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Community Engagement Feedback Report

Water Assets Survey – August 2018

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Onkaparinga currently owns and operates two water assets – the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) and the Water Business (WB), our Stormwater and Alternative Water Supply Scheme.

The CWMS disposes of wastewater from approximately 4500 households and businesses in Willunga, McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Clarendon, Maslin Beach, Morphett Vale and Sellicks Beach. The WB was developed as part of council's Waterproofing the South project. It collects recycled water and harvests stormwater which is distributed for the irrigation of council parks, sporting clubs and schools. The WB distribution networks are located across our city in Reynella East, Morphett Vale, O'Sullivan Beach, Seaford, Aldinga and Willunga.

Following a decision by the City of Onkaparinga elected members in March 2018; we commenced an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to see if any specialist water companies have an interest in owning and operating these two assets.

Public consultation was undertaken to assist us as we review proposals to ensure our process is aligned with the needs of customers and the expectations of the broader community and to assist Elected Members in the decision making process.

A note on sampling

Sample size calculations allow the determination of the required number of respondents to accurately represent the whole target population. To ensure a statistically robust representation of the target population, which in this case was the city-wide population of 172,694 residents (based on 2018 population forecasts) the City of Onkaparinga has determined that the required number of responses was 384.

An Expected Key Metric Percentage of 50% with a confidence limit (precision) of +/- 5% at a 95% level of confidence would require a sample size of n=384.

A note on statistical significance testing

Statistical testing has been undertaken between key sub-groups of interest (CWMS Customers vs General Community; and Community Survey vs Resident ePanel Survey), using predominantly Chi square tests and z-tests. Statistically significant differences at the 95% confidence level have been marked on charts and tables where they exist.

To mark statistically significant differences, arrows (↑) have been used; these denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding row / column.

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SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Public consultation was undertaken from 9 July 2018 to 6 August 2018. The following methods were used to give the community an opportunity to have their say:

- Advertiser
- Messenger
- Corporate website (Community Engagement Status Board)
- Online survey (hard copies sent on request)
- Letter mailed to all customers (residential and business) of both the Community Wastewater Management System and Water Business (residents and businesses).
- Email to key stakeholders and community interest groups
- Email to Resident ePanel members

Feedback in the form of survey results, emails and letters has been included in this report.

The Water Assets Survey was conducted via online survey for which n=496 residents of the Council commenced. However, a total of n=473 City of Onkaparinga residents completing the survey (in full or partially), with two thirds (66%) of respondents derived from the community sample and the remaining 34% derived from the Resident ePanel sample.

It was clearly stated by 82% of those surveyed that Council is the appropriate body to both own and manage the CWMS and the Water Business, supported by the findings that almost half (43%) had concerns over privatisation, particularly with regard to price increases and a decrease in service levels.

Levels of support stood at over half (55%) for expanding the CWMS to parts of the City that are not currently serviced, and at almost two thirds (63%) for investment into the Water Business to connect local recycled water sources. Support was tempered by concerns over cost and uncertainty over rate increases related to the investment ideas (22%), as well as 18% indicating support contingent on the Council retaining ownership of the assets. Among those who supported both investment ideas, Council retaining ownership was the most prevalent response (29%), while approximately one third (31%) of those who did not support one or both ideas had concerns over the cost of rates and did not want to see rates increase / should find another to fund the idea(s).

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In summary, the research clearly shows that large proportions of those surveyed believe the Water Business and CWMS should remain Council owned assets, and strong concerns have been raised over the expected impact of privatising these assets, evidenced by comments throughout the survey.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

SECTION A: Who were the respondents to the survey?

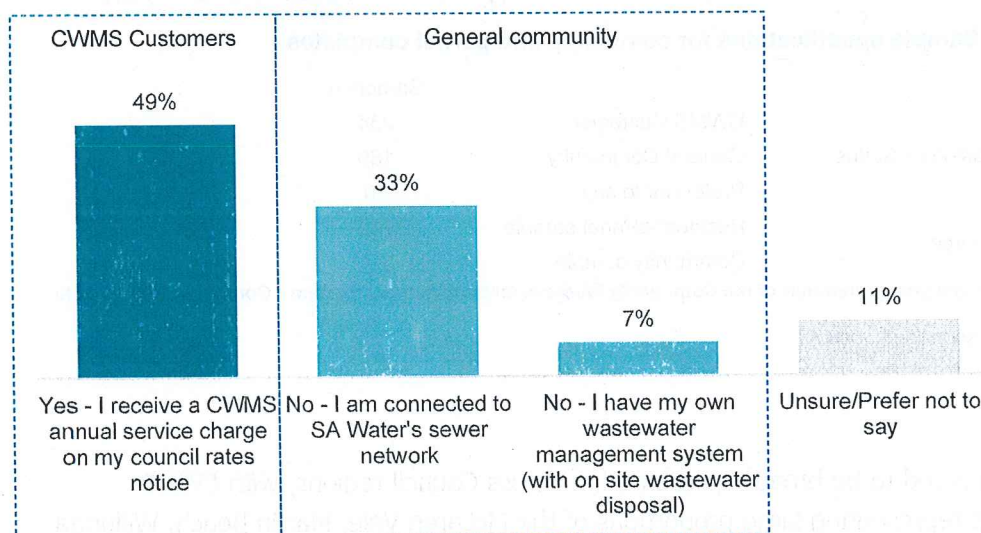
This section displays findings for Question 1 (CWMS customer status), and Questions 2-3 (suburb of residence).

Overall, 496 people commenced the survey, which was completed in full by 402 people and in part by 71 people. The remaining 23 people dropped out of the survey at the start, recording no responses. Where responses exist for the 71 partially completed surveys, these have been included in analysis of the question (base sizes noted for each question).

The survey was distributed and completed by a community sample (accounting for 66% of responses), and a Resident ePanel sample (34%).

Survey respondents were a mix of CWMS customers (49%), and the general community (40%), as shown in Figure 1 below. Eleven percent declined to provide a response in relation to their residential wastewater management so could not be included in sub-group analysis shown throughout this report (they were however included in overall analyses).

Figure 1 – Sampling of sub-groups by customer status



Question 1 – Are you a customer of the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: All respondents, n=473

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There were more CWMS customers in the sample (n=311); many sourced from the Community survey (n=203) than those sourced via the Resident ePanel survey (n=31). In contrast, the General Community sample was sourced from both surveys: n=108 from the Resident ePanel survey, and n=81 from the Community Survey.

Hence, there was a high representation of CWMS customers in the community survey, which contributed to a high correlation of responses between CWMS customers and Community Survey responses, due to composition. Due to this correlation, for the purpose of this report all results have been displayed; however, the commentary focusses on customer status only (CWMS customers vs general community) as not to be repetitive.

Table 1 – Sample stratification

	CWMS Customers	General Community	Unsure / Prefer not to answer	Total
Source: Community survey	203	81	27	311
Source: Resident ePanel survey	31	108	23	162
Total	234	189	50	473

Question 1 – Are you a customer of the Community Wastewater Management System? Combined with sample source

Base: All respondents, n=473

The table below shows the sample breakdowns by customer status and survey type.

Table 2 – Sample specifications for completes and partial completes

	Sample n
CWMS Customer Status	CWMS Customer
	General Community
	Prefer not to say
Sample source	Resident ePanel sample
	Community sample

Question 1 – Are you a customer of the Community Wastewater Management System? Combined with sample source

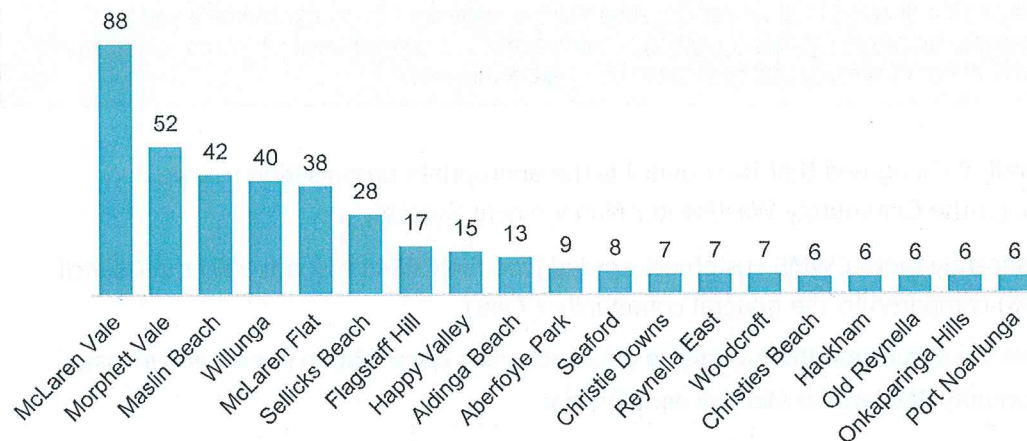
Base: All respondents, n=473

There appeared to be broad representation across Council regions, with CWMS customers representing large proportions of the McLaren Vale, Maslin Beach, Willunga and McLaren Flat regions.

The suburbs represented the most can be seen at Figure 2 below.

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Figure 2 – Most prevalent suburbs by number (represented by >5 responses)



Question 2 & 3 – Please select your suburb...

Base: All suburbs receiving more than 5 responses, n=401

The table below shows suburbs which received smaller representation in terms of survey responses, aggregated by common number of responses.

Table 3 – Least prevalent suburbs by number (represented by 5 or fewer respondents)

Response number per suburb	Suburbs	Aggregated number of responses
Suburbs with 5 responses from each:	Clarendon Huntfield Heights Noarlunga Downs Port Willunga Reynella	25
Suburbs with 4 responses from each:	Aldinga Moana Seaford Rise	12
Suburbs with 3 responses from each:	Coromandel Valley O'Halloran Hill Seaford Meadows	9
Suburbs with 2 responses from each:	Hackham West O'Sullivan Beach Whites Valley	6
Suburbs with 1 response from each:	Coromandel East Old Noarlunga Port Noarlunga South Willunga Village	4
Other / not specified	Unknown	16

Question 2 & 3 – Please select your suburb...

Base: All suburbs receiving 5 or fewer responses, n=72

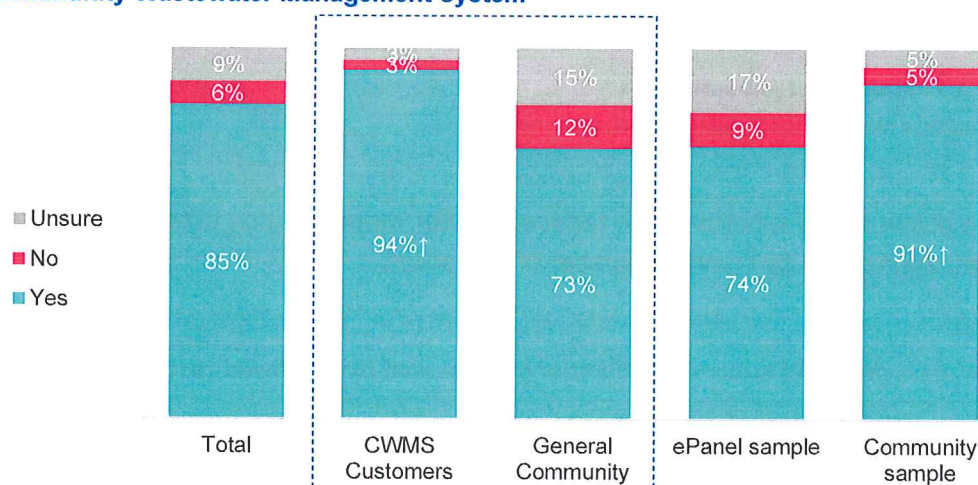
SECTION B: Perspectives of asset management

This section displays findings for Question 4 (perspectives of Council ownership and management of the CWMS), Question 5 (perspectives of Council ownership and management of the Water Business), and associated free text comments.

Overall, 85% agreed that the Council is the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System.

Significantly more CWMS customers agreed that the CWMS belongs with the Council (94%) compared to the general community (73%).

Figure 3 – Agreement that Council is the appropriate organisation to own and manage Community Wastewater Management System



Question 4 – In terms of the management of these assets: Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: All who responded to the question, n=448; CWMS Customers, n=224; General Community, n=178

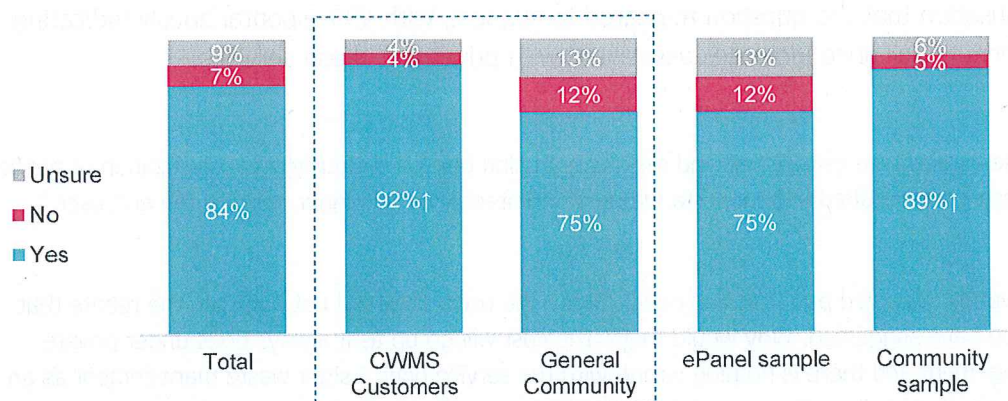
Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

A similar proportion agreed that the Council is the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Water Business (84%).

Again, significantly more CWMS customers agreed with this (92%) compared to the general community (75%).

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Figure 4 – Agreement that Council is the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Water Business



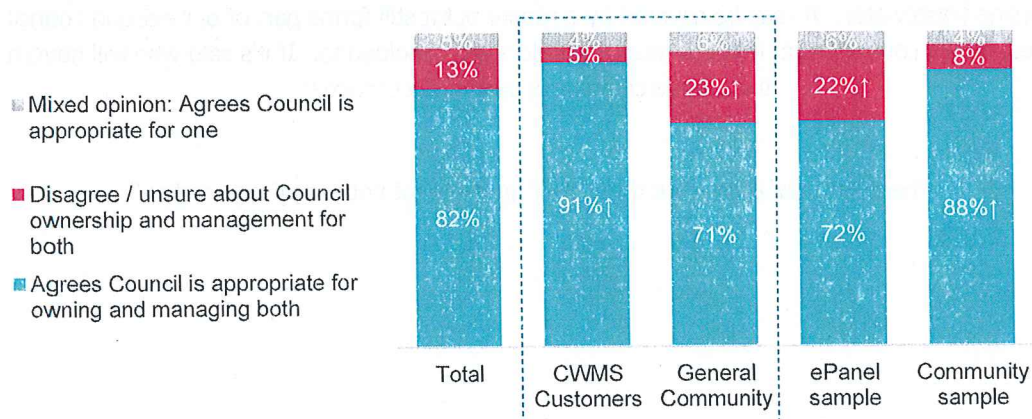
Question 5 – In terms of the management of these assets: Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Water Business?

Base: All who responded to the question, n=446; CWMS Customers, n=224; General Community, n=177

Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

Overall, there was 82% agreement that the Council is the appropriate organisation to own and manage both the CWMS and the Water Business. Thirteen percent disagreed with Council ownership and management of both, and 5% had mixed opinion, agreeing with Council ownership and management of one of the two.

Figure 5 – Perspectives of Council as the appropriate organisation to own and manage both services



Questions 4 & 5 – In terms of the management of these assets: Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System (Q4) / the Water Business (Q5)?

Base: All who responded to both questions, n=446; CWMS Customers, n=224; General Community, n=177

Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

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Perspectives of ownership and management of the CWMS and Water Business were underpinned by a substantial degree of scepticism and concern over potential privatisation that the question appeared to suggest, with 43% spontaneously indicating a concern over price increases associated with privatising these services.

"These assets were established and maintained using taxes. Previously, the privatization of public assets has resulted in poorer standards of maintenance and higher costs to the end user."

"Privately managed public assets never favour the user. They will not maintain the rebate that you have suggested. Why would they? The cost will go up as it always does under private management and there is nothing wrong with the service now. I sight waste management as an example of council services privately run that have resulted in fly tipping as it is so expensive to use the dump."

Further, a large proportion of responses centred around management and ownership of essential services being the remit of the Council, as paid for by resident tax payers (28%).

