

Queensland Competition Authority
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RE: Gladstone Area Water Board Price Monitoring 2025–30

To the Inquisitor,

Northern Oil Refineries is an industrial consumer of water from the Awoonga reservoir administered by the Gladstone Area Water Board. We consume approximately 80 ML of raw water annually in Yarwun. Water is a critical utility for the continued operation of our facility.

Based on the overview of the pricing review, provided by GAWB on the 11th of July, the predominant driver for the 36% increase in price is due to salary/wage increases. While we are pointedly aware of the shift in the local labour market, this increase in costs excluding the substantial Capital works that GAWB have engaged in, is exceptionally high.

While this increase in cost proposed is substantial, we are also aware that the flow down affects of a 45% increase in basic utility will also affect cost of living and doing business in the region.

We urge the Authority to scrutinise the expenditure proposed by GAWB and in particular the assumptions employed in the determination of the labour cost increases.

Kind Regards,

Janri Potgieter

Refinery Manager - Yarwun

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