

## 2025–29 rural irrigation price review Bundaberg workshop – summary of issues raised

*This note records issues identified and views expressed by stakeholders present at the QCA’s workshop on the draft report for Sunwater’s schemes. The QCA is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the QCA’s final report.*

**Schemes:** Bundaberg (bulk and distribution)

**Date of workshop:** 20 August 2024

Topic	Issues raised
Customer engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders noted that Sunwater has done a great job consulting over the last two years and the QCA has done a great job on the draft report.</li> <li>Stakeholders would like to continue to see QCA involvement in the review of irrigation prices into the future.</li> <li>A stakeholder noted that the workshop attendees represent approximately 60% of water entitlements for the scheme.</li> </ul>
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder noted concerns with Sunwater moving from an operate and maintain business to a business that designs and delivers complex infrastructure projects, as this may lead to higher overhead and indirect costs being allocated to the regulated part of the business.</li> </ul>
Billing system costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder was happy with the QCA’s assessment of the billing system.</li> </ul>
RAB vs annuity approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder said that tax implications of the RAB approach need to be considered.</li> <li>A stakeholder said that they need to be convinced that the RAB approach is the appropriate approach. A stakeholder was concerned that Sunwater will push the RAB approach through in this review.</li> <li>A stakeholder was concerned that moving to a RAB approach might result in an expansion of capex and a dramatically increasing RAB.</li> <li>A stakeholder said that the three largest schemes by WAE are not in favour of the RAB approach. They said that they are not against the “Go Vote” process, but opposed to the way the results have been interpreted for the RAB proposal.</li> <li>A stakeholder said that more work needed to be done on asset lives used in the RAB approach.</li> </ul>
Distribution losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder sought clarity on how the QCA had treated distribution loss allocations.</li> </ul>

Topic	Issues raised
Review events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="619 248 1374 315">• A stakeholder supported how the QCA had treated review events.</li></ul>