

DET:CMC/W05/125

23 March 2011

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COPY

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Dear Sir

Re AECOM Report into the Security and Quality of Water Utilities

Forbes Shire Council refers to the joint response from the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance and CENTROC to the AECOM report into the security and quality of water utilities in Australia.

Forbes Shire Council endorses this report and commends it to you as a genuine reflection of sentiment in the community.

As a member of the CENTROC Water Utilities Alliance, Forbes Shire Council has been engaged in cutting edge work in the delivery of secure, quality water supplies for its communities, for example, the National award winning CENTROC Water Security Study.

As a water utility in NSW, Forbes Shire Council is obliged and welcomes the delivery of well monitored best practice water and sewerage services using an integrated water cycle management model approach. Its pricing is best practice, delivering quality supplies to its communities effectively and efficiently keeping costs to the communities to a minimum.

Both keeping costs to communities to a minimum and control over water supply in the hands at a local level is integral to the resilience of Regional NSW, where CENTROC members collectively have a bigger GDP than Tasmania.

Council commends to you the CENTROC Water Utilities Alliance model and is frankly appalled at the suggestion that members should hand over control of water to a State entity. Council would also like on the record its dismay at the process and the lack of consultation.

A review of the research undertaken by AECOM does more to defend the accountable, value for money and transparent service delivery by Local Government in NSW than to suggest it should be managed in the same way as in Victoria.

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Put quite simply, bigger is not better and the tyranny of distance in NSW does not lend itself to "mega" water utilities.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact the undersigned on 68502 304.

Yours faithfully



Carissa Bywater
GENERAL MANAGER

When replying – please quote Council's reference