



Australian Government
Infrastructure Australia

3 November 2010

Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East,
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to make a submission to your inquiry on behalf of Infrastructure Australia.

Infrastructure Australia was established as a Statutory body in 2008 to provide advice to the Australian Government on how it might assist in removing nationally significant gaps in the transport, energy, communications and water sectors.

Infrastructure Australia's initial audit to identify the most significant gaps in the water sector raised concerns about the adequacy of action to secure the water supplies of Australia's major cities and the quality and security of water supplies for regional towns.

Infrastructure Australia engaged PriceWaterhouseCoopers to review the situation for major cities' water security. The Infrastructure Australia Council endorses the findings and recommendations in the report. The Commission has already referenced the report from that review in its issues paper. I now formally submit that report for consideration by the Commission. The report is available at <http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/publications.aspx>


Infrastructure Australia engaged Aecom to review the situation for regional towns' water quality and security. Infrastructure Australia will soon release the report from this review and will seek to formally submit that report for consideration by the Commission.

Both the urban water security and the regional towns water quality and security reviews concluded that there is a need for reform of current planning, regulatory and institutional arrangements so as to ensure a better outcome for all Australians.

The conclusions and recommendations in Infrastructure Australia's reviews respond directly to many of the questions posed in the Commission's initial issues paper.

Rather than repeat the conclusions and recommendations from each of those reports in this letter, I submit them for the Commission's consideration. I would be pleased to elaborate on this submission and to discuss issues with

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Commissioners at the proposed public hearing in Canberra on 29 November 2010.

Yours sincerely

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