

## QCA irrigation workshop: issues arising

*[This note records issues identified and views expressed by stakeholders present at the meeting. The QCA is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the QCA's final report.]*

**Scheme/(s):** Bundaberg WSS and distribution system

**Location:** Bundaberg

**Date:** Wednesday 25 September 2019

### General

- Concern raised about stakeholder's ability to respond to and comment on the QCA's recommendations regarding Sunwater's supplementary submissions on access charge and electricity pass through mechanism. Query whether the QCA would put a draft position on the access charge and electricity cost pass through mechanism out for stakeholder comment.
- Concern raised about Sunwater's level of consultation with stakeholders regarding the proposed access charge and electricity cost pass through mechanism.

### Costs

- Query as to whether the QCA benchmarked Sunwater against other businesses, and if the QCA looked into efficiency gains.
- Query as to how the QCA is going to measure support/agreement for an electricity cost pass through mechanism. Will this involve a vote?
- Concerns were raised about the appropriateness of an electricity pass through mechanism, since irrigators can't pass through their increased costs to customers.

### Draft prices

- There was suggestion that the 5 per cent transfer of costs from the Bundaberg distribution system to the bulk system (to account for bulk water transferred through the Gin Gin main channel) may need updating. This is because more water could need transferring through the channel to supplement bulk supplies, as a result of the recent announcement that Paradise dam levels are being reduced.
- Some stakeholders suggested that more water has been used since the construction of Paradise dam.
- Query as how the QCA will assess whether Sunwater's proposed \$950 access charge is efficient.