

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. 1445715 * 1404
Hon Jackie Trad MP - Deputy Premier Minister for Transport Minister for Infrastructure
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

2015-16 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP).
2. 1445734 * 894
Local Government Association Of Qld Ltd - LGAQ

LGAQ Circular - 2015-036 - Government Yet to Make a Formal Decision on Sunwater
Bulk Water Pricing.
3. 1446079 * 411
Legal Affairs And Community Safety Committee

Electoral (Redistribution Commission) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015.
4. 1446455 * 17
Funny Dunny Park Patrons

Letter of Thanks - Funny Dunny Park - Wunjunga.
5. 1446681 * 894
Annastacia Palaszczuk MP - Premier of Queensland & Minister for the Arts

Request to Light Up Monuments and Buildings - Going Gold for September - 8-14
September 2015.
6. 1448170 * 449
Local Government Association Of Qld Ltd - LGAQ

LGAQ Circular - 2015-041 - Stock Route Management Bill on the Move Again.
7. 1448723 * 7
Hon Jackie Trad MP - Deputy Premier Minister for Transport Minister for Infrastructure
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Release of the 2015-15 Community Resilience Fund (CRF) - Applications Open 30 July
2015.



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MBN15/114

21 July 2015

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Councillor Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lewis

I am pleased to announce the release of the 2015-16 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP). The 2015-16 LGGSP provides State funding assistance to eligible applicants to support the delivery of priority infrastructure projects.

Applications for funding under the 2015-16 LGGSP opened on 14 July 2015. The application form, certification form and program guidelines are available on the Department's website, www.dilgp.qld.gov.au. Eligible applicants are invited to lodge applications for funding by 25 August 2015. I anticipate that successful projects will be announced from October 2015.

Under the 2015-16 LGGSP guidelines, eligible applicants may apply for a subsidy of up to 40 per cent of the total eligible costs of the project. Applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria outlined in the guidelines.

I am very keen to ensure that communities see the benefits of LGGSP projects and the job creation that these projects will provide as quickly as possible. Under the 2015-16 funding arrangements, successful applicants will have 12 months from the date a funding agreement is executed to implement the approved projects. I appreciate that in certain circumstances the project complexity may require a longer funding period, and this will be negotiated on a case by case basis.

Mr Stephen Johnston, Acting Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, has written to Chief Executive Officers advising of the release of the 2015-16 LGGSP and the process for submitting applications.

If you require any further information, I encourage you to contact Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region on (07) 4758 3419 or by email at jo.stephenson@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Circular

Government Yet to Make a Formal Decision on Sunwater Bulk Water Pricing

For Information

Circular: 2015-036
Release Date: Thursday, 23 July 2015
Authorised by: Greg Hallam PSM Chief Executive Officer

Councils should insist on only CPI increases to SunWater contracts

The LGAQ understands that the majority of the current SunWater agreements (along with others which have expired) with councils will require renewal in 2015. Consequently, the Association is seeking an urgent commitment from the State Government to develop a fair and consistent approach to SunWater bulk water pricing in regional Queensland, taking into account hardship and cost of living pressures. In the absence of a State Government decision on this issue, we are encouraging local governments to accept only CPI increases to their contracts if they must be renegotiated.

SunWater pricing has been a significant concern for many council customers since mid-2012 when new price paths were proposed by the Queensland Competition Authority. In the worst instance, price increases of up to \$2.7 million per annum were projected, which would equate to over \$300 per annum on water bills for customers already dealing with other significant cost of living increases.

The LGAQ and *qlidwater* are aware of this issue and continue to work with the Department of Energy and Water Supply to find an acceptable outcome for councils. SunWater pricing was included in our introductory brief to Minister Bailey sent shortly after the recent State elections. Recent concerns were tabled with the LGAQ Policy Executive, which supported continuing engagement with the State to find a suitable resolution.

Background:

The Queensland Competition Authority reviewed the pricing for SunWater irrigation schemes in 2012, recommending a full-cost recovery price path from 2012-2017. [Despite accepting the recommendation](#) of the Queensland Competition Authority to pursue full cost price path from 2012-2017 in its water schemes in July 2012, the Queensland Government has not yet made a decision on how to implement the recommendation. The then Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the Hon Mark McArdle MP, and Treasurer, the Hon Tim Nicholls MP, sought advice from SunWater on the impact of its proposed pricing in the first half of 2014. The results of this investigation are unknown to the Association; however, SunWater contacted most impacted councils in June 2014 to advise that until the State had issued a clear direction it would be negotiating an annual agreement with its customers proposing only CPI increases.

