upgrades and replacements is limited. This challenge becomes greater for councils with small to no rate bases

¹³ [QWRAP](#)

¹⁴ [SWIM Project](#)



that are already heavily or almost solely grant reliant. While councils in Queensland have previously had access to funding programs aimed directly at supporting the upgrade or replacement of ageing infrastructure, there is currently no such dedicated funding program available to the sector. The LGAQ supports a long-term, risk-based funding partnership across all levels of government to address critical water and wastewater infrastructure needs.

Theme 4: National consistency and intergovernmental coordination

As the level of government closest to communities, councils are uniquely positioned to identify local needs and respond in the most appropriate and cost-effective ways. However, roles and responsibilities across governments, regulators and service providers are not always clearly defined or communicated. The Queensland Audit Office's 2024 report on *Managing Queensland's Regional Water Quality*¹⁵ found that the State Government could strengthen coordination across all levels of government, including "by better sharing information gathered through regulatory activities and projects".

Based on the above, the LGAQ makes the following four recommendations for the consideration of the Commission:

- **Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Productivity Commission supports fit-for-purpose water pricing, regulatory and governance frameworks that ensure retail water pricing remains the responsibility of each water retailer, and supports collaboration as well as local government financial sustainability, recognising the varying circumstances that exist.
- **Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the Productivity Commission considers the need for a long-term, risk-based funding partnership across all levels of government to support councils in the replacement and upgrading of ageing critical water and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the Productivity Commission considers the need for a partnership across all levels of government to address workforce skills shortages.
- **Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the Productivity Commission considers the coordination between Federal and State Government departments for sharing of information on risk and appropriate regulatory response in relation to national water security and local government water service provision.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide initial comment on the Productivity Commission's Inquiry – *National Water Reform 2026*. The LGAQ looks forward to providing a more comprehensive submission, following further consultation with our member councils, when the interim paper is released later this year.

Should you have any further questions, please reach out to Crystal Baker, Manager – Strategic Policy via email: _____ or Josephine Raftery, Lead – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure via email: _____ or phone: _____.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Advocacy

¹⁵ [Managing Queensland's regional water quality \(QAO 2024\)](#)



Attachment 1 - LGAQ Policy Statement

The LGAQ Policy Statement¹ (2025) is a definitive statement of collective voices from our councils in Queensland. The relevant policy positions of councils in the context of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry include:

Water Supply and Sewerage

8.5.1 Institutional Arrangements

- 8.5.1.1 Local government recognises it has primary responsibility for providing potable water services to Queensland communities. Local government recognises water is a resource that should be shared equitably across each region through institutional arrangements that best facilitate efficient service delivery and resource use.
- 8.5.1.2 The State Government must ensure no community is substantially disadvantaged in terms of basic access to, and price of a reasonable supply of potable water.
- 8.5.1.3 Local government supports the setting of a minimum standard for water and sewerage services across Queensland, with the instalment of a community service obligation, levelling the actual cost of providing water and sewerage services to local communities based on the average price in South East Queensland.
- 8.5.1.4 Local government believes water demand and supply planning across the State, including the establishment of adequate levels of service provision to the community, should be led by the State Government, with active involvement of local government as a key stakeholder. There should be continued engagement with local government in the design and implementation of the State government's strategy for Queensland's water sector.
- 8.5.1.5 Where reform of current institutional arrangements is considered necessary to enhance security, sustainability and efficiency of water services, there should be full consultation with the LGAQ and all local governments likely to be affected by any proposed changes. Any change should address sustainability of small communities and broad economic impact and must seek continuous improvement in services and responsiveness to community needs.
- 8.5.1.6 Local government believes any change in current water institutional arrangements should seek to build on existing roles, responsibilities and relationships reflecting the existing partnership approach between the State and local governments and amongst local governments.
- 8.5.1.7 Where regional water supply schemes across a number of councils are considered advantageous by the group of councils, joint local governments or local government owned corporations are the preferred approach rather than a separate Statutory Authority.
- 8.5.1.8 The role of individual councils in water retailing should be maintained in any changes to institutional arrangements.
- 8.5.1.9 Where any water infrastructure is subsumed into new bulk supply institutional arrangements, there should be a guarantee of full compensation for current owners.

8.5.2 Funding Arrangements

- 8.5.2.1 Local government believes that greater capital investment in water infrastructure by Federal and State governments is needed to meet future needs and foster regional development.
 - 8.5.2.2 Local government requires openness and transparency in assigning externality charges to water providers. Externalities include environmental costs as well as water resource planning and management costs.
 - 8.5.2.3 Local government will advocate for the return of revenue raised from National Water Agreement imposed externality charges to ongoing investigations and planning as well as investment in future water infrastructure needs including dam safety upgrades.
 - 8.5.2.4 Local government will seek contributions to the cost of long-term regional water infrastructure through instruments such as the development of infrastructure charges plans.
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8.5.3 Pricing Regime

- 8.5.3.1 Local government accepts that significant local government water retailers should be subject to price oversight by an independent body. However, retail water pricing must remain the responsibility of each water retailer, recognising the varying circumstances that exist.
- 8.5.3.2 In setting retail prices, local government recognises the need for pricing regimes that encourage efficient use of water resources. This will generally be achieved by use of two-part tariffs including, where appropriate, inclining block tariffs.
- 8.5.3.3 Where separate institutional arrangements exist for bulk water supply within a region, a common 'postage stamp' approach to pricing is generally preferred by local government rather than one based on differential nodal pricing.

8.5.4 Operations

- 8.5.4.1 Local government is committed to best practice in water use, implementation of sustainable urban water management, and development of strategies to:
 - Reduce demand for water to improve the efficiency of use
 - Reduce supply losses
 - Increase the re-use of water
 - Increase use of stormwater for urban and household demands; and
 - Improve community awareness of water management issues.
- 8.5.4.2 Where regional arrangements for bulk water supply exist, local government accepts that there should be common rules set for supply restrictions and minimum service levels by the body responsible for water supply planning.
- 8.5.4.4 Local government is committed to rationalising the system of water information reporting by local governments to reduce inefficiencies, eliminate duplication of reporting mechanisms and improve information for water planning and security.

8.5.5 Sewerage Management

- 8.5.5.1 Local government recognises it has primary responsibility for the collection and treatment of wastewater and disposal of treated wastewater in urban areas.
 - 8.5.5.4 Local government fully supports the beneficial reuse of 'fit for purpose' treated wastewater as a strategy to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of releasing treated wastewater to waterways and as a strategy to achieve sustainable urban water use.
 - 8.5.5.5 Decisions relating to the options pursued for the reuse of effluent should remain within the jurisdiction of local government.
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Attachment 2 - LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member driven advocacy and working with members to build stronger local government and more resilient local communities. In the context of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry, there are several LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions of relevance, listed below:

Resolution 5 (2025) - Partnership approach to address the water and wastewater infrastructure cliff

1. That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to partner with local government to deliver safe, secure and affordable water for Queensland communities by taking a strategic programmatic approach to address the infrastructure cliff that includes:
 - providing funding support for councils to undertake strategic asset criticality assessments to clearly identify the infrastructure risks in their water and wastewater networks,
 - co-designing a dedicated water and wastewater funding program with local government that is focussed on renewal and replacement of aging assets identified as high risk, and
 - committing to providing ongoing non-competitive, dedicated funding for water and wastewater projects to address increasing risk of system failure in these critical services.
2. That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to expedite the release of the results from the urban water risk assessment.

Resolution 97 (2024) - Support for wastewater recycling and diversion initiatives

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- Promote and encourage the adoption of wastewater recycling and diversion initiatives statewide,
- Allocate necessary funding to local governments and wastewater service providers for wastewater recycling and alternative treatment option trials to inform future policies and initiatives, and
- Explore what other states are doing to address wastewater recycling to leverage collective knowledge and experience to support and guide local governments and wastewater service providers to transition to a circular economy.

Resolution 49 (2024) - Ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals

That the LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals by the end of 2026, including products not covered by the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (cosmetics, personal care products, food packaging, clothing) rather than requiring local government water service providers to upgrade treatment technology, to protect community health and the environment from these chemicals.