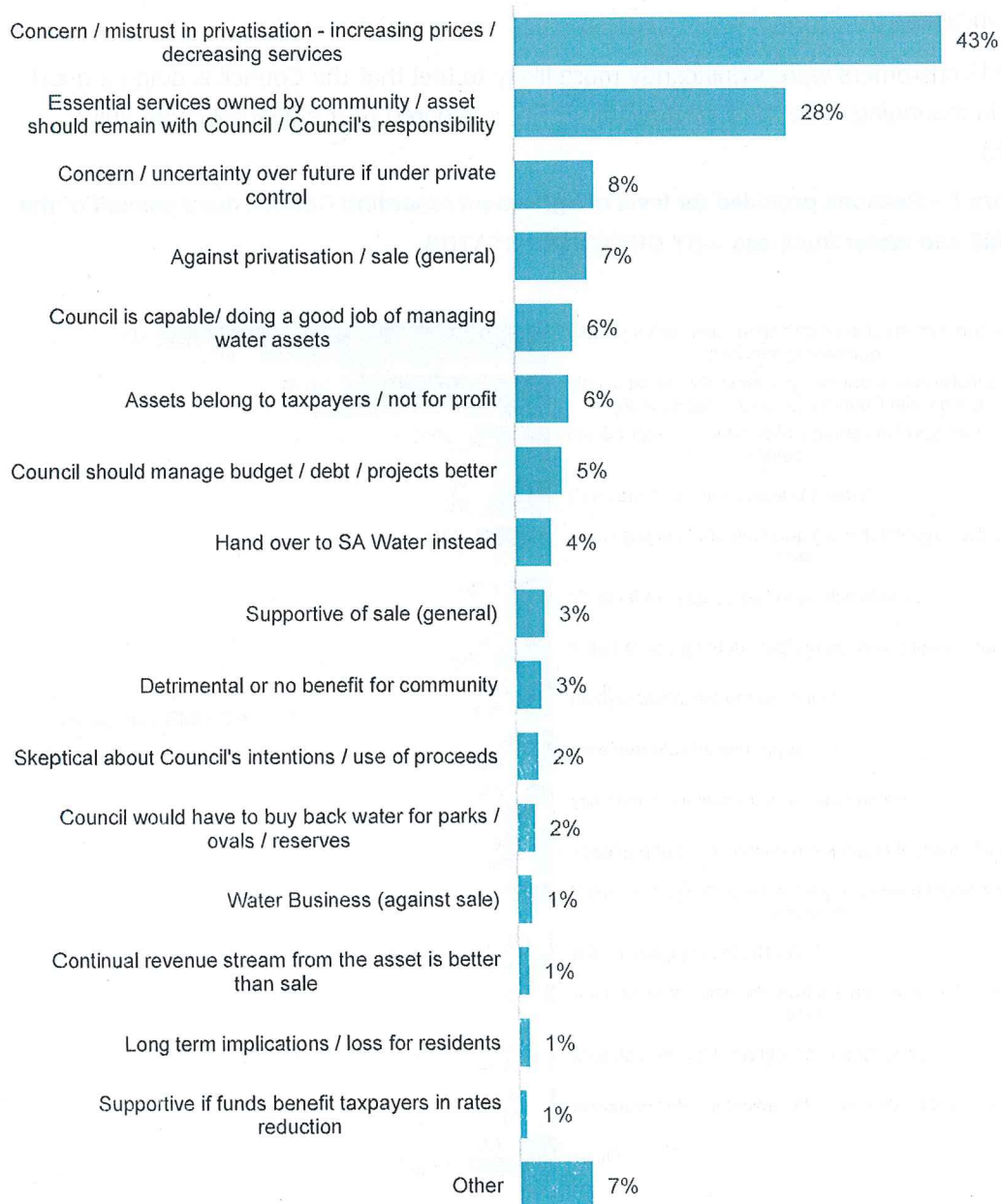
"We consider these to be 'essential services' & as such should be supplied by the Council, reason being, this is why we pay Council Rates. Additionally, we are Pensioners & therefore we have concerns about increases, as has always happened with privatisation of local gov't assets."

"Until there is a mains SA Water sewerage connection in the area, council should continue to manage wastewater. It may be covered by a rebate but it still forms part of our existing council rates, thus a council issue, that our local councillors are beholden to. If it's sold who will govern the private companies pricing the service?"

"These types of assets are the role of government not the private sector."

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Figure 6 – Reasons provided for level of agreement regarding Council management of the CWMS and Water Business – OVERALL



Free text providing context to Questions 4 & 5 – Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System (Q4) / the Water Business (Q5)?

Base: All who gave a response, n=272

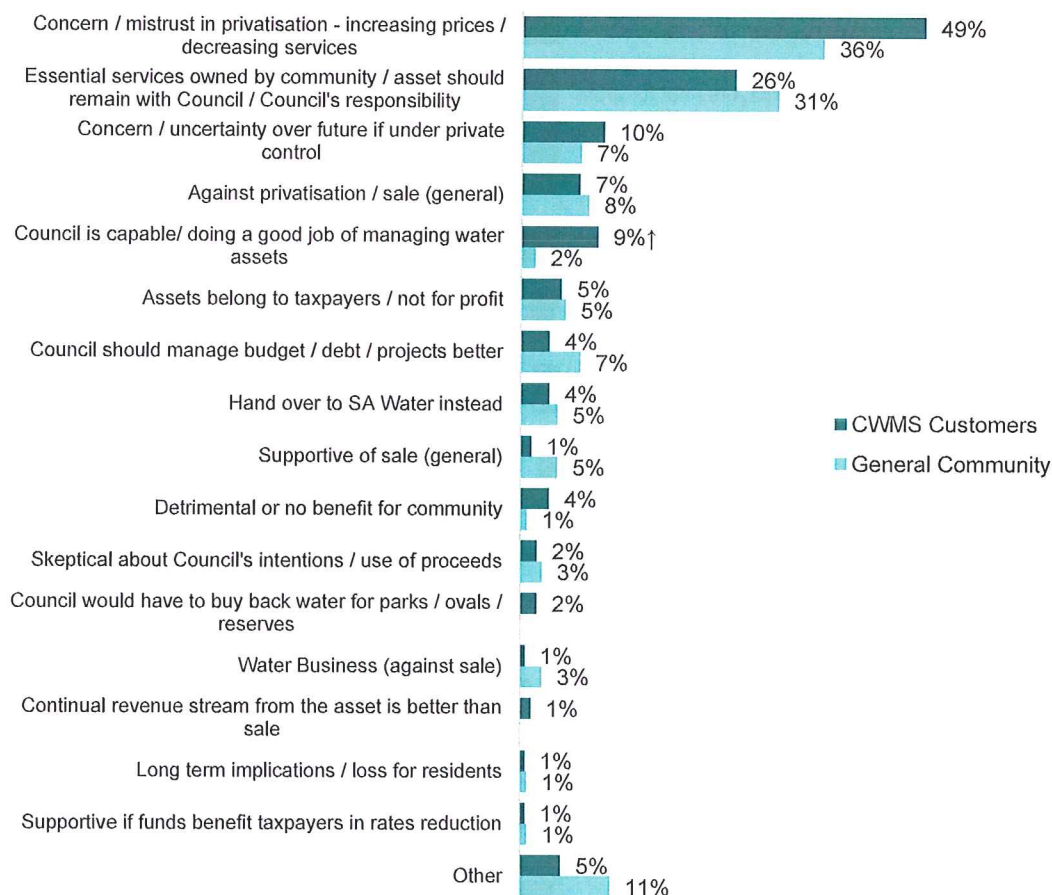
Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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Looking at responses by CWMS customer status, customers had slightly higher level of concern and mistrust in relation to the consequences of privatisation (49%) compared to the general community sample (36%); however, this difference did not reach statistical significance.

CWMS customers were significantly more likely to feel that the Council is doing a good job in managing water and wastewater (9%), compared to the general community (2%).

Figure 7 – Reasons provided for level of agreement regarding Council management of the CWMS and Water Business – BY CUSTOMER STATUS



Free text providing context to Questions 4 & 5 – Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System (Q4) / the Water Business (Q5)?

Base: CWMS Customers who gave a response, n=140; General community who gave a response, n=110

Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

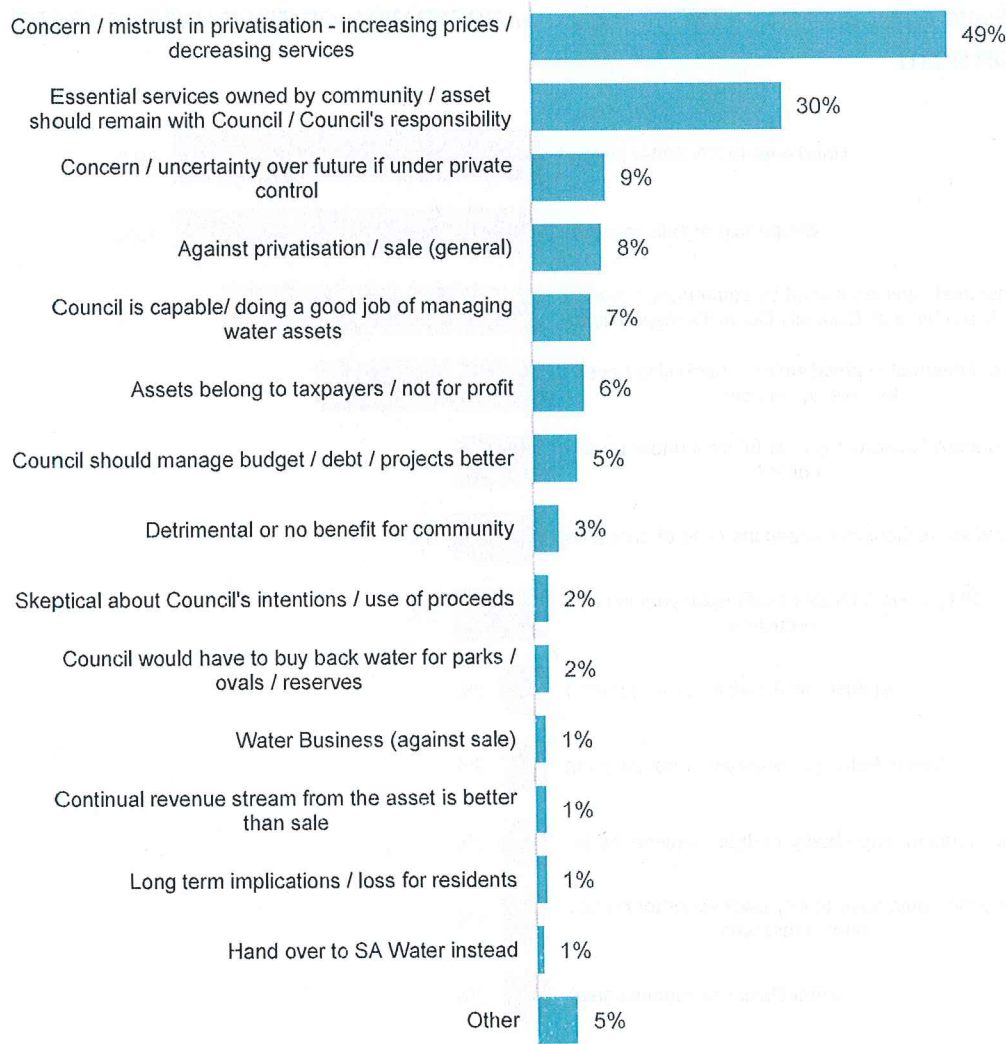
Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

Agreement with Council ownership and management of both the CWMS and the Water Business appeared to be driven by the main concern of privatisation increasing costs to

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the consumer (49%), followed again by a general belief that essential services are owned by the community and are the Council's responsibility (30%).

Figure 8 – Reasons provided for level of agreement regarding Council management of the CWMS and Water Business – THOSE IN AGREEMENT WITH BOTH



Free text providing context to Questions 4 & 5 – Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System (Q4) / the Water Business (Q5)?

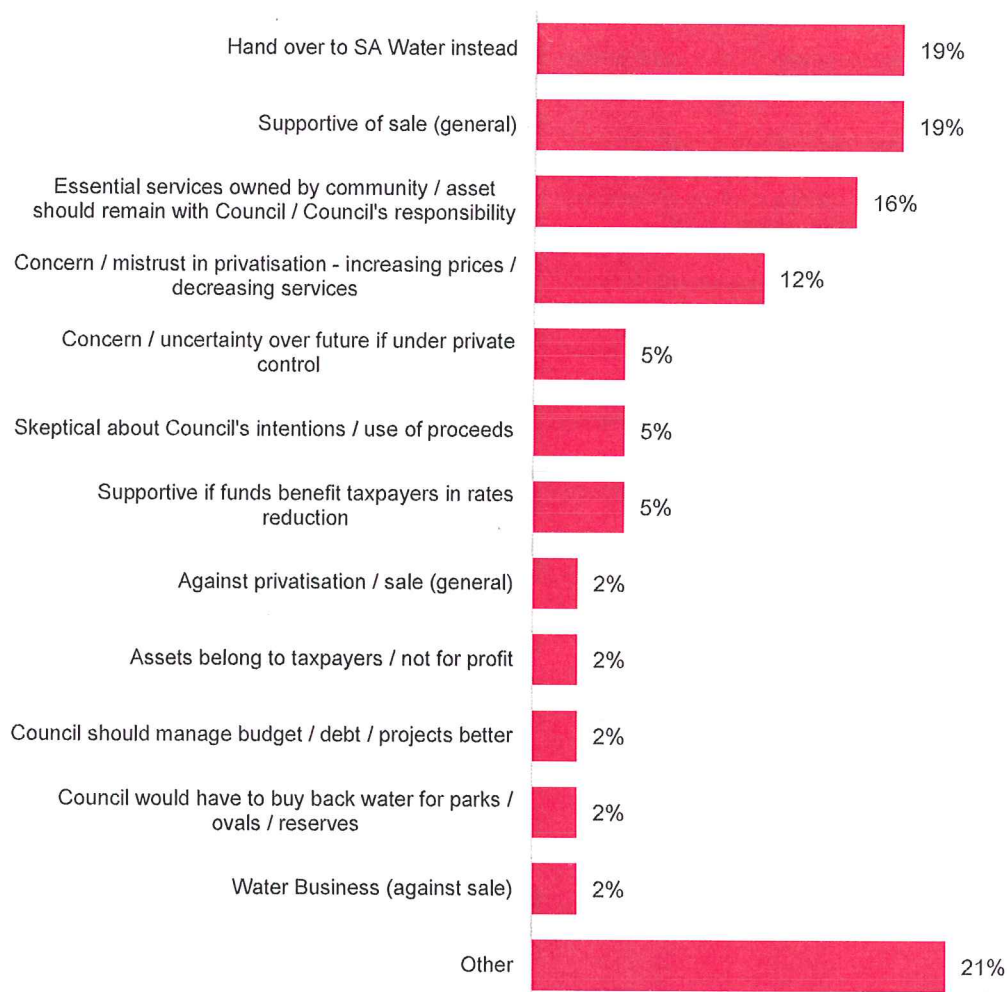
Base: Those who agree with both and gave a response, n=229

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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Among those who believed that the Council should **not** own and manage one or both of the CWMS and/or the Water Business, the most common comments were in relation to a handover of services to SA Water (19%) and general comments describing support of sale of these assets (19%).

Figure 9 – Reasons provided for level of agreement regarding Council management of the CWMS and Water Business – THOSE WHO DISAGREED WITH OR WERE UNSURE ABOUT ONE OR BOTH



Free text providing context to Questions 4 & 5 – Is council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Community Wastewater Management System (Q4) / the Water Business (Q5)?

Base: Those who disagreed with / were unsure about one or both and gave a response, n=43

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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SECTION C: Support of potential future investment in assets

This section displays findings for Question 6 (perspectives of the Council investing in expansion of the CWMS), Question 7 (perspectives of the Council investing in connecting to local recycled water sources), and associated free text comments.

Respondents were presented with a series of scenarios, and asked to comment on each. The first scenario presented to all was as follows:

In terms of future investment in these assets:

It may be possible to **expand the Community Wastewater Management System** to parts of the City that are not currently serviced but would benefit from a **sewering system**.

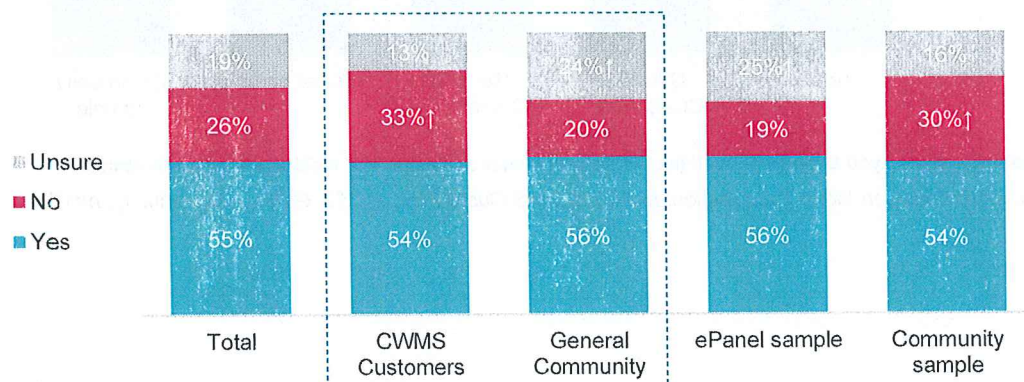
If this occurred, new users would pay to connect to the new infrastructure.

It is likely that such an investment in the network expansion would be recovered over time from all CWMS customers through their annual service charge whether council or another organisation owns the system.

Overall, just over half were in support of the Council investing in an expansion of the current CWMS so that more of the City area would be serviced by a sewerage system (55%), with around a quarter in opposition (26%) and one in five unsure (19%).

While there was only a marginal (not statistically significant) difference in the proportions supportive of this investment concept, CWMS customers were significantly more likely to be in opposition of this compared to the general community (26%), who tended to be unsure.

Figure 10 – Support of Council investing in expansion of the CWMS



Question 6 – Would you support council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment?

Base: All who responded to the question, n=425; CWMS Customers, n=212; General Community, n=172

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Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

The second scenario presented to respondents was as follows:

In terms of future investment in these assets:

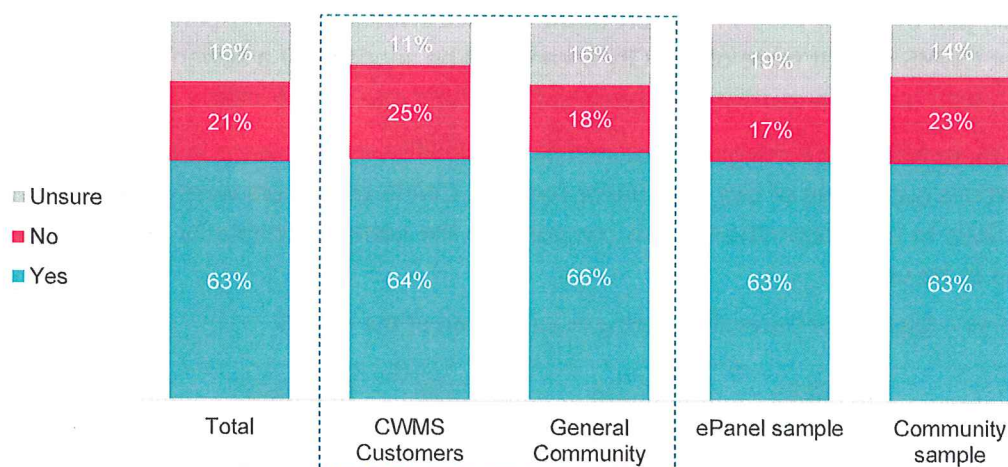
The Water Business may require additional investment to connect to local **recycled water sources**.

This would assist the Water Business to meet its original goals of providing a secure alternative water supply for the irrigation of open space and reducing reliance on the River Murray.

