

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 793

asked on 31 October 2013

MR PITT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MR MCARDLE)—

QUESTION:

Has the Minister been provided with or sought any information or advice from the department regarding the potential impact on service delivery that the divestment of SunWater assets servicing commercial and industrial clients, as outlined in recommendation 27 of the Costello Report and if so, will the Minister provide a copy of that advice for the benefit of the House and if not, why has the Minister not sought any advice on this matter?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Commission of Audit (CoA) Final Report, along with the Queensland Government's response, was released publicly on 30 April 2013. The CoA recommendations suggested that the Government consider restructure and divestment options for a number of Government owned businesses/assets, including the commercial and industrial water supply infrastructure held by SunWater. Specifically, the Government's response highlighted that "it sees the core role of SunWater to be the management of regional bulk water" and that, on this basis, "the government will evaluate each proposal for divestment on its commercial merits". A scoping study is being prepared to consider potential options in relation to this recommendation for consideration by Government.

As noted in the Government's response to the CoA Final Report, the Government does not currently have a policy to sell government businesses and remains fully committed to seeking a mandate from the Queensland people before divesting itself of any government business.