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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Review of Gladstone Area Water Board's 2021-2025 prices

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has lodged its regulatory submission with the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA), a key milestone for the 2021-25 price monitoring investigation.

As the sole provider of bulk water services to the Gladstone region, GAWB is periodically reviewed to ensure it operates prudently and efficiently. The investigation covers prospective water prices for the 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2025 period.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer, Darren Barlow, said the review would provide an independent assessment of GAWB's capital and operating expenditure, along with the rationale behind its water demand forecasts for the next five years.

"The purpose of this external review is to ensure the prices we charge for water are reasonable given the costs GAWB incurs when it invests in and maintains water delivery infrastructure for the Gladstone region.

"The cost of water varies according to the needs of each individual customer, and our proposed pricing model reflects that. It's not a 'one size fits all' approach," Mr. Barlow said.

"A combination of asset replacement, regulatory and compliance investments are the key drivers of our capital investment program for the next five years. This is to ensure that GAWB can continue to provide the secure and reliable services expected by our customers now and into the future."

In developing the submission GAWB has also engaged proactively with both customers and the community via a detailed consultation program.

"It was critically important to ensure the submission reflected the needs of our customers and the local community. They have directly contributed to the development our submission – something that we're very proud of," Mr. Barlow said.

The QCA is required to release a draft report of its investigation by 28 February 2020 and a final report by 29 May 2020.

More information can be found on the QCA website, <https://www.qca.org.au/Water>

**Ends.**

**For more information, please contact:**

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