

**INQUIRY INTO CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (WATER
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY) BILL 2020
AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT
AMENDMENT (TRANSPARENCY OF WATER RIGHTS)
BILL 2020 AND THE WATER MANAGEMENT
AMENDMENT (WATER ALLOCATIONS - DROUGHT
INFORMATION) BILL 2020**

Organisation: Griffith City Council

Date Received: 3 July 2020



3 July 2020

Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
Committee Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry
Upper House Committee, Legislative Council
Parliament of NSW

Email: portfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Hon Banasiak,

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (WATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY) BILL 2020, THE PROVISIONS OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (TRANSPARENCY OF WATER RIGHTS) BILL 2020 AND THE WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (WATER ALLOCATIONS – DROUGHT INFORMATION) BILL 2020

On behalf of Griffith City Council, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the above-mentioned Amendments. I authorise for Council's submission to be published in full and on the website.

(a) Provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020

- It is appropriate that Members of Parliament should disclose their water ownership interests and trading.
- It is Council's understanding that Parliamentarians currently are required to declare their personal interests only (not other persons for example, spouses). The proposed declarations of interest with respect to water and associated trading should be declared on the same basis.
- The proposed amendment to legislation should not be retrospective.

(b) Provisions of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020

- It is appropriate that Members of Parliament should disclose their water ownership interests and trading.
- Council does not support the proposed requirement that the declaration is to include Parliamentarian's spouse's water interests and trading. It is assumed that other interests of Parliamentarians required to be declared (i.e. real estate) do not capture spouse's real estate. Water interests should be dealt with on same basis as other interests.

- Council does not support the retrospectivity of the Amendment which proposes that declarations are to include transactions backdated to the previous 5 years.
- Council supports that the Register can be searched by the use of name not just water licence number.

Yours sincerely,

BRETT STONESTREET
GENERAL MANAGER