



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation

Supplementary questions: Bogan Shire Council

1. What has been your experience with funding programs such as the Safe and Secure Water Program and Town Water Risk Reduction Program? What improvements could be made to these programs to benefit your council?

Bogan Shire Council has had positive experiences with both the SSWP and the TWRRP and supports their continuance generally in a similar form to the existing model (albeit with increased funding available through the programs)

2. Do you support a community service obligation (CSO) funding model for local water utilities? If so, why would this be preferable to other funding models?

Bogan Shire Council has reservations about a CSO funding model, without seeing any detail on how such a scheme would function. In general, the delivery of services to local communities should be managed as closely as possible to the recipient communities and Council would be concerned if a State-funded CSO model came with strings attached as to the allocation of funds, determination of needs, etc.

Council is relatively comfortable with the existing model where services to smaller outlying communities are funded through “pooling” of water charges across the Council area (supplemented by capital grants). Additional funding for Councils directed to operational and maintenance costs would alleviate the financial burden of servicing non-economic users while retaining local control and coordination.

