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Dear Water Corporation,

### CHAMBER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY OF WA'S SUBMISSION TO WATER CORPORATION, WATER FOREVER DRAFT PLAN

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (CME) is the peak resources sector representative body in Western Australia funded by its member companies who generate an estimated 95 per cent of all mineral and energy production in the State. The sector is diverse and complex covering exploration, processing, downstream value adding and refining of over 40 different types of mineral and energy resources across the State.

The CME formed a Water Issues Group (WIG) in 2000 to manage specific water related issues that affected the resources industry. Membership of the Group consists of water specialists who represent many of the CME's member companies.

In a recent report (see attached), CME flagged water as a key growth enabler for the state out to 2020 and beyond. The report predicts the demand for water in WA will continue to grow reaching 1,200 GL/a by 2020. CME has continuously advocated for the need to address the future water needs of WA and encourages the development of new resources. That is why CME appreciates the Water Corporation's future planning activities encapsulated in their *Water Forever Draft Plan*.

Similar to agriculture and households, the resources industry is a competitor for water resources, and like other industries, the minerals and energy sector supports the need for an efficient and cost reflective water supply.

A key issue for industry raised in the *Water Forever Draft Plan* is the use of recycled water. While industry supports the increased use of recycled water, it is concerned at the current cost structure. CME believes that if recycled water was cheaper than potable water it would be a viable alternative for industry and other sectors.

CME supports the expansion the Kwinana Wastewater Treatment Plant, but emphasises the recycled water must be competitively priced.

CME believes that the Water Corporation should look at additional recycling opportunities at Woodmans Point. Currently more than 100

million litres of water per day is treated and released into the ocean. The water could be recycled for further industrial purposes recouping the treatment costs and assisting the demand gap for water.

Within the *Draft Plan*, Water Corporation has suggested renaming 'wastewater treatment plants', where more than 20 per cent of the treated water is recycled, to 'wastewater recycling plants'. CME supports this initiative and the development of other water recycling plants, keeping in mind the provision of wastewater treatment and recycling plants must come ahead of demand.

In terms of groundwater sources, the *Draft Plan* flags the possibility of developing a small groundwater scheme in the Collie Coal Basin. CME supports this broad industrial application and believes this option should also be examined in Kemberton and Kwinana. This in mind, it is crucial the industrial uses of water are maintained in the Collie Basin and in other industrial areas.

Water trading in WA is to be expected and the Water Corporation should be commended for highlighting the Gnangara Mound as a viable option for future water trading. However, water trading needs to have a competitive basis for industry and mining. Water trading will have much wider implications, for example, in the Harvey Irrigation Area.

Overall the CME and its membership support the initiative being taken by the Water Corporation in devising a 50 year plan to deliver sustainable water and wastewater services to Perth and the surrounding areas.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Paul Frewer on (08) 9220 8518 or [p.frewer@cmewa.com](mailto:p.frewer@cmewa.com).

Yours sincerely



pp **Reg Howard-Smith**  
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