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The following information has been submitted from the ESCOSA:

Project Title Inquiry in to Small Scale Water Retail Network - Regulatory

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Council has sought to raise comment as to the level of regulatory reporting requirements for the scale of operation at our Council level.

Wudinna District Council runs a small Community Wastewater Scheme with est 330 connection points and additionally a community water scheme distributing harvested stormwater to four community customers.

It is understood that Council remains responsible to SA Health and ESCOSA as Technical Regulators of the CWMS, and we raise CWMS Levies for the scheme under to Local Government Act 1999. The method of calculation of levies are provided for as part of Council's budget process and a formal public consultaton undertaken prior to adoption of levies (and all Council fees and charges in the annual budget) Ratepayers are aàorded the opportunity to make submission or a deputation to Council prior to the adoption of the Annual Business Plan/ Budget as provided in the Local Government Act 1999.

The development of a local level community water scheme seeks to beneÕt local volunteer organisations and communty in irrigating parks and gardens. Four formal customers and Council also uses the water itself.

Given the small scale, the annual ESCOSA returns appear to duplicate regulatory control for Local Government. The need for a water retailers licence to distribute small scale harvested stormwater may in itself act as a disincentive for smaller entities using creativity to reduce water consumption from mains sources.

While a level of regulatory control is appropriate, is the current complexity of reporting serving its purpose?

Reference

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