



ENQUIRIES: Mark Wuth
PHONE: 4044 3044
YOUR REF: 11.1.15C
OUR REF: #4290035

28 February 2014

Submission no. 063
28 February 2014
11.1.15

The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and
Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear MP David Gibson

**RE: Invitation to make a submission to an inquiry into the Water Supply Services
legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Views of Cairns Regional Council Water and Waste

Cairns Regional Council is largely supportive of the legislative changes designed to reduce the regulatory burden, however until the release of the KPI's discussed in the legislation it is difficult to assess the level of benefit to be expected.

Impact of the proposed legislation

Eliminating the need for various management plans (Strategic Asset, Drought, leakage) will reduce compliance related activities such as annual reports, audits and reviews. However we believe the production of such plans still represent "best trade practice" for a capable water service provider. We would still support a structure that retained an obligation to have such plans, removed the requirements for annual reports, audits and reviews, but retains a broad power for DEWS to requisition a provider if the plans were considered to be manifestly inadequate or outdated.

Removal of the requirement to produce Water Usage Advices for tenants of properties is viewed favourably by Cairns Regional Council. The production of these notices is expensive and largely ineffective in our experience especially in areas not serviced by Australia Post.

Allowing works to be conducted by unlicensed plumbers is supported but needs to be fully understood by organisations given that the responsibility for any risk to public health still rests with the organisation selecting and employing such staff as outlined in s45.

Alternatives or Changes Recommended

Cairns Regional Council Water and Waste recommends investigating the extension of section 53CLA - *Functions of a water connection officer* to 53DNH - *Recovery of costs of water connection compliance action* from being SEQ specific to applying to all of Queensland as this would also align with the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Wuth, Water and Waste's Coordinator of Regulatory and Systems Support on 4044 3044; m.wuth@cairns.qld.gov.au or at PO BOX 359 CAIRNS QLD 4870.

Yours faithfully



Paul Utting
General Manager Water and Waste
Cairns Regional Council