This investment would be recovered over time through the sale of water to council, schools and other customers whether council or another organisation owns the system.

There was a statistically significantly higher level of support for investment in connecting local recycled water sources (63%) compared to the previous investment idea of expanding the CWMS (55%; see Figure 10). There were no significant differences by customer status.

Figure 11 – Support of Council investing in connecting to local recycled water sources



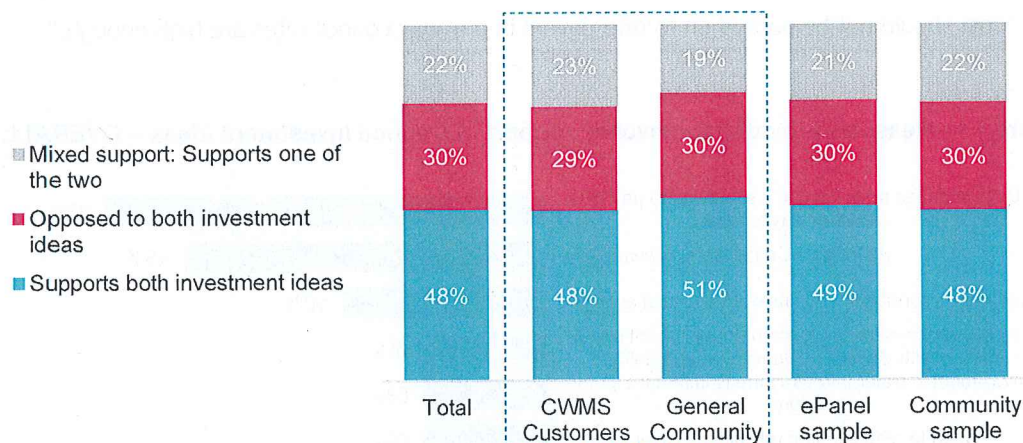
Question 7 – Would you support council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment?

Base: All who responded to the question, n=425; CWMS Customers, n=212; General Community, n=172

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Interestingly, nearly half of the respondents were supportive of both investment concepts, while nearly a third were opposed to both. The remaining 22% were supportive of one of the two ideas.

Figure 12 – Perspectives of Council investing in expanding the CWMS and/or connecting to local recycled water sources



Question 6 & 7 – Would you support council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment? (Q6 – expansion of CWMS; Q7 – connecting local recycled water sources)

Base: All who responded to the question, n=426; CWMS Customers, n=213; General Community, n=172

The most common comments overall were in relation to costs to the consumer, relating again to privatisation concerns and increasing rates, mixed with a general scepticism of one or both initiatives (22%). Many in this group did not understand why the Council could not already fund these initiatives with existing rates and funding.

"Council has not mentioned rates going down if waste water is privatized but would instead pocket that money which we pay in our rates and have us pay extra in waste water bills, now a connection on top off already installed septic I think not."

"As much as everything sounds great with recycled water what concerns me will be the fees that will be put back to the rate payer. This is inevitable and at the moment people are barely scraping by with the increase of utilities food etc. I do not believe this will be safe guarded by anyone. State Government have lied enough and would prefer to see people suffer since selling the electricity off!"

"Management of the core water system and sewer disposal should remain a core service of council and not be mixed with new profit driven initiatives. Additional schemes as mentioned above should be undertaken and funded by private enterprise and not be funded thru council rate payers."

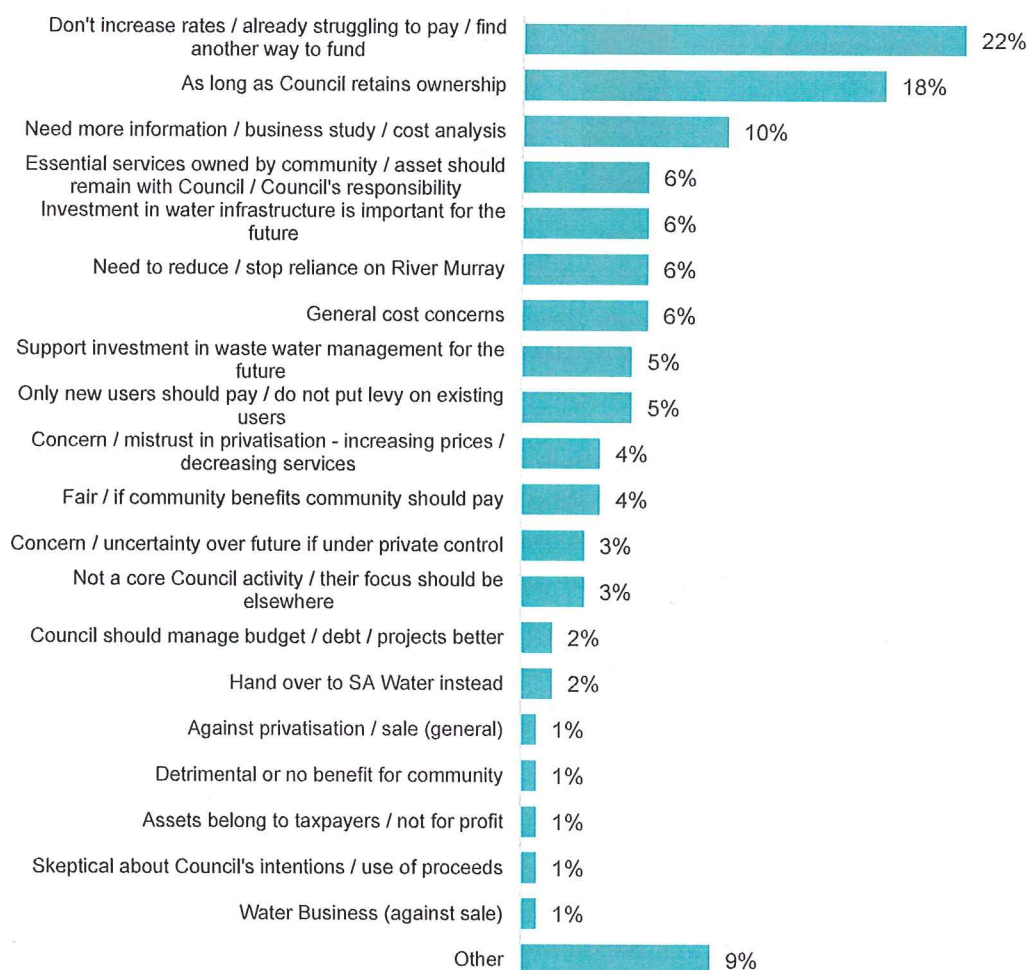
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"This should be done with money already collected via council rates."

"I do not support the council increasing charges to all customers. The council should look at other unnecessary expenditure to fund these projects."

"Cost should not be passed on to rate payers in any way council rates are high enough."

Figure 13 – Reasons provided for level of support of Council investment ideas – OVERALL



Free text providing context to Questions 6 & 7 – Would you support the council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment? [Q6 – expansion of CWMS; Q7 – connecting local recycled water sources]

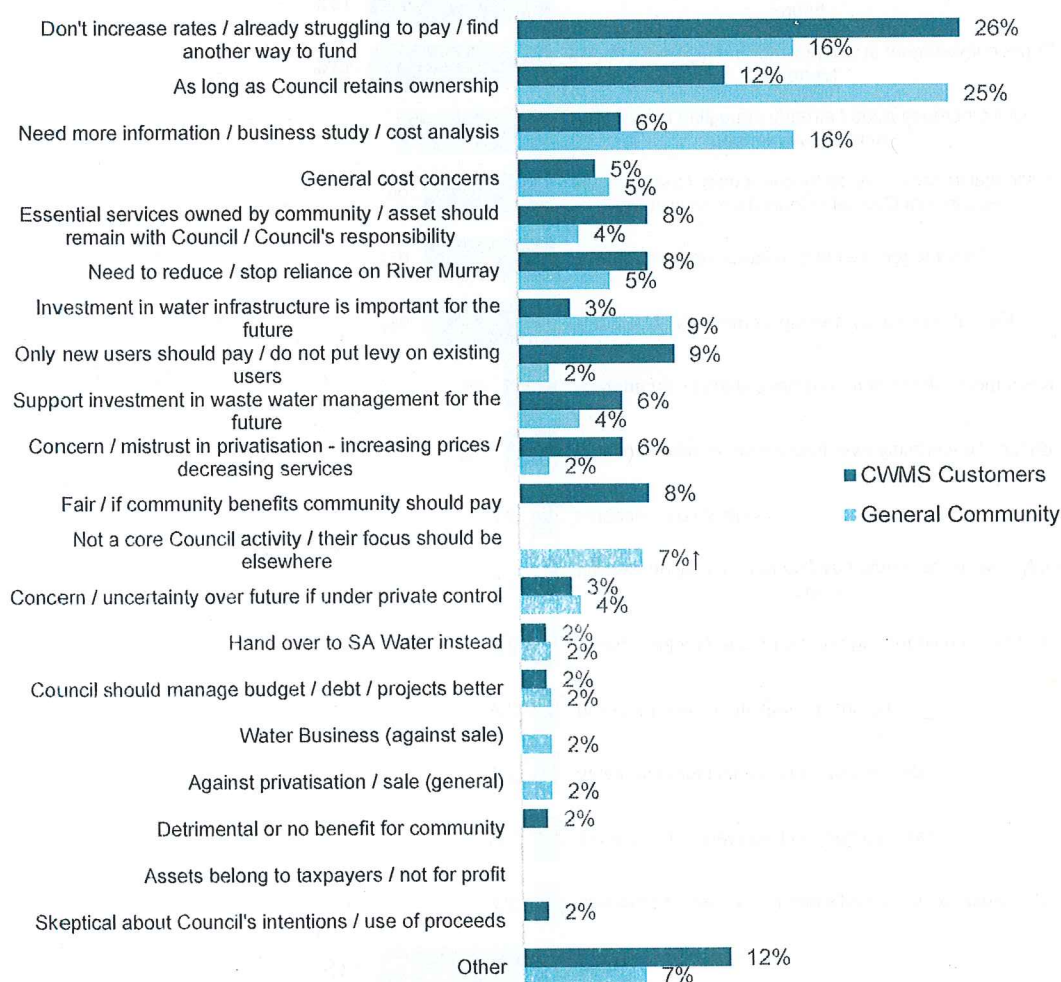
Base: All who gave a response, n=128

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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There appears to be slight differences between comments in relation to the Council's investment ideas, between CWMS customers, and the general community sample. For example, the most common comment for customers was in relation to costs (requesting that the Council not increase rates, and fund the investments in ways other than sale of the services), while the most common comment from the general community was in relation to the Council retaining ownership of the services. However, for most categories of comments, the differences by subgroup do not reach statistical significance.

Figure 14 – Reasons provided for level of support of Council investment ideas – BY CUSTOMER STATUS



Free text providing context to Questions 6 & 7 – Would you support the council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment? [Q6 – expansion of CWMS; Q7 – connecting local recycled water sources]
 Base: CWMS Customers who gave a response, n=65; General Community, n=55

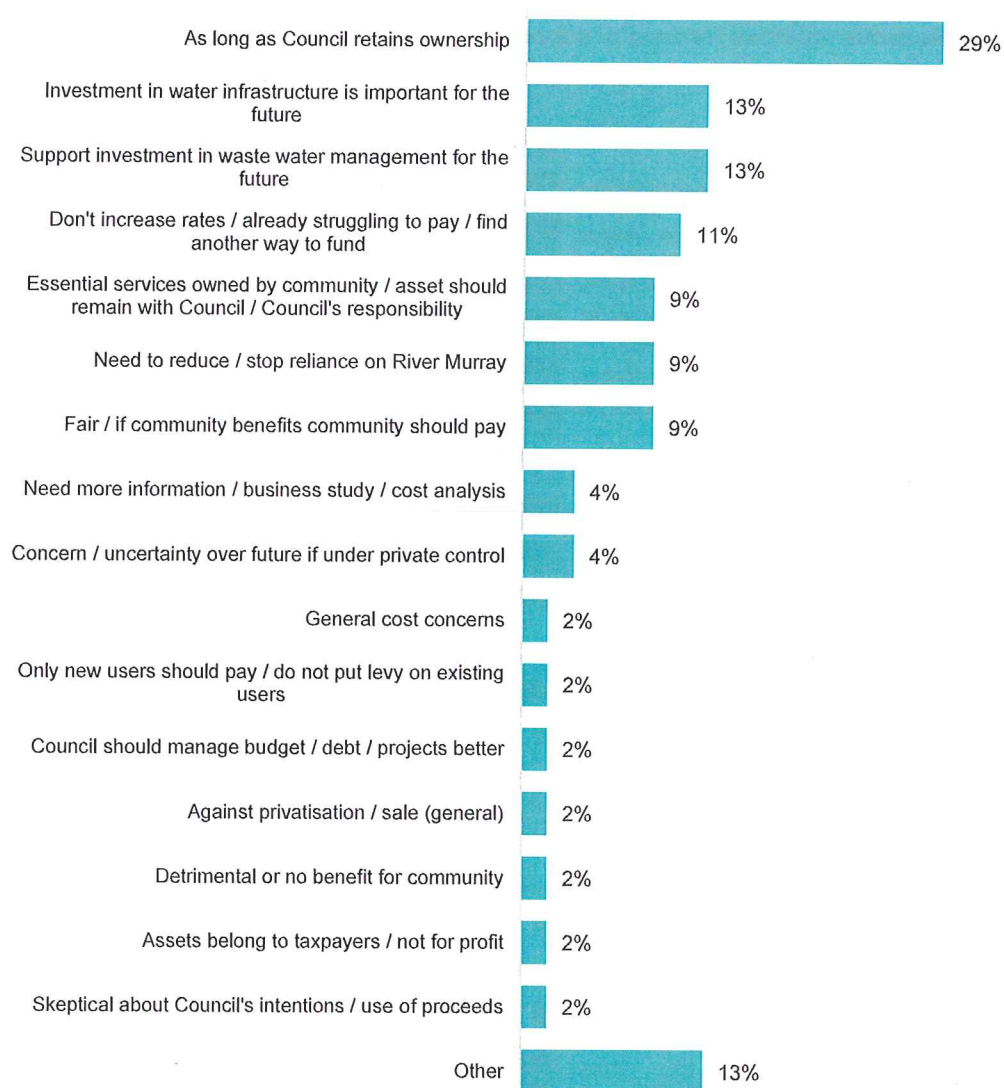
Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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The largest proportion of respondents in support of both investment ideas was contingent upon the Council retaining ownership (29%). Many also agreed that investment in water infrastructure and waste water management is important for the future (13% each).

Figure 15 – Reasons provided for level of support of Council investment ideas – THOSE WHO SUPPORT BOTH IDEAS



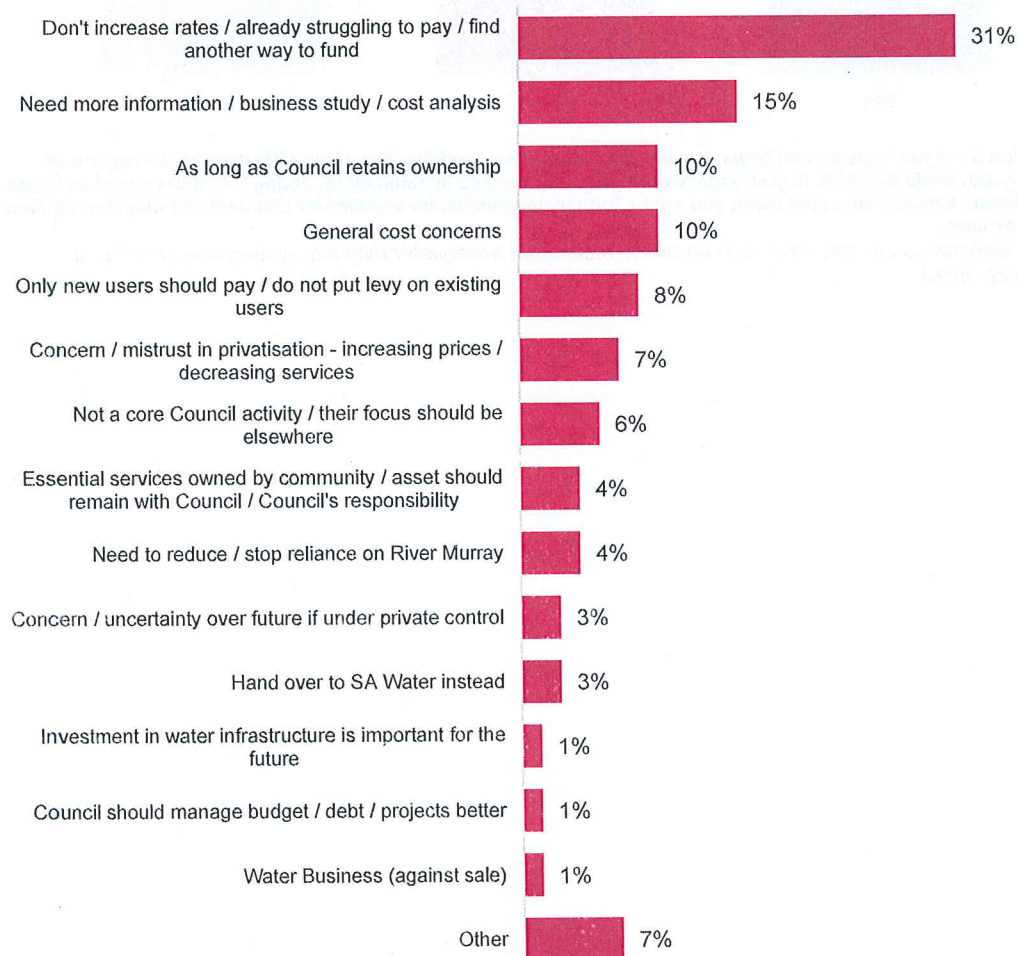
Free text providing context to Questions 6 & 7 – Would you support the council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment? [Q6 – expansion of CWMS; Q7 – connecting local recycled water sources]
 Base: Those who support both investment ideas and gave a response, n=56

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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The largest proportion of respondents who did **not** support one or both investment ideas was related to costs – specifically a fear of increasing rates, and a feeling that the Council should be able to fund these investments without having to sell assets. There was a proportion who acknowledged the need for more information in the form of a cost analysis or business study (15%), and a further proportion keen to see the Council retain ownership (10%).

