

**From:** Richard Koerner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 4 August 2013 1:13 PM  
**To:** Catherine Barker  
**Subject:** QCA 2013-15 SEQ Prices Monitoring investigation supplementary public submission  
**Attachments:** Ministerlocal gov1.doc; MinisterLG2.pdf

This email contains an attachment that may be work related and must be filed into the DMS. If you need assistance with this please contact the Executive Officer at [REDACTED].

Attn. Ms Catherine Barker

Dear Ms Barker,

I refer to the communication below and its accompanying attachments.


Please also consider the attached communication exchange with the Minister for Local Government having responsibility for administration of Local Government Act provisions relating to water service pricing oversight in the development of the annual budgets of council controlled commercial business subsidiaries such as Unitywater. No confidentiality restrictions apply to this correspondence exchange.

Please also note the Minister's assertion in paragraph 2 of 8 June 2012 which suggests governance failure and accountability avoidance given the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Regional Council's prices oversight obligations under the Qld. Local Government Act.

Kind regards,

Richard Koerner

**Richard J. Koerner Ph.D.(Qld), M.E.Sc., B.C.E (Melb), MICE**  
**Strategic Management / Econometric Market Analysis - ABN 26 021 850 787**



2 May 2012

Hon. David Crisafulli MP  
Minister for Local Government  
PO Box 15216  
City East  
Brisbane Qld. 4002

Dear Hon. Minister,

There are serious governance issues I wish to bring to your attention relating to ongoing water and sewerage service charges being experienced by residents of the Sunshine Coast and throughout South East Queensland (SEQ) since the former government first committed to adoption of COAG water reforms in 1999/2000.

Correspondence supporting this contention is posted on the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) 2011/12 SEQ Prices Monitoring investigation web-site as submissions #1 through #24, and can be accessed via the link: <http://www.qca.org.au/water/SEQRetailPriceMon/1112review.php>.

A cover-up involving monopoly pricing abuse by Maroochy Water Services, Sunshine Coast Water, and now Unitywater was initially orchestrated by senior officers of Maroochy Council and Queensland Treasury. This cover-up was condoned by past Ministers QCA and Ministers for Natural Resources and Water Utilities of the former government.

Terms of reference given QCA to conduct its prices monitoring investigation for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 by the former government prevented performance of statutory obligations with respect to consumer protection. This is highlighted in the enclosed extract from the 2011/12 SEQ prices monitoring investigation's Final Report - Part B. A public submission on the QCA's 2011/12 draft investigation reports dated 8 February is also enclosed for your background information.

Households in the former service area of Maroochy Water Services have suffered predatory pricing in excess of the maximum allowable revenue of some \$200 million over the last decade, and the scandal continues. Please take up the matters described in paragraphs one and two of page 265 in the interests of all residents now located in the service area of Unitywater and on behalf of all households in South East Queensland now suffering predatory water pricing at the hands of SEQwater.

Yours sincerely,

R..J. Koerner  
Former External Director  
Maroochy Water Services Advisory Board

Enc: Pages 264 and 265 of 2011/12 SEQ Interim Price Monitoring Final Report Part - B  
Public submission dated 8 February 2012



Hon David Crisafulli MP  
Minister for Local Government

Our ref: MC12/1214 MC12/1423  
TRANSMIN 0324 Ministerial 10: 29

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- 8 JUN 2012

Dr Richard Koerner



Dear Dr Koerner

Thank you for your letter of 2 May and email of 22 May 2012 regarding water and sewerage charges levied on Sunshine Coast Regional Council (the Council) ratepayers by Unitywater and the de-amalgamation of Council.

While I note your concerns regarding water and sewerage charges, this matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Mark McArdle MP, Minister for Energy and Water Supply. I have therefore referred your correspondence to Minister McArdle for consideration and direct reply.

In relation to the de-amalgamation of Council, I have already commenced the arrangements necessary to implement the LNP policy to establish the position of a Queensland Boundaries Commissioner who will be responsible for assessing de-amalgamation proposals.

Key factors in considering whether a de-amalgamation proposal should be referred by myself to the Boundaries Commissioner include:

- a community-driven submission demonstrating a high level of support for the de-amalgamation
- acknowledgement in the submission that the proposed new local government area will bear the total cost of de-amalgamation, and
- analysis showing that the new local government will be financially viable into the future.

I will be releasing further details in relation to the process within the next month.

If you require further information, please contact Richard Ferrett, Chief of Staff on 3234 1870, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli MP  
Minister for Local Government