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Dr Malcolm Roberts
Chair
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane QLD 4001

12 October 2026

Dear Dr Roberts

Re: Price Monitoring Investigation: Urban Utilities 2026-30

We make this submission on behalf of Ipswich City Council as a shareholder of Urban Utilities in relation to the Price Monitoring Investigation currently being undertaken in relation to Urban Utilities. We note that the timeframe for submissions was by 5 October 2026 and respectfully request that you give consideration to this late submission in the Price Monitoring Investigation.

As you are aware, Urban Utilities shareholders are all local governments in the Queensland public sector who historically transitioned from their own water operations to a shared delivery model. As such, negative financial outcomes for Urban Utilities have negative flow on impacts and consequences to Councils, such as Ipswich City Council.

Local governments, such as Ipswich City Council, receive just three (3) cents for every dollar of taxation in Australia, while the Federal Government receives 81 cents. The vast majority of revenue for service delivery to the community is derived from rates, fees and charges levied on Ipswich ratepayers.

Sustained downward financial pressure on Urban Utilities may not only impact their financial capacity to deliver waste and wastewater services now and into the future, it is also likely to reduce future financial returns to shareholder councils, which will place additional pressure on councils' ability to fund community services and infrastructure over time.

Urban Utilities' Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) submission highlights the scale of investment required to support population growth, housing delivery and economic development across South East Queensland.

For Ipswich, Queensland's fastest-growing local government area, the timely delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure is particularly important to unlocking new housing and supporting continued economic development.



A key theme of the submission is that infrastructure must be delivered ahead of growth. For Ipswich, this means ensuring water and wastewater infrastructure keeps pace with new communities and development, helping to unlock housing supply and support jobs and investment.

Ipswich's growth requires significant investment in new and upgraded water and wastewater infrastructure. Effective coordination between Council, Urban Utilities, developers and the State Government will be critical to ensuring infrastructure is appropriately planned, funded and sequenced with development.

The submission recognises the challenge of maintaining affordable services while delivering the infrastructure needed for growth, reliability and renewal. This balance is particularly important in Ipswich, where substantial infrastructure investment will be required to support new housing while managing cost-of-living impacts for existing customers.

Urban Utilities continues to advocate for State Government funding mechanisms, including the joint Federal and State Governments' Infrastructure Activation Fund, to support growth-enabling water and wastewater infrastructure. Broader access to government infrastructure funding would help unlock housing and development while reducing the extent to which growth-related costs need to be recovered from customers.

Urban Utilities' investment program also includes the renewal of ageing assets and improvements to network resilience. For Ipswich, ensuring infrastructure can continue to perform through population growth and extreme weather events is an important part of maintaining reliable services for existing and future communities.

Supporting Ipswich's growth will require close collaboration between Council, Urban Utilities and the State Government. Alignment of land use planning, infrastructure investment and government funding will be increasingly important as new communities are delivered.

Urban Utilities' QCA submission reinforces that water and wastewater infrastructure is fundamental to unlocking housing supply and supporting Ipswich's continued growth.

Ensuring this infrastructure can be delivered at the right time, while maintaining affordability, will require strong coordination and appropriate government investment in growth-enabling infrastructure.

Thank you in anticipation of the QCA's consideration of this submission by Ipswich City Council.

Yours sincerely



Sonia Cooper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Teresa Harding
MAYOR OF IPSWICH