Figure 16 – Reasons provided for level of support of Council investment ideas – THOSE WHO DO NOT SUPPORT ONE OR BOTH IDEAS



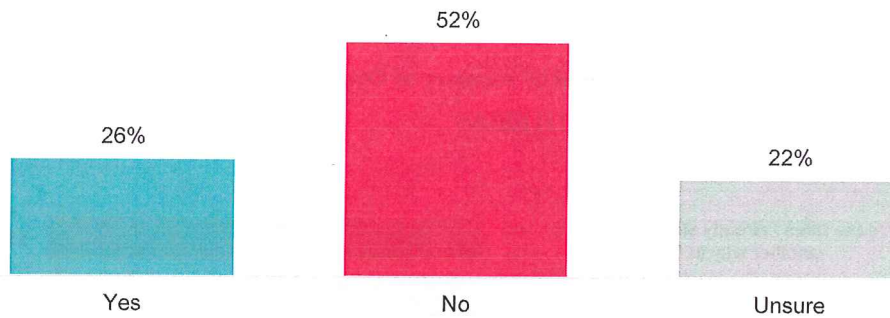
Free text providing context to Questions 6 & 7 – Would you support the council (as the current owner of the system) making such an investment? [Q6 – expansion of CWMS; Q7 – connecting local recycled water sources]
 Base: Those who do not support one or both investment ideas and gave a response, n=72

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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Respondents with onsite wastewater disposal systems, were asked about their interest in connecting to the mains wastewater management system if available. However, this sample was very small (caution when interpreting findings).

Figure 17 – Interest in connecting to mains wastewater management system



Question 8 – If you have an onsite wastewater disposal system and the Community Wastewater Management System was made available in your area, would you be interested in connecting, noting that there would be costs associated? Connection could mean you are no longer responsible for wastewater disposal and may free up land for other uses.

Base: General community who have an onsite residential wastewater disposal system and provided a response, n=23

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SECTION D: Perspectives of sale of assets

This section displays findings for Question 9 (perspectives of potential sale of water assets), associated free text comments, Question 10 (ratings of importance if considering a potential buyer of said assets), and associated free text comments.

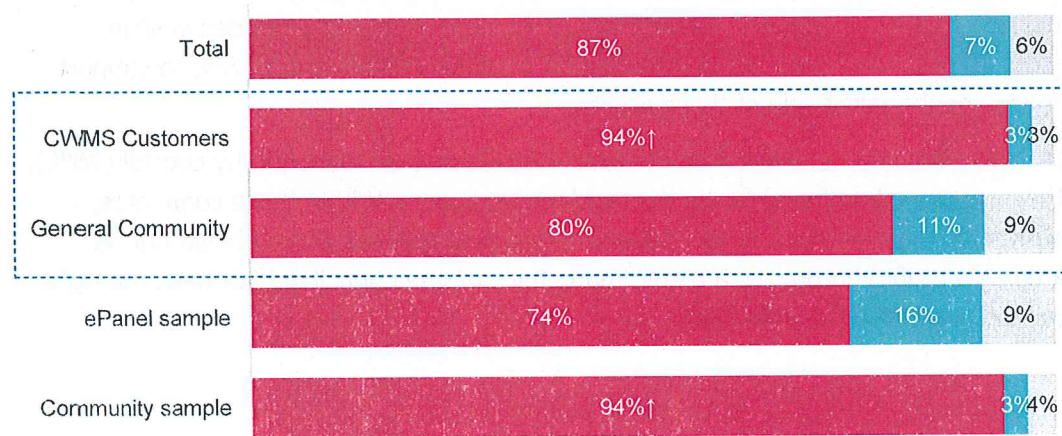
Respondents were presented with the following scenario and asked to comment in relation to their level of support for this possible outcome.

The potential sale of the water assets is a significant decision for Council and it is important to understand how the community feels about this as a possible outcome.

Proceeds from a sale could be used in a range of ways.

Overall, 87% were against the Council selling the water assets. Significantly more CWMS customers were against the sale compared to the general community (94% compared to 80%, respectively).

Figure 18 – Level of support for Council selling assets



■ Against sale ("No, I do not support the council selling these water assets")

■ Pro-sale (aggregated net: "Yes - to repay council debt; to bring forward our existing program of works; to retain revenue for future projects as determined by Council; in combination for all of the above")

■ Unsure + Other

Question 9 – Would you support council selling the Water Business and the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: All who responded to the question, n=417; CWMS customers, n=210; General community, n=168

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Note: Arrows (↑) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

Overall, free text responses were recorded by 221 people; 206 were against the sale of the assets, three were supportive / not against the sale, and 12 were unsure or gave an 'other' response.

In addition to the feedback gathered in the survey, 11 people contacted the Council with their perspectives about the sale. It was clear from these responses, that five were against the sale, two were supportive of the sale, and two needed more information to form a position. The perspectives of the remaining two were not available as they required a personal follow-up from the Council. Among those opposed to the sale, there was a mention of support for corporatisation of the assets, in preference to privatisation.

The sentiment captured here was similar to that captured earlier in the survey.

Summary of all comments

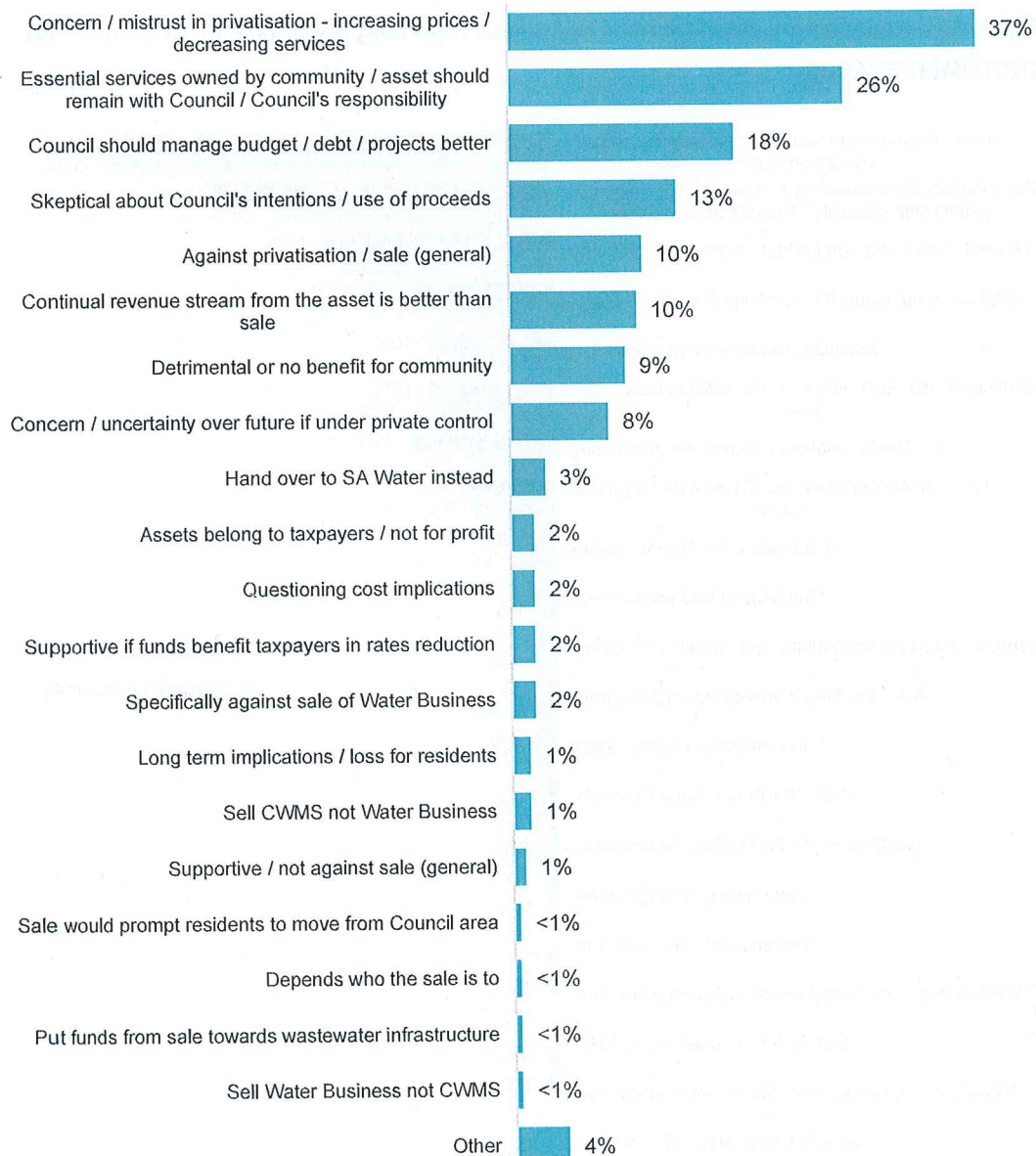
Across all of the (predominantly negative) feedback, the most common comment was in relation to a mistrust and concern over privatisation of the local water supply and wastewater services. Most felt that the sale would likely be to a private company, which would lead to a net increase in water costs to the consumer and a net decrease in services (37%). Many referred to privatisation of other utilities, e.g. power, to support their argument against sale of these assets.

There was also a strong belief that the assets should remain managed by council (26%), as they are owned and paid for by the resident tax payers. Within these comments, there was mention of these assets delivering essential services which should not be treated as a profit venture. As a result, many felt that the council did not have the right to sell the assets for these reasons.

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Figure 19 – Reasons provided for level of support regarding potential sale of assets –

OVERALL



Free text providing context to Question 9 – Would you support council selling the Water Business and the Community Wastewater Management System?

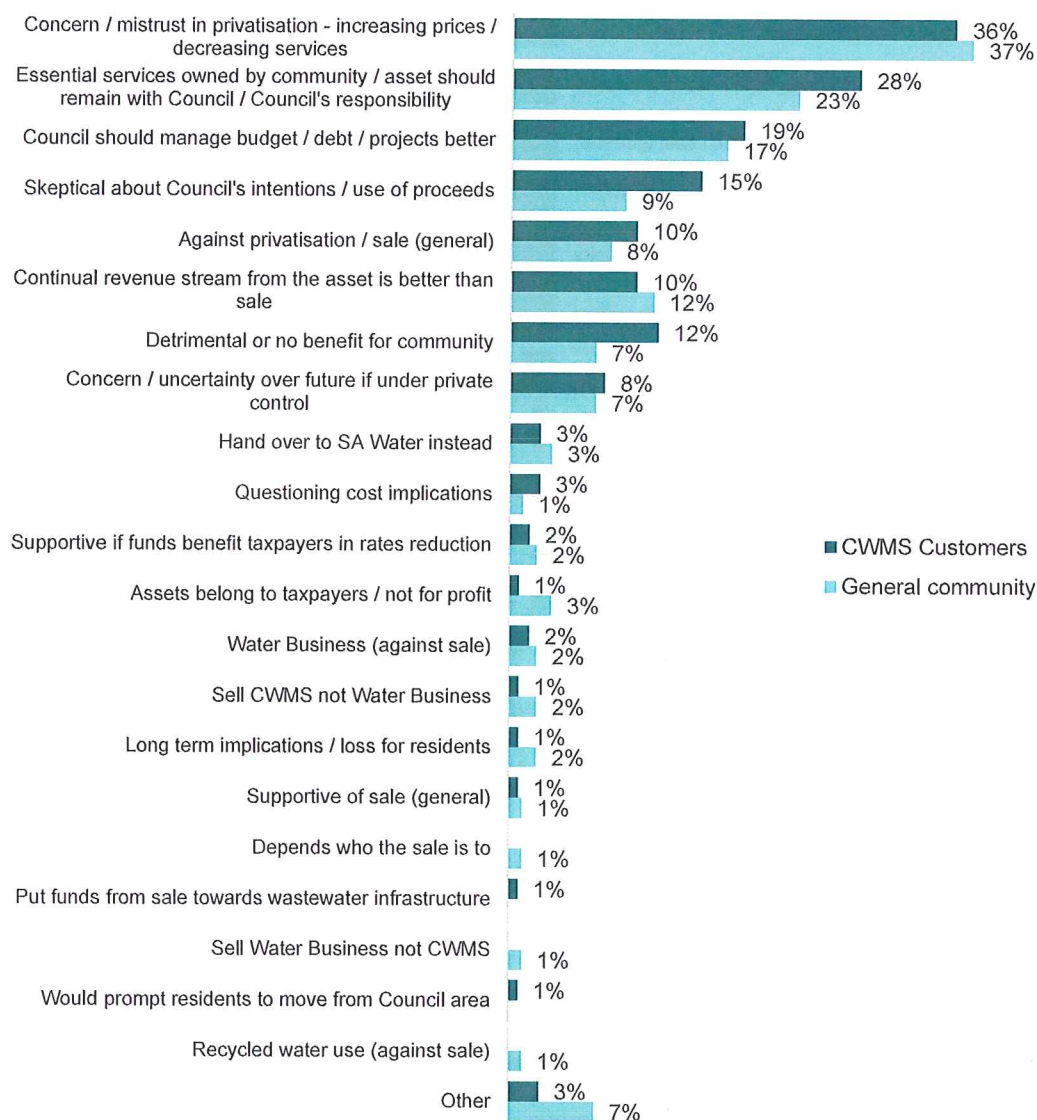
Base: All who gave a response, n=221

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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Looking at the subgroups of CWMS customers and the general community, responses in relation to the potential assets sale appeared relatively similar, with no statistically significant differences for any response category.

Figure 20 – Reasons provided for level of support regarding potential sale of assets – BY CUSTOMER STATUS



Free text providing context to Question 9 – Would you support council selling the Water Business and the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: CWMS Customers who gave a response, n=117; General Community who gave a response, n=86

Note: Arrows (†) denote significantly higher proportions in comparison to the corresponding bar.

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

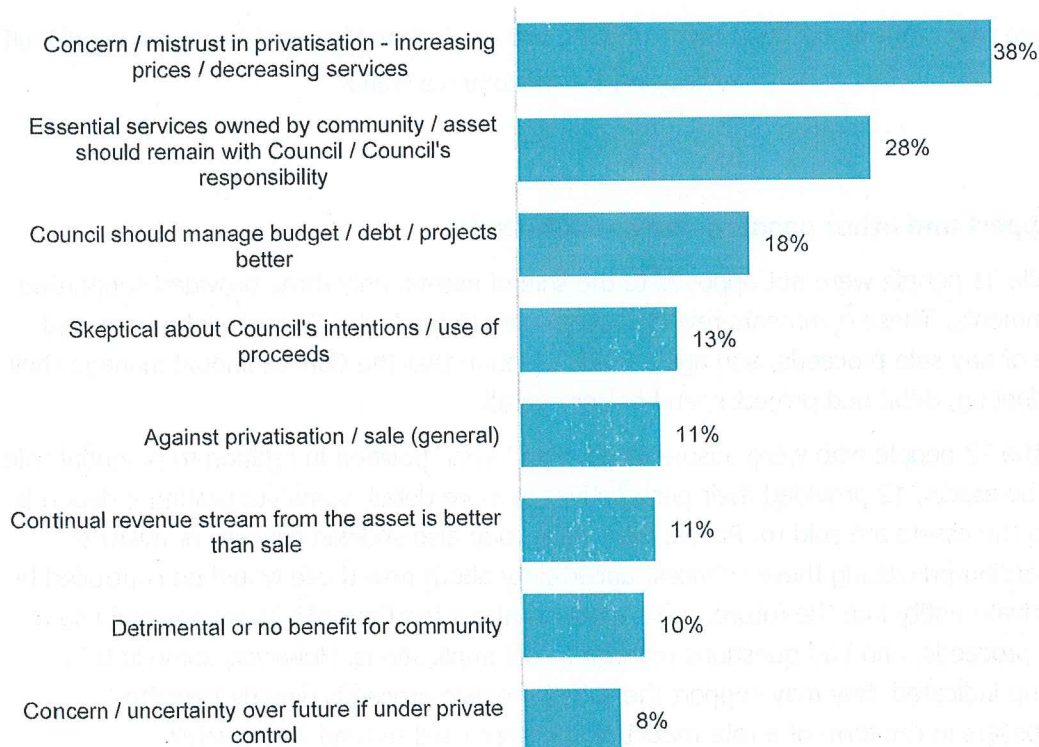
Opposition to the sale

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Among those against the sale, the top five points raised were:

1. Concern / mistrust in privatisation – leading to increasing prices to the consumer and a decline in services (38%);
2. The assets (that deliver essential services) should remain managed and owned by the Council / they are owned and paid for by the community (28%);
3. The Council should manage their budget, debt and project spending better so as not to have to sell the assets (18%);
4. Scepticism and doubt around the Council's intentions and use of any proceeds from any sale (13%); and
5. General opposition to the sale and privatisation (11%).

Figure 21 – Predominant reasons provided for opposition to sale of assets



Free text providing context to Question 9 – Would you support council selling the Water Business and the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: All in opposition to sale who gave a response, n=206

Note: Comments were coded into common themes and quantified. A full list of verbatim comments can be found in the appendix.

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"All other privatization of ex-government assets has resulted in decreased services and increased prices."

"The council has to curb its spending on non-essential areas as has been highlighted in recent times. Be more transparent in your dealings with ratepayers."

"I am not in favour of asset stripping. They are owned by the people for the people not for a third party to profit."

"One only has to witness the privatisation of other utilities to see it as a short-sighted venture, where money is lost and put into companies hands as a profit and we the owners are held to ransom with a price that is dictated by them. Try and keep this business for local people who already need employment. Make Onkaparinga City great by doing this internally."

"Keep your hands off our Basic Human Right's, you are there to Manage it for us, not to sell it off to company looking to turn a Profit!"

Support and other positions towards the sale

While 31 people were not opposed to the sale of assets, only three provided supporting comments. These comments revealed scepticism towards the Council's intentions and use of any sale proceeds, and again made mention that the Council should manage their budgeting, debit and project spend better overall.

