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Your submission for this review:

I believe that the Water Authority should be established as a stand alone Water body ( Corporation or otherwise ) that has proper separation from the Council business. A body that is totally independent of council or council interference that were appropriate pays dividends to council. The current relationship between the 2 bodies is far too porous with opportunity for Council to transfer costs to the water authority to [REDACTED] bad performance of council. As you would be aware, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] out transferring cost to the Water Corporation that should have been apportioned to Council, and I strongly suspect the same bad practices have once again occurred. I suspect the FY19/20 \$48.5M deficit in the water authority was to a significant degree [REDACTED] to make Councils [REDACTED] look a like less disaster out, but also to support an application for water rate increases after Council successfully gained a 15% council rate increase. Council is not the appropriate body to manage the State's 3rd largest water authority, they do not possess the skill set to run council let alone a water authority. IPART should also consider whether a full or part sale or lease of the water authority to an experienced and efficient operator such as Sydney or Hunter Water would deliver a better outcome for ratepayers. A sale or lease of the assets would provide Council with very significant cash, enough to retire debt, address the infrastructure backlog and create a future fund to provide ongoing benefit, water charges would still be governed by IPART and in likelihood could drop due to a more efficient operator running the business. I hope that consideration of a sale or lease is something IPART could recommend.