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Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Via email: [ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016* ("the Bill").

As you will be aware, the Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority, trading as Queensland Urban Utilities (QUU), is a statutory authority established as a "Distributor-Retailer" pursuant to the *South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* (Qld) ("DR Act").

As such, QUU's core responsibility is the provision of essential water and wastewater services in the geographic area of its five participating local governments which are:

- Brisbane City Council;
- Ipswich City Council;
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council; and
- Somerset Regional Council.

Supporting delivery of these functions and the needs of a changing community and business environment requires significant operational and strategic planning measures, which in turn, have a substantial cost impact on the overall operations of QUU. This ultimately impacts upon the "price" that the end consumer pays for essential water and wastewater services.

QUU recognises that the Bill's objective is to set up the statutory framework for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (**Authority**) to plan, carry out, promote or coordinate activities to facilitate economic development, and development for community purposes, in a cross river rail PDA. This includes the power to take land required for a cross river rail purpose, in accordance with the proposed section 20 of the Bill.

This could potentially include the power to collect charges, such as rates and infrastructure charges, in accordance with the *Economic Development Act 2012*. QUU recognises the importance of a single

independent statutory body to oversee this important economic development project and manage the delivery of the below and above ground development associated with the Cross River Rail.

Despite it being QUU's sole responsibility for planning, constructing and maintaining QUU's water and wastewater networks within QUU's geographic service areas, QUU has not been afforded adequate negotiations with the collection of infrastructure charges within areas of state or priority development areas governed by the Minister for EDQ. As such, we consider this bill an opportune time to raise this concern with the parliamentary committee.

We ask that the following concerns be considered:

- The Authority be asked to consult appropriately and provide substantive input to the State regarding QUU's involvement in the development of planning and infrastructure assumptions and processes;
- The Authority be responsive to the growing demand for cost effective water and wastewater services in QUU's geographic area;
- The Authority considers the wider catchment when considering water and wastewater infrastructure delivery.

If any further clarification is required, please contact Glenn Ziernik, Acting Development Services Manager [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**PAUL BELZ**  
EXECUTIVE LEADER – PLANNING  
Queensland Urban Utilities