Of the 23 people who were unsure or gave an 'other' position in relation to potential sale of the assets, 12 provided their perspectives in more detail, some suggesting it depends who the assets are sold to. People from this group also showed concern or mistrust regarding privatising these services, uncertainty about how these would be controlled by a private entity into the future, were sceptical about the Council's intentions and use of the proceeds, and had questions regarding cost implications. However, some in this group indicated they may support the sale if the sale proceeds directly benefited taxpayers in the form of a rate reduction, or were used to fund wastewater infrastructure. (Caution when interpreting these small numbers.)

RELEASED

Table 4 – Comments provided by those supportive of or unsure about sale

Comment theme	Unsure + Other position	NET: Pro-sale
Concern / mistrust in privatisation - increasing prices / decreasing services	3	
Questioning cost implications	2	
Supportive if funds benefit taxpayers in rates reduction	2	
Skeptical about Council's intentions / use of proceeds	1	2
Council should manage budget / debt / projects better		1
Concern / uncertainty over future if under private control	1	
Sell CWMS not Water Business	1	
Supportive of sale (general)	1	
Depends who the sale is to	1	
Put funds from sale towards wastewater infrastructure	1	
Sell Water Business not CWMS	1	
Other	1	1

Free text providing context to Question 9 – Would you support council selling the Water Business and the Community Wastewater Management System?

Base: All in support of sale who gave a response, n=3; All unsure or 'other' in relation to sale who gave a response, n=12

Caution: Small sample sizes

"Thus, at this point I would say yes it is a great idea BUT we, residents and businesses, need clarification that there will be a fair pricing put in place and that the service will be provided safely and securely. Very importantly, that there will be a financial benefit for all and a guarantee that the service will be provided properly, cleanly, safely."

"If you repay debt interest saved could be used to buy back the water. However, there would be temptation to buy other debt for projects."

"As long as it doesn't increase our rates it is ok by me."

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Sign Off

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Name: Paula Bugden

Date: 10 Aug 2018

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APPENDIX: Verbatim comments from free text questions

Q5. In terms of the management of these assets: Is the council the appropriate organisation to own and manage the Water Business?
If any change, would prefer to see mains water connected to the suburb of Maslin Beach. Water assets should remain as a public utility.
who could do better, and better in providing without The community incurring more costs if it goes to a private organisation
A 'water Business' would be looking to maximise profit. Both these water assets are a community service and should not look to profit from the community.
a) The assets have been managed by the council quite satisfactorily to date and see no reason for them to be privatised. If we go down this path the council will lose control of the service and I anticipate that costs will increase. b) I am concerned about where the proceeds of the sale will eventually end up and to what purpose they will be put.
after the stuff up with the sale of ETSA and SA Water by the state government I can see this going down the same path. The rate payer will end up being ripped off. So my answer to the survey is a big NO
All essential services should be run by governments and run as "not for profit". There are countless other essential services that have been privatised and experienced excessive cost blow outs due to the main priority being shareholder returns.
All privatisations I have seen have been of NO benefit to the people it serves. When you add the profit motive it ALWAYS results in poorer outcomes. Why is council even considering this?
all profits returned to council
Although council is always hungry for income it is far more manageable than a Private 'for profit' business that by it's nature is only responsible to it's shareholders.
Am not in favour of releasing council assets to private hands. Fear of sky rocketing fees!
Any business that has a monopoly will by definition seek profit maximization and service minimization. That can't be good for customers
Any water related infrastructure should always remain in public hands.
Apparently council is about community, the waste water system provides a service to those who's waste is collected by it and provides a service to those who use the recycled water.
As I have worked in local government for eight years both in SA and Queensland. I believe when managed properly LG can attract the experience and expertise to manage these assets for the greater good of the community.
as in the state government when water was privatised a while ago we were promised lower rates instead we got lies and higher water costs..government, local ,state federal I will never vote for the sale of any assets again.not to be trusted no matter what you say to us.as you say in your letter its the responsibility of the new owner to set prices for customers.as we all know a business wants profits and profits mean at the customers expense. so this is my reason I will not back council in private sale of the water and septic in any way.the regulators as you say are full of shit pardon the expression they back the operator not the consumer..i will let everyone know this through the internet let them remember the electricity water gas prices when privatised..all the lie by government and council no better . I remember council joining up together a while ago telling how much cheaper it be for us running less councils.and now again lies high prices on council rates pensioners can not even afford your ridiculous prices my sister lives in prospect and pays cheaper than me and I got 300 squares in land for gods sake where my home is built on..so no no way..

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As owners of a seafront home at Sellicks beach we are emphatically against the idea of selling off the council's water assets. History " South Australian " tells us that there are few, if any successful such sales. The idea of running what is essentially an essential community service at a profit " which is what business tries to do, is fundamentally wrong. To make a profit, a business buying such assets might have to cut corners, reduce services, raise prices, or all of these. These assets need to be retained by council and best practice methods used to run them, while keeping costs to ratepayers to a minimum.

As soon as this is privatised the costs will skyrocket. I do not trust privatisation of council assets

As soon as you sell or outsource the price goes up for everyone who relies on a service....SA Water, Telstra, Electricity etc.

As the public we will have no control on private companies and how much they will charge for these services.

Assets belong to all ratepayers and therefore be maintained by them.

Assuming expertise is sought via a tender process [outsourcing] but with control left with Council This was the considered view of Friends of Sellicks - this response is not from an individual but rather a community group. Haydon Manning Chairperson, Friends of Sellicks

At the moment my septic tank is emptied every 4 years paid for through my outlandishly expensive council rates. I fear a new and more expensive charge from a private organisation without my council rates being reduced to effectively to offset the invoice from a private operator.

Basic services should always remain with council and government! Privatisation does not work!

Because as we know if it is in the hands of a private entity it we cost that consumers or ratepayers an exorbitant cost for this commodity

Because council manage this scheme for ratepayer benefit ,not just for profit if in private hands

Because I have yet to see an outsourced management function of a 'utility' to be a benefit to the recipient

Because I pay the council to protect these assets and should employ the relevant people to manage it. I will end up paying more to private company and the council will still charge the same, its a shady deal

Because I think they are doing a good job, no need to change

Because 'If it aint broke don't fix it'. To expect the residents to believe that it would be to our ultimate 'advantage' to privatise these things is an utter insult to everyone. How many lessons have to be taught to Public Employees before it sinks in? Once upon a time there used to be a thing called the SA Electricity Board which owned our own States Electricity. It was very reasonably priced. At the time it was sold (it was one of the first of our States assets to be sold off) everybody was being told the same guff your attempting to tell us now - ergo;- the new owners will be able to spend more on infrastructure, etc etc... How stupid do you think we are? Nowadays we are literally the most expensive place in the entire PLANET to use electricity. No-one or no enterprise is going to buy these structures unless they will ultimately make money from it. Therefore, this whole exercise is a complete waste of everyone's time and effort solely for the probable purpose of a few either stupid or greedy people who will enjoy their own obscene increase in their own bank balances. Don't tell us anything like this is for the Residents ultimate good.

Because it is answerable to ratepayers, where as a private company is not and won't be, no matter what the council says, or thinks it may be.

Because it is the council's role to provides services to residents. The council is managing it well. Any other organisation is in the business of making a profit, not providing services in the best interests of residents.

Because its why they were created in the first place, they need to start doing their job and stop palming assets off to make money

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Because managing anything else is not much different. What makes a difference is in who's favour - private interest, or community the management happens. Clearly, community will not benefit from the sale as private business's concern is profit making, not providing service at breaking even pricing
Because once these responsibilities are shed, we can be sure that profits come before public interest.
Because private business will increase the cost to make a profit and not necessarily improve the service, we only need to look at the what the privatisation of electricity has done
Because privatisation is less efficient and more expensive historically, despite claims to the contrary. Our assets should not be privatised and we should continue to manage them
Because the city should be responsible to own and operate the city assets.
Because the council can run them for residents/rate payers and not for shareholders.
Because the council presumably is not for profit. It therefore needs to be significantly inefficient before an asset that gives a significant financial benefit in operating costs becomes a liability compared to paying a for profit company that there is no control over for the service
Because the opposite - selling the assets results in a lack of control for future council staff and representatives and the current management have shown themselves to be both incompetent and corrupt.
because the private sector is costly and is often sloppy. Too many examples of previous privatisations. How many jobs will be lost in the Council. Always control water whether drinking or waste water.
Because they are a valuable asset and belong to the ratepayers of the Onkaparinga council. They are not their to be sold off to support the financial incompetence of the Council members and not to be sold off to private enterprise whose sole purpose would be to exploit ratepayers to make a profit.
Because water is important to the community and you are suppose to be there for the community.
Because we all see what happens to consumers bill when these assets are sold off and Council has the expectation of acting for the community
Because when the council own it the community own it. Once sold the privatization of public interests has always ended up in higher costs as greedy corporations try to make larger profits. DO NOT SELL. it actually shouldnâ€™t be the councils to sell as it was majorly Federal and State funds that provided it.
Because when things become privately owned and there is no competition the price goes through the roof.
Because, its already been done , federally and in other states and the costs did not improve , nor did the infastructure, if you need the money to maintain these services, plan a future with built in moneys , so we can pay for our own, maintinance and redevelopment.
Because, like anything else, costs will rise to the end user when taken over by private enterprise who need to make a profit, otherwise would not be interested. Council should not be making a profit to provide this service and if they are, fees should be reduced to the householder.
Both are an integral part of the community asset and should be managed the same as other infrastructure.
Both of these are natural monopolies and as such should remain in public hands .If a natural monopoly is in private hands it should have a regulator to ensure that neither 'capital' or 'labour' extracts excess profits . To be effective the regulator must have the same or better expertise as the operator .So it is surely better to use that expertise to run the business.

RELEASED

but should not be profiting from this which they are now and will be worse if privatised
By keeping the assets under local control, the community can have more input into the ongoing maintenance of the assets. When control goes to large corporations or industry bodies, that influence is diluted significantly and more times than not the customer service level decreases.
Cause if private operators get it,there in it for profit, so all costs will go up,just like, sa water,etsa then we all will pay more
Core assets like water management should be run by the local authorities, not private sector. A local authority will not run it as a business in the same way as a private sector would. I feel that any business purchase will no nothing in terms of value for money for the local residents and I do not feel comfortable with core assets being potentially owned by foreign based investors - total madness actually.
Corporations must make profit every year. Meaning the cost of running the plant must increase to provide profit and this cost must be pasted on to it's customers. Council on the other hand could potentially run this without profit, simply taking the necessary amount from customers to run and maintain the plant without needing increasing profits every year. Community paying for itself rather than paying a corporation.
Council can better manage the whole system together. If you sell off parts of it, Council is no longer managing or supporting the services that the ratepayer is entitled to
Council has a duty of care to ensure ratepayers basic resource needs are met.
Council has been managing these assets in the past and I see no reason to change
Council has employees who are quite capable and experienced in operating and maintaining all their water assets.
Council has the capacity to make decisions in the best interest of all in the local council authority.
Council has to hold the best interest of the customer first. Transfer to SA water would be beneficial given the the tarrifs are state based. A third party will only be interested in making a profit resulting in higher costs to the customer.
Council has. Many other duties to perform
Council is a service provider and should continue to provide this service using the rate payers assets. Rate payers own these assets and they should not be sold to help pay for Councils exhorbitant debts.
Council is accountable to its rate payers in setting annual fees. Although the sale of the assets to a specialised water company who are accountable to ESCOSA, I believe the ongoing operating pricing passed onto rate payers will be profit driven only.
Council is representative of the residents, private ownership represents shareholders interested only in meeting the shareholders profit projections. Council ownership SHOULD ensure the best interests of the residents, and not those of profit oriented company.
Council is responsible for managing and maintaining community health and appropriate infrastructure.
Council serves the community, so it's appropriate for it to manage community resources for its benefits.
Council should manage community assets
Council should not be trying to compete with private industry
Council was the organisation originally responsible for the infrastructure and has full knowledge of it. As a community our council represents the needs of its constituents and although it needs to cover costs does not have profit as its prime motivator.
Council's role is to pick up my garbage and mow the lawns. It is not a utility.
Councils are here to provide services to the community therefore it seems appropriate they manage them.

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councils are there to manage community requirements as a collective - residents in a community don't build their own roads or individually manage their sewage disposal - that's why they're a community.
Currently they are owned and operated by council and the ratepayers have some say. If they are sold it will be like all the other formerly state owned utilities and the grief that people in SA now experience with private utilities
CWMS - Services in this space should be retained and managed by the council as in some cases, infrastructure investment is not always undertaken to expect a return or have the assumption of cost recovery. WB - Irrigation should always be in the hands of private enterprise as investment should always seek to gain a return.
Decisions shouldn't be made by such a small body as they may conflict with surrounding areas, need to work together and look and take action as a whole
Depends, could the business be better managed elsewhere? I'd prefer our council to own these businesses but also manage them more efficiently. Everybody knows if you're lazy and a good bum kisser, then get a job in the council.
Do not believe that council should sell any more assets.
do not privatise. going by past governments choosing this options (federal and state) it only increases costs to the consumers. Council will as loose revenue.
Do not privatise....
Due to being a valuable necessity
Due to incompetence and self indulgent waste Council is in massive debt and should NOT be allowed to flog off assets to bail us out
Essential services are just that, a service, not a business. The sole purpose of a business is profit, by selling these assets council will be deserting its rate payers who will be left at the mercy of of a profit driven business.
Essential services must be kept as a Government or Council responsibility.
Essential services shouldn't be privately owned/operated
Every instance of privatisation has led to increase prices with totally no accountability whatsoever to local, state or federal government. What if sold offshore do you think they'll care about the rate payers of SA I think not
Everything sold to a private business raise the price....doesn't worry about the community or individuals...just worry about profit
hard to trust private enterprise, they always want to make money and that could lead to short cuts. once an asset is sold its hard to buy it back .
have confidence that council staff can manage wastewater systems, but do not have confidence that council or staff to own and manage a business over a longer period of time.
Having extensive experience working within a local government Water Industry, and working through these same issues in my professional life, I have a firm belief that local government is best placed to own and manage these assets as they have the needs and best interests of the customer at the heart of all that they do. Any other provider is only going to come in to find a way to make money out of these valuable assets. This is going to be largely through failing to maintain them in order to get their best asset life. As costs of running the water industry need to be borne entirely by the users, it is important that the City of Onkaparinga simply resource their Water Industry appropriately (by all means, seek expertise from outside where required - engineers, other water industries including local governments etc). I think that sale of assets is extremely short sighted, and likely the result of a poor understanding of Water Industries by Council's elected body. It's quite possible that after sale to a private water company, and the running of assets into the ground, the customers will be begging Council to take it back on....albeit with degraded assets and lots of catch-up for poor Council at that later stage.

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History shows that community assets were taken over by government agencies to prevent over-pricing by profiteering owners.
I believe that all water and energy assets should be managed by government
I am 6 of what this covers and what other councils do. If it means better services at lower cost then I would support it. But if this is just a money grabbing exercise because the council is in the red then I don't because like all these things it will probably end up costing us more in the long run.
I am 71yrs old and cannot remember publicly owned and managed assets successfully being transferred into private hands without increase in cost to the consumer
I am concerned that by placing these assets in the hands of a private company there will be a significant increase in costs to those ratepayers who rely on this service. Private companies need to make profits on top of their associated costs. Have we privatised SAWater. NO. Wake up to yourselves.
I am strongly opposed to privatizing what is essentially a public facility as this will inevitably lead to higher prices. Private companies do not work on behalf of constituents, they work to make money!
I am yet to see an asset that has been sold not cost the rate payer more when sold privatization may have better management but the end of the day will only cost the ratepayer more
I believe all utilities be it water, power etc should be controlled and run by government. Privatising public assets has not caused prices to go down or for them to be better managed.
I believe it could be better run by a private company, as long as they still use recycled and storm water.
I believe that public amenities should not be sold off to private companies to be used to make a profit.
I believe these are council responsibilities
I believe these assets belong to the community and should be run by and for the benefit of the community not by and for the benefit of private enterprise.
I believe they are community assets and should be kept in community hands. Any similar assets sold by the State Government have quickly escaped in price. ECOSA will not protect us from that.
I believe they should not be running at a profit through private enterprise. Council should ensure that, yes, cover your expenses whilst at the same time manage the two systems at the lowest possible cost without endangering the services.
I believe this is a function that 'should' be owned and driven by specialists in the field
I chose these options because they are essential service and I am of the firm belief that the community is best served by all essential services remaining within Government hands. This is an evidenced based belief supported by historical data.
I DO NOT agree for the Onkaparinga Council to sell the water assets (CWMS & VB) &/or the operation of these I want the council to own & operate the above. Once again I strongly disagree to any sale or any other operator other than the Onkaparinga Council controlling, owning or operation the water assets
I do not know enough about this asset and what it takes to run it.
I do not trust private enterprises to take care of these assets. Only Council should manage our water assets
I do not trust private operators
I do not want to see this in the hands of private water companies - PRICES WILL RISE WITHOUT A DOUBT
I don't believe that selling off community interests to allow future increases in prices way above inflation is in the public's interest. This is what happened with electricity and now average people can't afford the bills

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I don't trust private enterprise to run these types of business, as the end result is to make money for the share holders at the cost to the users. At this stage I do not trust the Onkaparinga Councils management committee to run this program. I would prefer a Federal or State government with the experience in these areas to run the Wastewater program. There is no where that I have seen that the consumer gains any benefit from Privatisation of any public service. Margaret Thatcher's move to carry out the privatisation has cost the British citizen dearly.
I don't want assets 'privatised'. It becomes business for profit, like all the other stuff that governments have privatised.
I don't want our assets sold I am so sick of paying excessive prices on privately owned assets. Have a look at our power and electricity prices. Our rates are outrageous compared to other councils.
I firmly believe that water assets should remain in public hands. There is no way the price is not affected by private companies imperative to make a profit.
I think a specialist company is better managed to look after these assets as long as cost don't rise for end users.
I think Council is the appropriate organisation to own the assets. Once you have sold them off you lose the security and water security is one of the top issues for SA the next two decades according to the Goyder Institute for Water Research.
I think CWMS should remain with CoO control and administration. I think the Council should develop its own expertise in waste water management to more efficiently operate the current systems and invest in the structures to ensure they are fit for purpose now and in the future. Water, including waste water, should be in (local) government hands and not privatised.
I think local government is very appropriate having worked in LG for 8 years in both SA and Queensland. I feel LG when managed properly can attract the experience and expertise to manage assets such as these.
I think we have seen enough price gouging when community assets are sold off to private companies!
I am not paying more for someone else to charge me.
I am not sure why the council isn't coping
If council sold this asset it would have to buy the water back for its parks and reserves
If it is managed in a profitable manner.
if owned by a private firm is harder for the rate payers to express their disapproval. Don't have access to a ombudsman service. If owned by SA Water would be better.
If sold off a private company would increase charges for this service to make a profit on their investment.
If sold we would end up paying for the service we previously owned and managed, a service that was created by the community and benefited the community, without any protection from price rises or guarantee of further investment and development. I see no evidence in the present political and economic climate that privatization of community assets actually produces long term public benefit. I also see no reason why the council which has had the vision to make these provisions for our future cannot properly manage and further develop these assets.
if the assets are sold there are no controls on pricing in the future. we know from past experience with the sale of the electricity and water assets by state governments that costs to end users is now out of control with huge profits going to shareholders. I am dead against the sale of these assets.