Resolution 23 (2024) - High Priority ground water allocations for town water supply

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend relevant water legislation, regulation, plans and protocols to allow allocation of high priority groundwater entitlements (licences and allocations) to registered water service providers for town water supply.

Resolution 142 (2023) Dam safety upgrade funding

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal Governments to provide funding for dam safety improvement projects throughout the state.



Resolution 141 (2023) - Drinking Water Quality Improvement Pathway

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend relevant water legislation, regulation, plans and protocols to allow allocation of high priority groundwater entitlements (licences and allocations) to registered water service providers for town water supply.

Resolution 140 (2023) - Investment in water infrastructure projects across regional Queensland for water security

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal Government to provide increased investment toward the construction of new and augmented water infrastructure projects across regional Queensland to improve water security and deliver long-term, bulk water sources for regional communities.

Resolution 138 (2023) - Cost of Sunwater Bulk Water

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to offset dividends provided by Sunwater against urban water pricing to help offset bulk water price impacts to urban customers.

Resolution 87 (2023) - Indemnity for Local Government from liability for the release of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to implement legislation indemnifying water and sewerage service providers from liability associated with the release of Perfluoroalkyl and Poly Fluoro Alkyl Substances (PFAS) to potable and receiving waters, including stormwater as the industry are passive receivers of these substances and there are no viable technologies to remove these substances from water and sewerage systems cost effectively.

Resolution 71 (2023) - Murray-Darling Basin Plan Water Buy Backs

The LGAQ calls on the Federal Government to not solely use water buybacks to recover water for the Murray Darling Basin targets, noting that an equitable triple bottom line approach is important for sustainable Queensland communities.

Resolution 70 (2023) - Protection of the Great Artesian Basin from carbon capture and storage technology

The LGAQ calls on the State Government not to approve carbon capture and storage technology on the Great Artesian Basin and further requests the State and Federal governments work collaboratively to protect the Great Artesian Basin for regional communities, as it is the only reliable source of fresh water for much of inland Australia.

Resolution 42 (2022) - Regions Becoming More Resource Independent Through Efficient Use and Re-use of Wastewater

The LGAQ calls on the State Government to

1. Update and Utilise wastewater reuse and recycling markets and technologies that have already been analysed and exist to enable the use of recycled water across the State and
2. Look at governmental support and incentives for the utilisation of reclaimed wastewater.

Resolution 43 (2022) - Supplying Reliable and Long-term Water Supply for Industry and Population Growth in Regional Areas

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to consult with local government and conduct economic impact assessments to identify new bulk water sources, assess and invest in which proposed water developments will provide the greatest benefits by supplying reliable and long-term (20-plus years) water supply for industry and population growth in regional areas.



Resolution 44 (2022) - Developing, Attracting and Retaining a Skilled Water Industry Workforce within Queensland

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to work with LGAQ and other peak bodies (including the Queensland Water Directorate) to investigate solutions to existing workforce challenges associated with developing, attracting and retaining a skilled water industry workforce in Queensland, building on the work undertaken under the Queensland Water Skills Partnership.

Resolution 90 (2022) - Environmental Legislation Changes Impact

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to:

1. Provide transparent and targeted consultation with local governments and water authorities regarding changes to environmental legislation that impacts local governments' sewerage assets, and
2. Provide funding to assist local governments in maintaining and upgrading sewerage assets to meet evolving environmental legislation and protect the environment.

Resolution 118 (2022) – Long Term Investment in Operational and Capital funding for Water and Sewerage Networks to Ensure Water Security

The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to:

1. Reintroduce an ongoing and dedicated subsidy program such as the former Water and Sewerage Program (WASP) for operational expenditure to assist regional councils to maintain aging water and sewerage infrastructure with ongoing funding certainty over the long-term.
2. In the immediate term, make capital funding available through the continuation of the successful Building our Regions program (Round 6) to address the backlog of water and sewerage asset renewal programs and deliver projects that support and diversify local economies

Resolution 33 (2021) – Community Service Obligation – Water, Waste & Sewerage Services

That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to investigate a Community Services Obligation payment to Local Government for supply of water, waste and sewerage services to achieve cost neutrality of their water, waste and sewerage services.
