

## STATEMENT

### Gladstone Regional Council Prospective Bulk Water Prices

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is disappointed the Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) did not take up our financial support packages, which would have provided them with financial relief.

GAWB took COVID-19 pressures into account and offered additional financial relief to Gladstone Regional Council in the form of two possible financial support packages.

Both packages included an incremental price increase that was well below the final outcome of the independent QCA investigation and represented almost \$2 million in possible cost savings for GRC.

This is in addition to the Queensland Government's \$300 million household relief package which gives Queensland households \$200 off their utility bills.

Unfortunately, as council did not accept either of these offers, GAWB is now implementing the bulk water prices recommended by the QCA.

GAWB does not set end-to-end water prices for residential consumers in the Gladstone region – this is the responsibility of Gladstone Regional Council.

#### **On Background:**

As the sole provider of bulk water services to the Gladstone region, Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is periodically reviewed by the independent regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to ensure it operates prudently and efficiently and its prices are appropriate.

The most recent price investigation by the QCA covered prospective bulk water prices for the 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2025 period. In early June 2020, the QCA published its Final Report on the investigation. GAWB's forecast capital program and operating expenditure was found to be appropriate and the price monitoring investigation concluded.

Both GAWB and the QCA undertook a robust public consultation process that all customers, the community and external stakeholders had the opportunity to participate in - including Gladstone Regional Council (GRC).

**Ends.**

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Grace Duckham (07) 4976 3054 / 0438 673 776