The key things that are considered when determining pricing include: priority of the allocation (High, Medium, Low), allocation volume, and a two-part tariff. The tariff establishes a rate per mega litre for water under an allocation (Part A), and a higher rate per mega litre for water over an allocation (Part B or other charge). While pricing is suggested by the Queensland Competition Authority, the Department of Energy and Water Supply ultimately decides on the pricing with a direction from the Minister.

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SunWater provides water services to irrigators operating within 22 bulk water supply schemes and eight distribution systems. In total, SunWater manages approximately 50,000 water assets that service approximately 5000 customers including irrigators. 20 councils have contracts with SunWater.

For more information contact Arron Hieatt, Senior Advisor for Water and Sewerage Infrastructure at arron_hieatt@lgaq.asn.au or 3000 2237.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Ph: 07 3553 6641 Fax: 07 3553 6699
Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc

Our Ref: 11.1.5b

22 July 2015

Dear Stakeholder

Electoral (Redistribution Commission) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (committee) is a committee of the Legislative Assembly which has responsibilities in the portfolio areas of Justice and the Attorney-General, Training and Skills, and Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Part of the committee's role is to examine Bills in these portfolio areas on behalf of, and report back to, the Legislative Assembly.

On 15 July 2015, Mr Ian Walker MP, Member for Mansfield, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice, Industrial Relations and The Arts introduced the Electoral (Redistribution Commission) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015 into the Queensland Parliament.

The Bill now stands referred to the committee for detailed consideration.

The committee is required to report to the Parliament by **11 September 2015**.

Objectives of the Bill

The objectives of the Bill are to:

1. Provide for broader representation in the Redistribution Commission by increasing the membership of the Commission from 3 to 5 members. In the interests of transparency, the appointments of all Commissioners, with the exception of the Electoral Commissioner who has already undergone a separate appointment process, be subject to the approval of the leaders of all recognised parties represented in the Legislative Assembly.
2. Implement a recommendation by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission by providing that the independent Redistribution Commission has the ability to determine the number of electoral districts in the Legislative Assembly, subject to a maximum increase of up to 5 additional electoral districts, i.e. the total seats in the assembly would at the commissions discretion be between 89 and 94.
3. Provide that Queenslanders have more equitable access to representation in the Parliament by legislating for the Redistribution Commission to have the capacity, at its discretion, to amend the additional large district number, currently set at 2%, up to 4%.

Call for Submissions

The committee is seeking submissions from the public and identified stakeholders and invites you to make a written submission.

An information sheet which provides guidelines on making a submission can be found at:

http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/guidelines/Guide_MakingASubmission_WebVersion.pdf

We would appreciate you passing our call for submissions on to anyone you believe might be interested in this issue. Written submissions should be emailed to lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au or sent to:

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

The closing date for submissions is **4:00 pm on Friday, 14 August 2015**

Public Briefing and Hearings

The committee will hold a:

- public briefing on **Thursday, 30 July 2015 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**; and
- public hearing on **Tuesday, 25 August 2015 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am**.

These public meetings will be broadcast live on the Parliamentary website, [here](#). Further information will be available in due course.

The committee may also hold a small number of public hearings away from Brisbane. Further information will be provided on the committee's webpage, and via the committee's email subscriber updates, in due course.

The committee will hear from invited witnesses only, on the proposals being advanced under the Bill.

Other Information

The [Electoral \(Redistribution Commission\) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015](#) and [Explanatory Notes](#) are available from the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

The Hansard transcript of the explanatory speech for the Bill can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any queries please contact the committee secretariat on (07) 3553 6641, or by email lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'M Furner'.

Mr Mark Furner MP

Chair

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL	
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24 JUL 2015	
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VIEW	EHC	AGENDA	C1-2
	Ghh	DATE	11/8/15
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To Whom It May Concern

Thank you so much

for this lovely stop

over spot. We really

enjoyed our time

here.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

RECEIVED
21 JUL 2015
BY: [Signature]
2 15-00pm

24 JUL 2015



Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Arts

For reply please quote: AS/EC – TF/15/9553 – DOC/15/81836

23 July 2015

Councillor Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL	
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27 JUL 2015	
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Dear Councillor Lewis

Going Gold for September is an initiative which encourages us to light commemorative monuments, statues or buildings gold throughout September in support of childhood cancer awareness.

