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Upper Lachlan Shire Council

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23 March 2011

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Mr Michael Deegan
Infrastructure Coordinator
Infrastructure Australia
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

Re: AECOM report into the security and quality of water utilities

Please find attached a joint response from the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) and Centroc to the AECOM report into the security and quality of water utilities in Australia.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council endorses this report and commends it to you as a genuine reflection of sentiment in our community.

As a member of the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance, Upper Lachlan Shire Council has been engaged in cutting edge work in the delivery of secure, quality water supplies for our communities, see for example the national award winning Centroc Water Security Study. Further advice in this regard forms part of the attached report.

As a water utility in NSW Upper Lachlan 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. Our pricing is best practice, delivering quality supplies to our communities effectively and efficiently keeping costs to our communities to a minimum.

Both keeping costs to our 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.

I commend to you the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance model and am frankly appalled at the suggestion that our members should hand over control of water to a state entity. I would also like on the record my dismay at the process and its 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

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should be managed in the same way as in Victoria. Put quite simply, bigger is not better and the tyranny of distance in NSW does not lend itself to "mega" water utilities.

I am available at any time to discuss this matter. Please contact Council's Manager of Operations, Mr Luke Moloney on (02) 4830 1053.

Yours Faithfully



P Newham

Director of Works and Operations

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