

**Submission
No 6**

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES
FROM PRIVATISATION**

Organisation: Orange City Council

Date Received: 2 November 2023

D23/84471

1 November 2023

The Hon. Stephen Lawrence, MLC
Chair, Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Email: waterutilities@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Lawrence

INQUIRY INTO PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES FROM PRIVATISATION

Orange City Council supports institutional arrangements that maintain local government responsibility for the operation and management of water supply and sewerage services and infrastructure in regional NSW. Council opposes the transfer of council provided water supply and sewerage services to state owned water corporations or their privatisation.

- **Privatisation of Local Water Utilities**
Orange City Council supports protections against privatisation. It is however acknowledged that many Local Water Utilities in regional NSW don't have the scale to specialise in many water related functions. A degree of outsourcing to the private sector is common to all current publicly owned water utility models within Australia and overseas, metropolitan or regional/remote
- **Forced Amalgamations**
Orange City Council supports the long-held position of Local Government NSW opposing forced amalgamation. Council supports collaborative models at a regional level (Regional Water Alliances) between councils to retain local community involvement and control over water and sewerage services.
- **Sell off of Local Water Utilities**
Orange City Council supports any legislation proposed by the NSW government to prevent sell-offs.

Orange City Council recommends increased attention be paid to a whole of government approach to its oversight and support for water service provision in NSW. There are significant regulatory hurdles in water service provision. Council supports a more streamlined, coordinated, strategic regulatory approach between Federal, State and Local Governments.

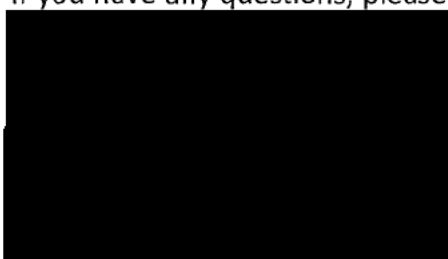
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Council supports the NSW Water Directorate and the Central NSW Joint Organisation call for all water related agencies to collaborate and invest in water utility resilience for regional water providers through capacity building, improved water utility risk management and non-asset solutions such as digital technology and improved access to water operator training in regional NSW.

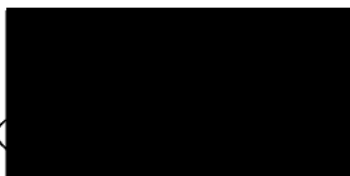
The submissions from the NSW Water Directorate and the Central NSW Joint Organisation are fully endorsed by Orange City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Council's Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager,



David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Cr Jason Hamling

MAYOR