

Address all communications
to the Chief Executive Officer

Our Ref: OLG
Your Ref:
Enquiries to:



4th February 2008

Inquiry on Competition in the
Water and Waste Water Sector
Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth WA BCWA6849

Attention Greg Watkinson

Dear Greg,

I attended the Australian Water Associations Meeting to formulate its response to the above draft report recently. While many of the issues do not directly affect Busseton Water, Recommendation 17 under the heading of Regional and Remote Operations, could be seen to potentially directly affect all three of the existing South West water service providers. It is unclear from the wording within the recommendation as to whether the reconfigurations being discussed are between water services alone or waste water services alone or a combination of both. Notwithstanding this, it is felt that the recommendation is largely incomplete in that without the further investigation referred to, no cost savings or added costs can be identified. Therefore it is felt that the following needs to be borne in mind in proceeding with the recommendations.

- Any further investigation should be conducted by an independent third party, preferably one with a high level of experience and a high profile in the water industry.
- Any such investigation should fully involve all service providers concerned.
- Any such investigation should not be allowed to be protracted as inevitably resources will be consumed, and a protracted inquiry can result in ongoing uncertainty for the parties involved.

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- Any investigations of this sort need to weigh up not only added costs/savings but also need to balance these against social and customer service obligations which the water service providers may hold, or which are necessary for the well being of the community as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

Keith White
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER