

**Submission
No 13**

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

Organisation: Bellingen Shire Council

Date Received: 27 October 2023

Bellinghen Shire Council strongly believes that only ownership by Local Government can protect and deliver a safe and affordable water supply and sewerage services to residents. Privatisation would ultimately lead to a decline in service levels and an increase in price to consumers.

Ownership of water utilities by Local Government also provides an extremely important revenue stream to Councils, without this revenue stream many Councils may become financially unviable. This will ultimately lead to greater financial reliance on State and Federal funding to deliver essential services.

Locally owned water utilities, support local employment, both directly and indirectly with all the local sales and services required by local utilities. Selling utilities off to large corporations may inflict significant harm to the local economies. Ultimately, Local Utilities are owned by the rate payer and are not a State asset to be sold off or privatised.