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If you sell it off you will then have to buy back something you once already owned to water parks, sporting grounds etc. This is the most insane thing I have ever heard of to sell of an asset for nothing gain
if you sell it to private enterprise and then have to buy back the water for our parks then you are buying back what you sold. with the council managing the project we know it is being handled properly. if you don't buy back the water for the parks we will have no green space in summer
If you're selling assets yo raise capital; it doesn't work. All it does is push up the costs for the end user. Privatisation is ALWAYS a bad move.
In all cases I am aware of privatisation of public assets results in higher prices. This is to be expected. The company exists to make a profit. If a profit can be made operating these assets/services then why shouldn't this go to rate payers via keeping prices down or as funds to their council?
In case of problems we need a local body from whom to ask for the problems to be solved, not a private body which may be interstate. Also the water is there for use on local ovals, irrigation projects etc.
It is a local issue rather than a State or Federal issue. Council's should always act in the best interest of the residents they represent. Onkaparinga is the largest council in SA and therefore should manage all resources in the council region
It is apparent they are run at a loss/through subsidy by ratepayers. There is a state government organisation for collection and treatment of household and industrial waste water that should have been running that side. Unfortunately no agency seems to want to collect stormwater.
IT IS in the interest of all citizens that the Council remains the owner and manager of these systems and Business. If this country doesn't learn from many past mistakes of sell off all our assets, we won't anything left to make money from. We need to be manage thing better and all current leadership need to take their jobs and responsibilities seriously, and not be short-sighted and just seek their own agenda while in power. If current managers think it easier the sell it off, THEY NEED REPLACING, NOW.
It is owned by the people for the people
it might be a better option for a private specialised company to own and run the rather than the council
It should be managed by SAWater they are the State Utility who are experts in this area, the council owned system has outgrown Onkaparinga and its expertise
It's the council's responsibility to ensure all the proceeds collected from the locals to be distributed sensibly and used effectively. Council should be in full control, not managed by third party commercial providers, whose pure interest is making maximum margin by minimising service.
it's a basic necessity which should not be sold. more time and money will be wasted making sure a private firm manages it correctly than will be gained from any sale
It's an essential service. Privatisation will predictably result in higher costs to the community. We're already wearing painfully high council rates, paying for services that are likely beyond the mandate for the council, not to mention golf memberships.
It's critical that such important initiatives as these stay in the control of community representatives - and the council should be congratulated on the pivotal role it plays here. I have difficulty recalling any time when the private sector when entering the sphere of public utilities/community based assets has effectively managed self regulation. There are too many examples of this in recent times. Is there a problem here that is not being articulated? Does the council feel that it is unable to manage the CWMS and/or the Water Business? Is it about competency? Have there been problems with the management thus far? Have users of the systems complained of inefficiencies and exorbitant costs? I'm not convinced that a major change such as privatization is necessary. I hope this isn't about a

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reaction to ratepayer criticisms of council in unrelated areas or about satisfying political ideologies.
It's the council responsibility to endure the council area is well maintained and this shouldn't be sold off to an entity that can then decide to charge what they want to return the water.
Keep the costs down
Keep the costs down & associated with council rates. Council do a good job of arranging emptying of SWMS tanks on a regular basis. Part of the costs. I doubt the costs of rates will compensate for the increase in costs for a private company doing it.
Local knowledge and more immediate opportunity for repair, maintenance
Local owned and managed appropriate unlike money driven outsiders
Need more detail of income and expenditure etc.
Need to be responsible particularly re the wetlands asset.
No to privatisation of water services.
Not a WB customer so don't know about it
not sure as council is the local government which should know better in the local area. however sometimes council has too much power
Not sure due to the underlying goal of the council
Once the asset is sold, and removed from the hands of council and ratepayers the price will go up. I have seen this happen with many utilities that I have dealt with professionally.
Once you sell off something so important the costs escalate for all residents. This is what has happened to Sa Water & forget regulation that is a joke.
One would hope that council is not into making a profit out of providing services! I would hope that they would be provided 'at cost'.
Whereas if it is owned by 'business' surely one of the main reasons they would be interested in it would be to make a profit for their shareholders. And hence one would presume that the cost of supplying the service would lead to an increase cost to the consumer.
Ongoing income from the waste water system will be better long term, than a quick cash injection. Concerned costs will actually increase - council need to address that and guarantee the costs will not increase under privatisation. Council constantly tells us its run as efficiently as possible - if this is true the statements that private enterprise can do a better job is a complete contradiction!
Opportunity to keep funds in the council. Control and influence in direction.
Originally an excellent decision, no need to change.
Originally Council thought it was appropriate to own and operate the system. I don't believe any significant events have changed.
Our Council rates already employ the council to manage this scheme. Selling the operation of the CWMS is a short sighted one off fund raising ploy to divest responsibility to a private organization that will ultimately cost rate payers more each year. The governments privatization of electricity and water are a perfect example of what we can expect and the council will sit back and refuse to take any responsibility for the shortfall of the privatized operation. As pensioners we rely on the rebates provided to help make ends meet. Your letter floating the proposal already indicates that the private operator may not continue with rebate scheme. I believe that the continued management of both the CWMS and the WB by the council is in the best interest of the rate payers.
Outsourcing always increases price.
Please stop selling all the assets . You cant get them back when there sold
Private business is proven to increase charges.
Private companies are only interested in profits and the costs to ratepayers will skyrocket.

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Private companies ultimately run down assets and strip them. Look at electricity, whereas see how well the Adelaide Metro operates. Private companies are not more efficient, as seen in the directors vehicles. The supposed efficiency is to cut costs lower down.
Private enterprise better placed to manage and invest in the scheme for long term benefit of customers
Private firms end charging further fees as they see fit without regulation for the benefit of Rate Payers....Residents. Becomes a for profit enterprise not a service for need .
Privately managed public assets never favour the user. They will not maintain the rebate that you have suggested. Why would they? The cost will go up as it always does under private management and there is nothing wrong with the service now. I sight waste management as an example of council services privately run that have resulted in fly tipping as it is so expensive to use the dump.
Privatisation = private monopolisation = customer lock-in = inevitable price gouging. Regulators unfortunately do NOT regulate effectively. (e.g. electricity retail privatisation)
Privatisation of any publicly owned assets results in 2 outcomes - higher prices and reduced services.
Privatisation of government owned services has proven not to be in the best interests of the consumer. Costs always increase rapidly. Privately owned organisations are in it to make money, rightly so, but this is to the detriment of ratepayers.
Privatisation of natural monopolies is a terrible economic choice. There can be no competition in the collection of stormwater and sewage, and thus privatisation can only lead to higher prices for consumers and anti-consumer monopolies.
Privatisation of state assets has not proved beneficial. It has resulted in soaring costs.
Privatising leads to loss of control of quality, of costs to the consumer and guarantees of long term employment.
Privatization brings price rises and poor customer satisfaction
Privatization of assets like these over the years have shown that eventually the consumer will end up paying more for the services.
Public accountability for these essential service assets must remain with government, not private enterprise.
Sales of utilities always results in higher prices and worse service. We've tried privatisation of public utilities, it brings in money that makes up for bad financial management but doesn't work for the consumer.
Selling government owned assets never works out better for the community. You only have to look at the cost of energy here in Australia to see that. It's just plain stupidity to sell off public assets
Selling to private will ultimately cost ratepayers more as the buyer will want his cut as well DO NOT SELL
Services serve us best when the Council retains control. Business will put profit ahead of householders and local environment - Council can put people first
Should not be privatised. Water supply is a right, not a business to make money
Specialised operation.
Storm water is a local government responsibility
Surely Onkaparinga benefits from having the irrigation system, CWMS system and WBWC all focussed on delivering a more liveable City and growth in irrigated agriculture - more jobs, greener environment, less water wastage.
Surley you can handle this task plus it will end up costing the rate Payer more we are already paying enough
The CEO only wants to sell this so he can play a round of golf at Glen Egeals in Scotland.
the community contributed towards the cost of this asset. The additional debt was agreed to on the condition it was operated by council as a community asset and widely supported as one of the most successful projects of council

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<p>The Council can be trusted to manage this valuable asset wisely and fairly. They would be answerable to the community if it is mismanaged.</p>
<p>The council charge for this service to our small business offices (one old house converted) are extremely unreasonable since the change in the fee made some years back. We have sought for some sense to be brought to the matter with no satisfactory result to us. This property uses minimal water and only has two toilets no bathroom. laundry facilities and minimal use of the kitchen sink. I don't know whether another operator would see our issue and perhaps make the fees to our situation more reasonable - based on usage - not tenanted offices - Often untenanted.</p>
<p>The council had the vision to build these. They are assets that should benefit our community NOT shareholders of a private company!</p>
<p>The council has done a good job up until now</p>
<p>The Council has invested in Water proofing the region - we should all now benefit from that investment by way of access, maintenance of the sites and improvement or further work on the waterways of the south</p>
<p>The council have instigated, developed and maintained these systems for the community. The council has the means to continue management of the systems. A private company won't have community interests as a priority in their operations, and would reasonably be expected to seek a profit.</p>
<p>The Council is a consumer the same as the waste producers and should retain ongoing responsibility for the waste services and the recycling operations, noting that Council gains a huge benefit from recycling water in the Onkaparinga area.</p>
<p>The Council is accountable to ratepayers and is therefore more likely to look after their interests. Private companies are concerned for their profits only.</p>
<p>The council is best qualified to operate these business's for their area . I am 6 of the reason why all levels of government in Australia feel the need to sell off our assets to private enterprise and possible overseas investment. It does absolutely nothing to enhance the operation of our country's assets or our lifestyle. It just allows the representatives of these governments to accept less and less responsibility for the country's assets and operations and drives the costs up to the public</p>
<p>The council is elected by the people and it is not up to them to sell any assets that we the people own.</p>
<p>The Council is the appropriate organization to own and manage the CWMS and the Water Business as these are natural monopolies. The Council is motivated to provide services to rate payers; the owner of a business to maximizing profit. Once out of Council control a private company would pursue only profitable actions. The three reasons given are insufficient because (1) MORE EFFICIENTLY OPERATE THESE ASSETS -- there is no reason Council cannot receive expert advice/consultancies to operate the assets at world standard for the long term benefit of ratepayers, not shareholders (2) SIGNIFICANTLY INVEST IN THEM -- the Council can invest in these assets using a standard business case study with secure and predictable income streams. Borrowing costs for the Council, as a government institution will always be lower than the private sector and no additional profit or fees need to be built into the equation, (3) PROVIDE A BETTER LEVEL OF SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS -- this seems to be nonsense as a private company will always focus on shareholder returns and profit above any other consideration, while a Council will focus on ratepayers.</p>
<p>The council should have full control of sewage and management of waste water in McLaren Vale (CWMS). Selling this asset off to private enterprise, however much council aspires to control costs, has been proven to fail over the long term. As in other privatisation examples service costs will rise as a consequence. Fresh water services should be retained by SA Water management as exists at the moment as the cost of changing is prohibitive to ratepayers.</p>

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the council should retain these services for the residents
The council should run these water assets because they are answerable to the affected residents. If they are privately owned, as we have experienced with our power etc., most control is lost to profit making big business.
The Council uses the water from these schemes to water thier local parks - so they would then have to pay the new water provider to use the water - this is not a cost saving exercise. The local Council have the best understanding of the needs of the local community because they work so closely with them. The Council also have a better understanding of the socio-economic status of the community which gives them a better understanding of the ability of the community to manage any increase in the cost to the community. A private owner would have no obligation to consider the needs of the community
The CWMS is connected to SA Water sewerage and the Christies Beach treatment works, therefore the Morphett Vale system should be owned by SA Water.
The last sell off of state assets was the state electricity asset and look what a disaster that tern out to be , our bills have gone up to a point many cannot afford to turn the heaters on. The same will happen here with the water assets , privately the costs will go terrifically high as profits are all that matters and it could be the final straw to make people move out of their homes as they cannot cope with any more increases. The is especially relevant to pensioners as I am that are already struggling to pay the bills now. Any increase would be a disaster for me and my family. The council are there to look after our interests not to make large profits for shareholders , the assets should not be sold under any circumstances.
The Morphett Vale CWMS is connected to the SA Water sewerage system and the Christies Beach Treatment Works. Therefore if this is to be sold, SA Water should own the Morphett Vale CWMS.
The myth that privatisation results in cheaper services has proven to be false so many times and we are strongly against such an action. We believe that the council should continue to manage and provide the service to us as rate payers.
The security, quality and availability of both waste water management and the purchase of treated water at controlled and transparent prices is critical to business in the South. The responsible to make sure this happens and allows continued growth in the South along with managing potential long term environmental impact falls on Council.
The system has been in place for years and mostly satisfactorally,you guys charge like wounded bulls for this service, but private operators will just charge much, much more, and councilknow this and dont care,all council want is extra revenue to splurge on themselves,ie ridiculous wages and perks
The work of Council is why we pay rates and taxes.
There is a good deal of unrest amongst residents in a nearby rural township involved with a private water supply scheme that has been on-sold to a new proprietor. Many of those residents do not feel that ESCOSA is adequately protecting their interests. There has been a suggestion that the previous owner had not invested adequate resources in keeping the system up to standard, and as a consequence the new proprietor incurred considerable unforeseen expense to bring the system up to an acceptable standard. To recover this he passed on huge increases in charges to the users. A well run council as owner should not let this happen.
there is no evidence that privatisation benefits consumers, especially when it comes to costs
These are community assets and should be owned and operated by and for the community
These are public assets. Outsourcing to private enterprises is NOT the way to go. Whenever government operations have been outsourced the service has always dropped and prices have increased. Private enterprise has no commitment to public services - just profits.
These assets are to benefit the constituents of Onkaparinga, not to be sold because the council want less responsibility and a quick cash grab. As with many other council/Govt sell

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<p>offs control of fees/costs is lost and is usually driven higher and higher by the owning company. This is evident through the sell off of private health. Companies only need show higher costs to drive up fees. Any suggestion of a regulator is ridiculous to think it will have any bearing on price increases. Iâ€™m disappointed the council cannot manage its own assets for the better of the people it serves.</p>
<p>These assets should remain in the hand of local authority, they are not an asset to be sold off to private industry. Shameful.</p>
<p>These assets were established and maintained using taxes. Previously, the privatization of public assets has resulted in poorer standards of maintenance and higher costs to the end user.</p>
<p>These assets were paid for with my dollars and managed by the council. If they are sold to a 3rd party, then the cost of the service will increase and the money they earn will be lost to the council. i.e. ETSA,SAwater etc. Selling it off would be a short term gain but in the long run, we would all end up paying more.</p>
<p>these basic and essential services MUST not be privatized households are already disadvantaged by not being on mains. privatising essential assets, leave households vulnerable to price increases and lack of community accountability</p>
<p>These two system are owned by the council and are therefore an asset to the community. Once it is privately owned the new owners will require a profit which will be passed on to us the council rate payers!</p>
<p>These types of assets are the role of government not the private sector</p>
<p>They already do.</p>
<p>They are essential services and public assets. The provision of these services should be directly accountable to the users (ratepayers).</p>
<p>They are revenue generating exercise which if operated correctly can offset other sources of income</p>
<p>They have run it for years, let them carry on and work on improving themselves</p>
<p>They should have the best interests of the tax payers in mind when making all decisions. Privatization would mean a focus on the bottom line and making a dollar. Rates would increase and quality of service would decrease as a private company would be focused on making money</p>
<p>this is a necessary service, we should not be held to ransom by a private profit making company when we will have no choice</p>
<p>This is an essential service and should not be privatised.</p>
<p>This is an essential service that requires government control. Business interests will negatively impact on the service.</p>
<p>This service is compulsory through the council and we have to pay for it in our rates. If it becomes privatized how many people will budget for this expense every 3-4 years? Sceptic tanks wonâ€™t get emptied</p>
<p>This system was put on place under the councils guidelines and has been managed by the council since its inception. I have seen no reason why it should not continue</p>
<p>Thought SA Water was involved in these departments</p>
<p>To date we have been happy with the services provided by the Companies the Council have chosen to service these systems.</p>
<p>To keep decisions locally made, with the best interest for residents and local businesses, and the environment.</p>
<p>to listen too the community and not a private company with only dollar signs in mind</p>
<p>Too many community assets are sold, we need to retain ownership and control of these.</p>

