

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 October, 2009

NEW WATER BUSINESS FOR FIVE SEQ COUNCILS

An agreement between five South East Queensland Mayors will change the face of water and wastewater service delivery for more than 1.3 million people when **Queensland Urban Utilities** opens for business.

The agreement means residents in the Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset local authority areas will all be served by a single, jointly owned water retail and distribution business from July next year.

Brisbane City Council's water distribution and retail business units will be the first to operate under the Queensland Urban Utilities name, from November 2009.

Brisbane ratepayers will no longer pay for water and wastewater services as part of their Brisbane City Council rate notice. From January, customers will receive a separate water bill from Queensland Urban Utilities.

Residents of the Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset council areas can continue to contact their local council about water and wastewater services until July 2010.

At this date, Queensland Urban Utilities will become a statutory authority supplying residents in the five council areas with their water and wastewater services.

The new water business is being established in response to the State Government's restructure of the South East Queensland water industry.

Queensland Urban Utilities will:

- buy water from the State Government-owned SEQ Water Grid Manager and deliver it to more than 1.3 million residents
- collect, treat and dispose of sewage
- manage and maintain \$4.4 billion of infrastructure and assets, including water supply mains and sewer networks
- operate water and sewage pumping stations
- provide a specialised recycled water service to a number of businesses
- manage and issue accounts for household and commercial water and sewerage services and trade waste disposal.

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Residents in each council area will receive information about the new water business and what it means for them.

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For media enquiries, contact:

Brisbane City Council	Michael Corkill Senior Media Advisor, Lord Mayor's Office Tel: (07) 3403 4299
Ipswich City Council	Cr Paul Pisasale, Mayor Mobile: 0418 743 089 or the Media Unit on (07) 3810 6875
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Jason Cubit Media and Communications Coordinator (07) 5462 0345
Scenic Rim Regional Council	Nick O'Connor, Office of the Mayor and Chief Executive (07) 5540 5114
Somerset Regional Council	Cr Graeme Lehmann, Mayor (07) 5424 4000

For more information on Queensland Urban Utilities
Please call the Corporate Communication unit on (07) 3403 3257

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