Mr Declan Hegarty and Miss Keely Johnson, both sufferers of childhood cancers, began the Going Gold for September initiative in 2013. I was saddened to hear of Declan's passing and am very pleased Miss Johnson is continuing her endeavour to raise money and awareness for this important cause.

In Brisbane, Parliament House will be lit gold once again throughout September, and Kurilpa Bridge from 8 to 14 September. I would appreciate it if you would consider lighting monuments and buildings in your local area gold.

Lighting assets is a small but effective way to contribute to this important issue, which has far reaching and long lasting consequences, not only for those young people who are ill, but also for the family and friends of those suffering from childhood cancer.

For any further information, please contact Ms Angie Scott, Sponsorship and Policy Manager from within my department by email at angie.scott@premiers.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3003 9115.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Yours sincerely

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

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Circular

Stock Route Management Bill on the Move Again

For Information

Circular: 2015-041
Release Date: Thursday, 30 July 2015
Authorised by: Greg Hallam PSM Chief Executive Officer

The Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, announces the State Government's intention to introduce new Bill for Stock Routes

Announced at the AgForce State Conference in Toowoomba on Thursday 30 July, the new Bill will allow local governments to collect and keep funds paid by graziers to use the stock route network under proposed changes to Queensland's State land administration.

Stock routes will remain primarily for travelling stock, emergency agistment and short-term grazing.

However, under changes negotiated by the LGAQ, local governments will be able to charge a fee for static grazing on primary and secondary parts of the stock route network.

The current proposal will allow local governments to keep fees collected for all uses on the network without returning a percentage back to the State as they do now.

Funds generated will be able to be used to manage stock routes and invest in improved pest and weed control, protect the environment and reduce fire risks. Under the new system, it will be the users of the route paying for its maintenance and management, rather than the ratepayers in a council's area. The estimated \$2.2M cost per annum of managing the Stock Route system is currently 94% subsidised by ratepayers.

Other planned changes such as removing the requirement to have a stock route management plan will also reduce the regulatory burden and free up resources to divert into better managing local priorities.

The new legislation will be developed in consultation with the LGAQ, AgForce and other key stakeholders prior to introduction to Parliament early next year.

The stock route changes are the first tranche of a future suite of land administration changes to simplify and modernise Queensland's State land administration framework.

The LGAQ welcomes the Government's decision to move forward with the preparation of this long awaited legislation. Councils will have the ability to implement cost recovery from users of the network but there is still a bit of work to do to create a system that will secure a well managed stock route network, that is fair and equitable for users and councils.

The Association will continue to work with the Government and other key stakeholders in the development and implementation planning of the new Bill. We are forming a high level Stock Route Reference Group of local government CEOs and Directors to assist with this work. To provide your expression of interest in participating in the group, please forward your details to [Ms Dorean Erhart](#), Principal Advisor - Natural Assets, NRM & Climate Change 1300 542 700.

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Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MBN15/1025

4 August 2015

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Councillor Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lewis

I am pleased to announce the release of the 2015-16 Community Resilience Fund (CRF). The 2015-16 CRF provides State funding assistance to eligible applicants to support the delivery of essential priority community infrastructure and flood mitigation/disaster management projects.

Applications for funding under the 2015-16 CRF opened on 30 July 2015. The application form, certification form and program guidelines are available on the Department's website, www.dilgp.qld.gov.au. Eligible applicants are invited to lodge applications for funding by 10 September 2015. I anticipate that successful projects will be announced from October 2015.

Under the 2015-16 CRF guidelines, applicants may apply for a subsidy of up to 40 per cent of the total eligible costs of the project. Applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria outlined in the guidelines.

I am very keen to ensure that communities see the benefits of CRF projects realised as quickly as possible. Successful applicants will have 12 months from the date a funding agreement is executed to implement the approved project. I appreciate that in certain circumstances, the project complexity may require a longer funding period, and this will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Stephen Johnston, Acting Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, has written to Chief Executive Officers advising of the release of the 2015-16 CRF and the process for submitting applications.

If you require any further information, I encourage you to contact Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region on (07) 4758 3419 or by email at jo.stephenson@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

cc: Mr Matthew Magin, Chief Executive Officer, Burdekin Shire Council