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Unless you live in a cave you will have read of the continual abuse of public trusts once privatised. As a community we cannot afford this potential move. History tells us over and over of the deleterious affect of privatising.
Until there is a mains SA Water sewerage connection in the area, council should continue to manage wastewater. It may be covered by a rebate but it still forms part of our existing council rates, thus a council issue, that our local councillors are beholden to. If it's sold who will govern the private companies pricing the service?
Waste management is an essential service should not be in private hands - if not local then state Government
Wastewater management is an essential service with potential community health impacts. The management of wastewater should not be outsourced to organisations whose main goal is to make profit. Over the past few decades, the sale of essential services to private providers, such as electricity and gas, has been an unmitigated disaster for the people of Australia resulting in higher prices, decreased service and reduced infrastructure investment . Given the poor record of outsourced essential services, I cannot believe that council would consider outsourcing wastewater management to a private provider.
Water (Supply/Disposal) is a Basic Human Right that should not be Privatised in any way or form. The Services should also be Free (as a Basic Human Right) or at the Least run on a Not for Profit basis.
Water business and Wastewater Management should be publicly owned and operated utilities at least at a State level. Since the state government of the day decided it was lucrative but a one off cash grab to sell every utility in its possession which ultimately only profited focussed global companies, we have been hit with upward spiralling energy and water costs. Outsourcing increases costs. The so called 'competition' promotes cartel pricing behaviour with service providers. Been there and done that for a global company in Australia. Keep your assets.
water business is ratepayer funded assets and amenities
Water is gold. Why would you co sider selli g these assets off to private companies. The benifit of the water business to the community is a greener environment at a cheaper cost. It would be unviaible to purchase water at a cost that a corporation will require to recoup. Escosa wont regulate the price down only that the company remains viable and a for profit entity will require profit to remain viable. I would also expect that a portion of abc cost is attribute to the current water companies. This would be a cost that would then be passed onto current rate payer from a business that in council hands cannot make a loss as per water act and regulations. Very silly short soghted decision.
Water management is not something I think should be run by private business pushing to make profits
Water will be an increasingly scarce resource. It should be under local government management. If it isnâ€™t being managed as effectively as it could, our council should address those matters, not sell this precious asset, in my view.
We as land owners can control to a deegree what happens , once sold off thete will be no control.
We believe it's important to be continued to be managed by the council. Councils are more approachable and reactive than a private entity. No matter what you say the sale will also most certainly cost consumers more.
We consider these to be 'essential services' & as such should be supplied by the Council, reason being, this is why we pay Council Rates. Additionally, we are Pensioners & therefore we have concerns about increases, as has always happened with privatisation of local gov't assets.
We have been happy with the management of these services. We also pay very high council rates in comparison to other council areas. We expect this to be managed by the Council as this is part of our rates. If privatised, we have concerns that these assets could be poorly managed, our costs increase and council rates would not be reduced significantly. We also

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paid for the infrastructure directly on our own property and indirectly for public works to support the waste water management within the community.
We have seen with ETSA et cetera what has happened when they were privatized, there is no way that I would want the council on-sell to a profiteering company, no matter who it is. The flow on effect will only be and that is ripping people off, like it happens now with the electricity providers, banks and so on!
We pay high council rates. I do not believe you would actually remove that cost from the rates and we end up paying double. Every other council manages the septic system well enough.
We pay our rates to the Council, so they should be the body that manages what we are paying for. In my experience no organisation has ever been efficient when privatised, including the State and Federal Government initiatives. Council is accountable to the rate payers and I would like to see these functions remain with the Council. Our contract is with the Council, so in the event of a private company failing to meet expectations, my grief would still be with the Council.
We pay rates to council and how can we trust private operators who will most likely be looking at profit only, increase prices and cut services
We should be not be selling units look what happen with power it went overboard because the person that brought it maid his money back in six months
We totally disagree with selling another essential service. Costs will go up when sold to private Enterprise there is no guarantee that water costs will not rise with them. We struggle with household costs at the moment due to other amenities being sold now costing much higher than before the sale e.g.Electric & Gas.
We will lose a significant asset .Sale of water, power and communications over the last couple of decades means huge price rises. Potential for other nations to own our water is very concerning.
We won't get ripped off by unscrupulous and dodgy business operators, who just want to make FAST MONEY!!
Well what I don't want is that the water business is not used to its full potential and I do not want someone from overseas owning it!
When other assets owned by 'us' the tax payers have been sold, it has not led to any cost savings for consumers. The council does a good job of running these assets currently and any monetary benefit will be short-term only.
Whenever council or government sell an asset it provides a short term income boost only & cost consumers in the long run. Im not sure its such a good idea
While I believe council should own community assets. I do not believe council is the best option to run the water assets.
Why change now!!
why isnt it all managed state wide by one entity? i.e. SA Water
Working in Local Government for the last 8 years both in SA and Queensland. I have witnessed how when managed properly LG can attract the experience and expertise to manage these assets for the greater good of the community.
Yes because it's owned by the people and managed by the council. The council shouldn't sell something they don't own
Yes, because putting the asset in the hand of WBWC will give them more power over controlling the monopoly instead of focusing on drought proofing the region and making big profits for their super fund which WBWC (or alike) is owned
You can't expect the private sector to provide a cheaper alternative. It doesn't work
Your providing for your community its your job.

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Q7. In terms of future investment in these assets: The Water Business may require additional investment to connect to local recycled water sources. This would assist the Water Business to meet its original goals of providing a secure alternative water supply for the irrigation of open space and reducing reliance on the River Murray. This investment would be recovered over time through the sale of water to council, schools and other customers whether council or another organisation owns the system. Would you support council (as the current owner of the scheme) making such an investment.

5. As my property is connected to SA water sewerage system I don't feel I have enough knowledge on the subject to comment either way. 6. Provided that council remains the owner as the cost of the investment would not add to the sale price.

No more increase in CWMS fee, it is way too high already.

Absolutely Council should invest in securing water supply that doesn't put further strain on the River Murray System. To make either service privatised is not in the best interests of the community or local business.

Already have access to desal water. Why duplicate?

An improvement in the infrastructure is good for growth.

Any investment in recycled water is of benefit to the local community as well as the overall environment across the state. Changes we can make in our city effect all those who use the River Murray. We are all apart of this solution. I would like to see, where the council connects into an alternate water supply, local residents also able to 'tap into' this pipe - at the residents' expense. I would sign up tomorrow.

As a property owner and rate payer I see annually my rates increased at rates unproportionate to the CPI. I object to the apparent frivolous spending of rate payers finances. It appears council see rate payers as a bottomless pity of money resource. There is no endless supply of cash, many ratepayers are struggling already to maintain their property's. Seeling the jewels is not the answer.

As Council is the owner of the water business, then it is highly unlikely that the Council would seek redress if the stormwater was contaminated by an unfortunate spill. Whereas a private company might just seek compensation owing to a number of factors. 1/These range from a perceived lack of education within the community about how the recycled stormwater system actually works. (ignorance is not bliss) Any physical on-ground barriers that would mitigate any spill

As I said previously, councils obligation should be to do this in a cost even program. This would be impossible in public hands. Therefore added cost to our services would be uncontrolled in private hands.

as in the state government when water was privatised a while ago we were promised lower rates instead we got lies and higher water costs..government, local ,state federal I will never vote for the sale of any assets again.not to be trusted no matter what you say to us.as you say in your letter its the responsibility of the new owner to set prices for customers.as we all know a business wants profits and profits mean at the customers expense. so this is my reason I will not back council in private sale of the water and septic in any way.the regulators as you say are full of shit pardon the expression they back the operator not the consumer..i will let everyone know this through the internet let them remember the electricity water gas prices when privatised..all the lie by government and council no better . I remember council joining up together a while ago telling how much cheaper it be for us running less councils.and now again lies high prices on council rates pensioners can not even afford your ridiculous prices my sister lives in prospect and pays cheaper than me and I got 300 squares in land for gods sake where my home is built on..so no no way..

As long as it stays in the hands of council. RE PREVIOUS QUESTION, if new customers need the sewer connected they must pay for that, not get subsidized by those already on this system

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As long as the investment is not made with the intention of future sale of the ratepayers assets
As mentioned it is better for the Council to fund expansion of services as it would have lower borrowing costs and not need to make a profit on additional investments but have loans repaid by the sale of water.
As much as everything sounds great with recycled water what concerns me will be the fees that will be put back to the rate payer. This is inevitable and at the moment people are barely scrapping by with the increase of utilities food etc. I do not believe this will be safe guarded by anyone. State Government have lied enough and would prefer to see people suffer since selling the electricity off!
As residents and long time rate payers we would support the council in investing in the future management of waste water for the benefit of the environment, green open spaces contribute to the overall wellbeing of communities, eg parks, sporting grounds schools
As said earlier keep the asset in Council's hands. You can manage it and will be held accountable to the community.
Because we already pay enough for water why should I pay for alternative when government should pay for that as its a service that all households need.
Being in the driest state in the driest continent in the world....families like us should be on some form of discount or exempt from any charges for being on Bio-cycle
conditional upon review and overhaul of current budget expenditure and wages spent
Consideration must be given to any extra charges.
Continual talk of investment and charging people or organisations to benefit from the use of recycled water systems etc. Why is there no long term investment plan by the current council to allow this to happen anyway.....it just puts more costs back on the community. Council should manage their budget accordingly. More information required.
Cost should not be passed on to rate payers in any way council rates are high enough.
Costs of connection could be borne through land acquisition and partnering with developers rather than to the cost of the user
Could the residents be given an option of connecting to mains water & sewerage as another option that would be more beneficial in the long run? No good throwing more money after a compromised system already.
Council has not mentioned rates going down if waste water is privatized but would instead pocket that money which we pay in our rates and have us pay extra in waste water bills, now a connection on top off already installed septic I think not
Council is not a 'natural' water utility owner if there are others around who can do it the same or better. Council's funds should be spent on core Council activities and a new owner can invest in these things.
Council rates are high enough that it any expansion costs should be covered by council without ratepayers having to fork out more money. Maybe council should look at money wastage on 'personal' expenses to help with expansion costs. We pay enough for basic services.
Council would have the needs of schools and community groups in mind far more than a private entity.
Depending of cost and who pays
Don't think local council should have that sort of power to charge ratepayers and be involved in that sort of infrastructure
Every day people are already struggling in meeting ends, due to cost of living dramatically increased recently. These extra investments are potentially being seen as a revenue maker as lack of visibility and control.
Existing customers of the CWMS should not be paying for new connections.

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government grants may apply in these cases
Hopefully Council would consider its ratepayers when awarding costs . A private company has to make a profit and would put its income first. Council would need to consider a lower margin as it doesn't need to pay shareholders.
I agree with the Onkaparinga Council investing in the above but do not agree to any other organisation owning, operation or investing in the above Q5 & Q6
I am unaware of the complete details you refer. Without sufficient information nobody should make a decision. I'm sure council with it's members would have those complete details. Please provide for consideration.
I believe in turning waste into revenue. This can be achieved with this type of service.
I don not support the council increasing charges to all customers The council should look at other unnecessary expenditure to fund these projects
I donâ€™t support this at the moment but might consider supporting it at a later date after finding out more information.
I don't like the CEO, this is a con which will only feather his pocket, don't sell an asset.
I feel that the desalination plant was developed to reduce reliance on the river Murray therefore this is the resource that should be used for Open spaces
I support both of these options in theory - but without a full financial analysis to determine the impact it's hard to say if it's a 'good' idea. There are certainly some extensions to schemes that are cost prohibitive as the cost to connect in outweighs the overall benefit. So, my answer is really a 'yes' to supporting these investments, provided the financial experts from Council are confident in the soundness of the investment decision.
I support cost effective growth but if greedy corporation's became involved they dont care about affordability
I support the council doing this, not if it is sold to a another company.
I support the Council investment in the scheme but this should be funded from the immense Council Tax income.
I support ways of reducing the pressures placed on the Murray River where possible.
I think council has sufficient matters to deal with and best doing what it does best
I think each new system would have to be judged on it's own
I think this is an important area of investment for the CoO.
I would absolutely prefer to be able to install my own septic system to alleviate the council charge - It would be much cheaper. - obviously not a choice. However if I owned land that already has its stand alone system I would not like to be forced into the new CWMS system due to the cost annually whoever owned and ran it.
I would like to see that Council conduct an appropriate cost benefit analysis in an open manner so that the rate payers have input at all stages
I would only support these initiatives if the Onkaparinga council owns the systems. If you can not guarantee that then NO is the answer. Onkaparinga council needs to be run like a business...not a government department
I would prefer Council to invest in future development of their water assets rather than sell off the assets to private enterprise who will invariably attempt to profit from any future developments at the expense of ratepayers.
i would prefer the council to own and operate the system
I would support council as long as all costs are tabled and local infrastructure, services and workers used to complete any upgrade
If it benefits the community, then the community should pay.
If the investment is made Now under Council then sure but not if it's sold off then not as it will end up costing us current cwms users more and there will be no fixed fees on it they can charge us whatever they want to recoup the cost of their investment

RELEASED

If you sell off this asset the council would not be able to benefit from any investment in CWMS. The council has enough issues with its lack of ability to live within its rates. Sure a sell of this asset would result in a bonus of income, but I'm sure that it would be wasted on iPads and golf memberships.
In answer to Question 5 - I would have no issue in expanding the system, but new users should foot the bill for this investment via a levy in addition to there annual service charge. As current uses we have for many years paid for what is there to date. I would assume that it would be to the new users benefit to join the scheme and should therefore pay accordingly.
Increasing recycled water use in the council area is a must to increase business options.wether council or privately owned . Pricing ?
Investment in infrastructure is necessary for a growing community.
Investment in public infrastructure is a core function of council. Funding for such infrastructure should be sourced from federal and state governments as part of 'nation building' investment.
Investment is always needed to ensure a proper service. The issue being the council should manage the assets properly and use rates to assist in this development. Continually passing the costs to the constituents shows a lack of business acumen on the behalf of the councillors.
Is the water going to be sold at a profit? Is any increase in cost over time going to be given to the ratepayers?
It is a fair and equitable thing to do.
It is the business of government to provide community infrastructure and to maintain it at a reasonable level of functionality. Governments are servants of the people, not profit seeking businesses.
It will cost more if privatised - no control - rampant price increases will ensue./
It would not be right to support something without having any idea of the costs involved and hence any implications arising therefrom.
Itâ€™s not the Councils expertise area, it would be best managed by SA Water and council should simply hand over the resources and assets to SA Water, with no charges.
It's important for the council to provide water services to locals - to manage our own outputs in the most sustainable and socially-beneficial way - as they do now. Servicing public spaces like schools, sporting resources, and so on is important and should be part of the council's climate change response strategy. Managing water shortages and drought (and rising sea level), will be a big job and this household (4 voters) has confidence that the council is the best partner for the community to do this going forward, with a vested interest in the lives of council residents and rate-payers.
it's no good if it means more expenses. will it reduce council rates in long run?
Local Government needs to reach an agreement with State Government (SA Water) on these issues and not sell the assets
Lots of homes have septic systems, or biocycle systems installed and they still have to pay sewer rates for sewers they don't use and now we would have to pay for a new system but still occur the sewer rates plus septic system maintenace fees too.
Make it look like we want our bill charge to go up. Great idea.
Management of the core water system and sewer disposal should remain a core service of council and not be mixed with new profit driven initiatives. Additional schemes as mentioned above should be undertaken and funded by private enterprise and not be funded thru council rate payers.
My personal philosophy opposes the privatisation of infrastructure

RELEASED

Need more information to make an informed decision. How are other council's coping with this? Maybe we need to look further than our own state to find answers?
Need to get a lot more information regarding these decisions.
No sale ever. This approach is short sighted. See historical evidence of cost escalation ie sa water, sa bank, electricity etc.
Not a core council bussiness
not if water business sold. Otherwise yes - residents should not be subsidising grape growers more than they are now-they will be big users of recyded water.
Not sure about costs. Many people already struggling - any extra costs can tip people over the edge. Can no longer afford to own a home. We need to be reducing costs, not adding to them.
Once paid for the Council and its residents will reap the benefits, Not some foreign investors who have no interest except to money.
Only if Council owned the Resources and they were run as Not for Profit.
only if we retain ownership.
Our rates are high enough. New estates should be developed by the property developer and they pay for the connections. Older property who want to connect to sewerage should pay for it themselves.
Personally, I have no problem subsidising these for our community and reducing the draw on the Murray as long as the cost is minimal
Point 6 is not worded very well, so that most people can actually understand what this will actually mean. Point 5: why doesn't the Council offer ratepayers an incentive to convert from septic to sewer system. Why not offer interest free loans for people to convert?
Presumably the cost of this water is at least competitive with supply from SA Water ,with security of supply being a bonus .
Provided that council remains the owner
Public schools already struggle with finances to add further financial burden is I feel not appropriate
Q5 - Yes - However further to question 5 and my response in the previous comments section - investment costs should not be carried by the entire network and only be recovered from the expansion footprint through considered cost recovery. I would not support the expansion if costs came back to existing users. Q6 - If the WB was to be sold, I would expect the private company to identify new markets and respond with suitable upgrades to reach those markets. Cost recovery would be specifically related to those new markets.
Recycled water systems are far to expensive. The current system at Reynella is nice to look at, but at an enormous cost.
Regardless if council owned or private owned this would occur if viable.
Securing alternative water sources is very important
See above
Should be a federal government funded essential service, council run or privately run for profit could lead to charges continually increasing to give profits to operator.
should only be paid by new customers
Surely this is an investment in our children who will inherit our space. The need for community ownership could not be clearer in my mind.
The above views apply only if the council retains control of the asset, if the asset is sold I feel that that new owner should be responsible for any plans for extension of the scheme and the owners of the asset at the time of sale SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS INCURRED IN THE EXPANSION.
the connection charges would need to be reasonable and the overall costs not outlandish

RELEASED

The council already charges enough for the provision of less than adequate services. Smarten up the efficiency of the council and stop wasting money on the few employees who think that they are entitled to more than the average citizen.
The Council need to keep the power of operation of this facility and NOT let it go private.
The CWMS should be available to each household in a residence area / township and cost to be kept as a minimal to install and maintain the service. The WB should be user pay for install and use in full, especially business whom would claim a tax deduction (vineyards). Schools should also pay as a user pay system. If public school get rebate from government, if private charge as normal.
The funding of such investment needs to be recouped from the users of the recycled water, not the ratepayers. Otherwise unwise investment decisions are made without return on investment.
The policy on not watering parks during summer is a disgrace, turning spaces that would be used by children all the year into dusty weed riddled patches during the summer months is not how council are supposed to operate , and if the council members stopped having expensive meals at restaurants or taking trips to China etc. they may be able to afford to water the parks.
The yes button has been checked and it is on the condition that the council continue to own and manage these resources. I am 6 of the reason why all levels of government in Australia feel the need to sell off our assets to private enterprise and possible overseas investment. It does absolutely nothing to enhance the operation of our country's assets or our lifestyle. It just allows the representatives of these governments to accept less and less responsibility for the country's assets and operations
There is only 4500 customers. Why should a small number pay for this work. It should be a Council expenditure.
There would need to be a feasibility study before anyone invested any monies
These are community assets and should be owned and operated by and for the community
This area should not be reliant on the River Murray as it is now we have enough water catchment areas plus there are other ways at looking to save water for these organisations be water wise
This should be done with money already collected via council rates
This sounds strange to us suddenly you want to do this when you must know people are finding it hard to manage without our council wanting to add more costs to Council Rates. Would need a lot more information before agreeing to your proposal.
Use of recycled water is a must to help reduce the amount of water taken from the Murray-Darling basin.
Water is a precious resource. Especially for South Australia being the driest state in the driest continent. We need to be water wise and recycle as much as possible! Investment in this infrastructure is important.
Water is going to become more scare with the impacts of climate change over the next few years. The last thing we should ever do is privatise our water.
Water is ridiculously high given that it is a natural resource. Need to work smarter and invest in resolving issues before expanding to those not currently serviced.
Water should take priority over sporting assets, dog parks etc. Water is important to ALL ratepayers not just the few who use other infrastructure.
We all need to contribute and I would like to think this money being reinvested into the assets as opposed to just profit for some other private enterprise.
We live in Willunga and already pay ridiculously high rates, why should we pay more and subsidize other suburbs.

