

Submission no. 033
27 February 2014
11.1.15



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27 February 2014

The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission to State Development, Industry and Infrastructure Committee -
Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Queensland Urban Utilities welcomes the proposed Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. In particular, Queensland Urban Utilities strongly supports the proposed amendments to the South-east Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to provide a stream-lined water and sewerage connection approval process referred to as the Utility Model.

Queensland Urban Utilities considers the Utility Model to be a vital step towards reducing red tape for the development industry, South-east Queensland Councils and distributor-retailers. Providing a simple single approval to replace the current multiple approvals required to connect new development to water and sewerage services will save time and money for Queensland Urban Utilities and its customers.

The Bill's pragmatic approach to regulation enables Queensland Urban Utilities to adopt efficient and customer focused business processes that have not been possible under existing legislation. This Bill also enables Queensland Urban Utilities to introduce a range of industry supported initiatives such as third-party certification for water and sewerage works. Importantly, approval processes that are flexible and can be tailored such that simple developments can be connected quickly at minimal cost.

Queensland Urban Utilities notes that the Bill incorporates infrastructure charging provisions based on the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and that the State Government has foreshadowed further changes to these provisions as part of a broader State infrastructure charges review.

Queensland Urban Utilities is already working closely with its shareholding Councils and development industry customers to establish the new utility model arrangements.

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Queensland Urban Utilities is also collaborating with Unitywater to ensure a regionally consistent approach.

Queensland Urban Utilities has a funded and well-established program of work to implement the business systems and capability needed to introduce the Utility Model. Queensland Urban Utilities is confident that it will be ready to commence the new arrangements from 1 July 2014 and will provide a smooth transition for development industry customers.

Queensland Urban Utilities commends the Bill to the Committee and the Queensland Parliament.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact Paul Belz, Executive Leader Planning on (07) 3855 6601.

Yours sincerely



LOUISE DUDLEY
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Urban Utilities