



23 October 2017

Committee Secretary
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

SunWater Limited
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Dear Secretariat

Irrigation Water Meter Installation Requirements under the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017

SunWater manages a regional network of bulk water supply infrastructure that spans across Queensland to support around 5,000 customers in the mining, power, industrial, local government and irrigated agricultural sectors. SunWater's 23 water supply schemes across the state contain irrigation water offtakes on channels, watercourses and pipelines. SunWater installs approximately 30 non-urban irrigation water meters per year on channels and watercourses, with a smaller number estimated for meters on pipelines.

In response to your recommendation provided to SunWater on 16 March 2016, SunWater wrote to the Minister for Housing and Public Works recommending that the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (Qld) be amended to make it clear that other meters that form part of a service provider's infrastructure (such as bulk meters or meters used for bulk water supply for irrigation purposes) are not plumbing and the installation of those meters is not plumbing work.

SunWater notes that the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017 (Qld) proposes to include a definition of retail water service which specifically excludes an irrigation service or bulk water service in any area. The effect of the amendment will be that SunWater will not be required to engage a licenced plumber to install water meters for irrigation or bulk water services. As a majority of SunWater's irrigation and bulk water meters are in remote locations, the proposed changes will lead to internal efficiencies and improved services for our customers and communities.

SunWater appreciates the cooperation of Public Works and Utilities Committee and the Department of Housing and Public Works in addressing SunWater's concerns and would like our thanks to be put on the record.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colijn Bendall".

Colijn Bendall
Executive General Manager
Operations & Services