

24 April 2024

National Water Reform 2024
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

Submission in response to the National Water Reform 2024 Interim Report

Urban Utilities welcomes the opportunity provided by the Productivity Commission to submit our feedback on the National Water Reform 2024 Draft Report released 4 April 2024.

Urban Utilities supports the findings and recommendations made by the Commission in their interim report. A renewed and modernised National Water Initiative will bring clarity and strength to the cross-jurisdictional responses needed to overcome the collective challenges Urban Utilities and other service providers face in continuing to provide effective, equitable and efficient water and wastewater services.

Urban Utilities is pleased to see that the Commission's advice, that liveability and affordability should form part of the modernised objectives for service provision, remains unchanged from the 2020 Inquiry report.

Urban Utilities welcomes the renewed attention on robust reporting requirements to support transparency and accountability. Urban Utilities recommends that the Commission consider that aggregation and communication of reporting be conducted in a way that promotes clarity in the roles, accountabilities and performance of specific organisations involved. Where appropriate, organisations and agencies should be accountable for their own performance and reporting obligations towards a national framework.

Urban Utilities would welcome the opportunity to discuss this recommendation, and those made in our submission to the National Water Reform 2020 inquiry, which remain relevant to this review, with the Commission further.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rob Fearon
General Manager, City and Regional Futures
Integrated Solutions
Urban Utilities