RELEASED

We've seen multiple times community assets sold off to private organisations with the promise of cheaper this and cheaper that for the end user - DOESN'T HAPPEN!!

Whilst acknowledging that Councils and Schools are all funded by tax and or rate payers so if there is a major shift in the charges we will still be ultimately paying for it. 'Other Customers' is a bit ambiguous for me to be specific about.

Why hasn't connection to local recycled water resources already been done? It's just common sense given our climate.

Would like to see a business case before committing

Yeah, I am comfortable supporting any such activities IF it stays locally owned.

Yes, please invest for our future, not sell off and hope (wrongly) that capitalism will do the right thing by CWSM customers. Any private owner will only do the right thing by their owners.

you bastards will increase our rates even more so to line your pockets

RELEASED

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RELEASED

Q11. Do you have any additional comments or feedback regarding the possible sale of council's water assets?
I feel it is absolutely terrible if our water assets are sold to a private company all we will see is a price hike in our water bills as we have seen by the privatisation of our electricity grid I do not support selling government assets
no
A public meeting at Sellicks would be most helpful to allow for the for and against case to be put. Friends of Sellicks would be pleased to help with such a meeting's logistics. Haydon Manning Chairperson, FoS
A return to the charge being per property not per tenant.
against the sale full stop
All of the elements in the previous question (8) are important and it was difficult to decide how to rank them. Please note that this survey response is on behalf of the 4 voters living in this household. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process.
All this will probably be a waste of time as council will do what they want anyway!
Any changes proposed by Council should be held until the elections in November 2018.
As a resident of Sellicks Beach I am aware of the incredible mismanagement of this system by council. It is time council took stock of the situation and either ran it as it was intended or approach SA Water to mains supply the area. Selling of CWMS management is only shifting a bad idea from one incompetent provider to another instead of solving the problem with a mains system.
as in the state government when water was privatised a while ago we were promised lower rates instead we got lies and higher water costs..government, local ,state federal I will never vote for the sale of any assets again.not to be trusted no matter what you say to us.as you say in your letter its the responsibility of the new owner to set prices for customers.as we all know a business wants profits and profits mean at the customers expense. so this is my reason I will not back council in private sale of the water and septic in any way,the regulators as you say are full of shit pardon the expression they back the operator not the consumer..i will let everyone know this through the internet let them remember the electricity water gas prices when privatised..all the lie by government and council no better . I remember council joining up together a while ago telling how much cheaper it be for us running less councils.and now again lies high prices on council rates pensioners can not even afford your ridiculous prices my sister lives in prospect and pays cheaper than me and I got 300 squares in land for gods sake where my home is built on..so no no way..
As the power debacle has demonstrated, putting essential services into private profiteering parties does not benefit the resident / consumer in any positive way. Our council rates , including the waste management scheme are already unreasonably high and this would

RELEASED

only get worse in private profit driven ownership. Very hard for the council to justify this in my opinion with the recent exposure of the outrageously inappropriate 'council' behaviors as exposed in the media.
Asset sell-off has become the trend and we're sick of it. Lots of promises and nothing good to show for it.
Assets such as this should always be privately owned.
Assuming SA Water is and will remain a State Government entity ,wouldn't it be sensible for it to own and operate these assets?
Australian assets have been sold off in the past, the only ones who have benefited was the seller NEVER the consumer. I am totally against this and as a rate payer I need to be heard
Beprudent and dont sell it off
By selling the assets the end user is at greater risk of substantial price increases.
Check other Councils and manner of their management of similar systems.
Christie downs area not mentioned in your areas for water improvement.
Consumers are ALWAYS worse off by price and service when private companies take over....despite their endless promises!
Consumers should be aware that if this asset is sold and I'm certain it will be they will be paying much more in the future. Any major asset that has been sold previously to private enterprise has always cost the user more in the future, disregard who or what government dept. has the power to oversee the pricing structure. I suppose we could expect Lorraine Rosenberg as Mayor to want to sell this asset to some Chinese buyer!!
Corporatisation of the assets is a better option to outright sale but there is nothing to prevent the council from deciding to operate these businesses on a fully commercial basis within the current council structure. Private enterprise is most unlikely to provide a 'value for money' outcome for ratepayers.
could not fill out some as it gave no option to tick, it would not allow me to tick
council assets belong to the ratepayers . if these assets are run efficiently by council there is no logical reason to sell them off for a profit that will only be helpful in the short term. look to the future, trim the deadwood from council and get on with job that ratepayers expect from council.
Council does not own Assets. All ratepayers own these assets. It is uttermost irresponsible to sell assets which belong to the community. Council has no right to sell off any assets.
Council has lost its way, it is a service provider for rate payers, it should concentrate on this and not the multiple wastes of money pursuing interests outside of its remit!
Council installed and has since managed this system - feectively. As a result Council has unique expertise to manage these assets in the most efficient and cost-effective way. Fair price is managed through the rating system with LGA oversight. Selling to a private monopoly is obviously the least efficient and most costly option - clearly. What is the imperative, why do it? Selling these assets should not be part of a strategy to offset the impact of impending rate capping under consideration by the S.A. Government. I hope fairness and common sense prevails such that the vested interests of the the captive 4500 subscribers to the CWMS are protected from any profit motivated monopoly interest or investment. Thank you.
Council must NOT sell public assets leaving residents at the mercy of a privater operator whose primary motive will be profit even with ESCOSA to monitor
Council needs a bigger vision of what it is possible to achieve for the community and the environment with these assets. They should not be in commercial hands where their only goal is profit
Council should not sell assets or services that can be done in house! EVER!

RELEASED

Councils corruption knows no end. Water business is everyone's business, not the palms of business already being greased in this process.
Currently the service of the waste water septic tank system in McLaren Vale is managed by council using a private contractor. The cost of this service to the individual is via the Council Rates system. The rates in McLaren Vale are already very high compared to equivalent rural areas in other States other than SA. The ratepayers of McLaren Vale do not want to risk even higher rates, or charges, due to privatisation of waste water and sewage assets in the town.
CWMS prices are going to go up inevitably. The State is talking about rate capping being applied which is going to slow down Council's programs. Onkaparinga will have ongoing financial pressure and getting rid of the water businesses is the best way to allow Council to keep funding much needed work.
Dead against it. Get your fiscal management sorted and look at more positive avenues of generating income other than selling everything off. Other councils seem to manage at much less cost to ratepayers Not happy
Definitely opposed to the sale.
do not privatise water asset. Manage councils income/out going stream more efficiently. Starting with the councils CEO wage!!!
Do not privatise....
Do not sell
Do not sell .
Do not sell Assets!
Do not sell existing assets.
Do not sell our assets off. Simple as that .
Do not sell our valuable assets off.
DO NOT SELL THE ASSET
Do not sell the asset
Do not sell the assets
Do not sell the assets, we will pay more over time.
Do not sell the water assets.
Do not sell the water sustem. We live in the driest state of the driest continent. Why would you sell the one asset into private hands that is a nessesity to human life. And yes i would consider portable reuse water as an ultimate option as well.
DO NOT SELL THESE ASSETS!!!!!!
Do not sell this asset we are going to need it in the very near future
Do not sell..
Dodgy. Couldn't answer last page honestly. Was limited to answers of choice.
Does this feedback even matter or will council as per usual just do what they like to make sure they are looked after instead of the people paying their salaries?
Don,t,..... it will ALWAYS cost us consumers more, no matter what the council think or say, once they have lost control of it, and as for State Govt, forward cost decisions, just a monumental fiasco, as are all other items/utilities they sell or touch. (I am on SA water plans) so have NO vested interest.
Don't keep selling off assets. Over promise and under deliver. It is always the people that end up paying. You have no control what they charge and we always seem to draw the short straw. A quick fix for you is a long term expense for us. Look at our council rates alone compared to other more wealthy areas, the grasses in the parks are not even maintained. Crazy.

RELEASED

Don't sell it off, privatisation has never done anything good for this state or its residents
Don't sell it!!
Don't sell the water asset. The Onkaparinga Council has the highest council rates in the state. The Onkaparinga needs to become efficient , get to work, get rid of the bludgers , need new CEO and Mayor. If the council had any brains they should be able to make money out of the recycled water as well as use the water within the Onkaparinga city for parks and ovals. The councils latest idea for beautifying the city is to spread out rocks and plant stripy grass with a piece rust steel sticking out. It looks crap, poor and degrades the area. What has happened to planting decent trees?
Don't asset strip the city
Dont do it
don't do it
don't do it
Don't do it!
Don't do it!!!
Dont do it.
Don't do it. Privitisation of natural monopolies has seen the state's electricity prices raised to ridiculous levels. It makes no sense to privitise a natural monopoly like sewage and storm water collection. There can be no competition, and so the situation can only lead to higher prices and worse services for consumers. This is a bad idea for the city.
Don't privatise community assets
DON'T SELL
Don't sell anymore assets.
Don't sell it off. Smacks of Liberalese policy from the deadwood in the Mayor's office.
Don't sell it.
Don't sell off assets, bad move just mange it well
Don't sell our water assets and cut spending, get rid of debt and start reducing rates as soon as possible. My brother's house in Hawthorn is valued at around a million dollars while mine valued at 355,000 both incur almost the same rates.
Don't sell out please
Don't start this process prior to the new council being elected
Due to incompetence and self-indulgent waste Council is in massive debt and should NOT be allowed to flog off assets to bail us out.
Expect a backlash if you sell
Given Onkaparinga Council's recent sad/bad history, I have no confidence that the sale of these assets will be carried out in favour of the ratepayer.
Governments are the best placed to own and run Water Industries in my opinion, as they have the customers best interests at heart. I would not like to see sale of water assets at all, but if it goes ahead, only to SA Water or another government water industry. I would suggest resourcing the running of it properly and buying in the appropriate human resources to run it effectively and efficiently.
Grow up and be adults - Just manage the asset's properly yourselves for the benefit of the community. Selling off community assets never works out in the communities favour.
How much is currently owed on the 2 systems? Will the sale inject a significant amount of cash into Council reserves? What is the actual cost of managing / maintaining the 2 systems at present compared with cost recovery through Council rates? What cost

RELEASED

reduction will occur through the sale ie how many employees will lose their jobs / annual salary cost?
How will issues that we are currently experiencing in the Main Street of McLaren Vale where building are being flooded due to inadequate stormwater management be handled. At the moment Council say it is not them SA dept Transport say its not them. Adding another private company into the mix will only make this worse. Essential services should be kept in council hands.
I am appalled by the proposal and look forward to the opportunity to vote in a new council.
I am not answering 8 on the basis I am thoroughly against the sale, so if you proceed, my question would be do I wish to remain a resident in the Onkaparinga area as I believe it would be disgraceful act of mis-management on the part of the council to proceed with it.
I am totally against it. Every single time that things are privatised we end up paying more for lessor quality service/supply. We pay a ridiculous amount of council rates in this area and for what? Now you want to flog off an asset to the highest bidder and leave the residents in this area in the hands of who knows what to charge what they like....absolutely typical!
I am very much opposed to selling water assets. The cost and reliability for ratepayers cannot be guaranteed.
I believe one of the main responsibilities of Council are to manage community assets
I believe ratepayer funded assets should remain in their hands and not be sold off to profit driven corporations.
I believe that Council will sell off this ratepayers asset regardless of any consolation
I believe that once assets owned by the community are sold off to private enterprise they will charge the community high prices. Any government watch dog meant to oversee pricing is a toothless tiger unable to effectively regulate prices in the consumers' interest.
I believe this is just a cash grab to provide council with cash - why doesn't it look to being more responsible with the money it currently spends lets focus on important needs not fancy fringe issues re evaluate current practices - this is Australia's biggest council what are the rates spent on??
I cannot understand why council would want to sell any assets .
I did not answer any of the questions in section 8 because I do not care for any sale options. I care that it is retained by council and not sold for some quick fix but long term pain. Private business is not accountable when it comes to infrastructure to the local community but only to shareholders and therefore their interests are not for local community but for profits. The majority of funding as far as I am aware came from federal and state funding so the council shouldn't have the right to sell in the first place.
I disagree with further privatisation of any of our states operations. As a society we lose our voices and ability to be a self sustaining environment.
I do not agree with the sale of essential services to private companies. Their priorities are not the customer.
I do NOT in any part agree with the sale of theses assets!
I do not support any sale of our water assets
I do not support the sale of the asset in any form and as elections are held this year this should be put on the back burner until after the elections.
I do not support the sale of the assets. Given the recent publicity surrounding the Council and its management of public funds, I am wondering if this question has arisen as an easy way to recover public monies that have been misused in some way.
I do NOT support the sale of the councils water assets.
I do not support the sale of these assets
I do not support the sale of these assets, council should retain control of these
I do not support the sale of this asset

RELEASED

I do not trust the council in its present configuration - new ceo, mayor and councillors are urgently needed.
I don't see why we should have to pay to be connected to a sewer system,when other people already get it for free.
I don't want to see this sold at this time as I feel,it could end up like most privatisation it will end up costing the rate payers more. Any benefit the council gets now is gone and so is the asset because of the higher charges it incurs from the private owner. I understand private enterprise needs to make money but rate payers pockets are only so deep and your already putting the rates up again this year.
I don't support selling the asset!
I don't trust you to do anything. Have an election and sack the CEO and I'll reconsider.
I have grave concerns about privatising any asset because the cost savings promised are never realised due to private companies needing to make money. Rate payers will be the big losers here. I encourage council to consider the 3rd option of transferring all SWMS systems to mains connected water & sewerage systems. Over time this will increase the value of the land & housing which also then increases councils revenues. It would be worth presenting this as an option when looking at a possible privatisation of public asset
i have no answered the last question because i don't want this resourse sold
I have refused to answer question 8 as that would indicate I accept that you may sell the assets. You must not sell the assets and if you continue down this path its obvious you don't care what residents think. I have spoken to at least 10 other Willunga residents and they may not be in a position to let their thoughts be known to City of Onkaparinga but they do not support the sale. Nobody wants it. If the council proceeds I will make sure I vote at the next election and it will my choice of whomever does not support this proposal.
I hope all ratepayers pass on that Council is NOT to sell any more of our assets unless agreed by a majority in numbers of RATEPAYERS to do so.
I just can't believe that I'm having to fill this out, that you would even be considering this. DO NOT DO IT!
I object to the proposed sale of council water assets.
I originally voted against the proposal to install CWMS for Maslin Beach because I thought we would take much longer to be connected to the mains sewage with this temporary prop in place. Privatising the asset will ensure we are never connected.
I reiterate my point from a previous answer and you have highlighted my point in your 1-5 important points survey. If you sell this scheme you are no longer in control of pricing, it is handed to a central dept. I am sure this looks appealing to the Council as they divest themselves of the responsibility/answerability for this to the consumer, but we have no say in this department, they are not elected by us, nor are the accountable to us. We have no voice in what they do with the system and really neither does the council. Initially the deal will look great and you will be able to sell it to the wider community, but there will be kickers in there you will either not see or understand that as things change you will lose all control and they will be able to do what they want and charge accordingly, overseen by a faceless government department. Just look at our power grid, SA water and EDS for examples of how now the government is powerless to do anything. If you do this we will pay dearly for your mistake
I smell a rat ! I simply don't believe that this will benefit the users of the system. Any 'special projects', should not be funded by slugging a small group of ratepayers. This seems more like elected members trying to fund pet projects which they don't have to pay for themselves.
I STRONGLY DO NOT AGREE TO ANY SALE &/OR ANY OTHER ORGANISATION OPERATING THE COUNCIL'S WATER ASSETS

RELEASED

I strongly object to the sale of the councils water assets.
I strongly object to the sale. I have paid for the assets through my rates and do not agree with the sale proposition. The elected members have not represented my or other ratepayers views.
I strongly oppose any sale of water assets to private hands. The short term increase of cashflow to the council is not a long term view. This idea should be scrapped and more time and effort placed into waterwise ideas and the increased use of recycled water.
I strongly oppose the council selling any water assets.
I strongly oppose the sale of council's water assets!!!
I think it is good that the CoO have communicated the possible sale of the water assets and hope the Council continue to update all stakeholders on developments. I think any decisions need to include consideration of the effect of climate change and sustainability.
I think you need to consider each entity and its value to the community separately.
I understand that the Onkaparinga Council have been put under enormous pressure recently from so called interest groups however I do not want a few uneducated thugs forcing the Council to sell it's crown jewels just to balance the books. Manage your assets appropriately and we all win.
I vote not to sell but that being said means nothing especially to the noarlunga council If it was to be sold off it MUST NOT be sold to a company with any overseas connection what so ever
I wish to state again my objection to the privatisation of state and council assets as it always results in higher prices for consumers.
I work at a school that has the pipeline put in for it to be used on our oval. Not once has it been switched on as the water is either not available or too salty. So far I have not seen any benefit of being part of this scheme.
I would hope this questionnaire is not used to fulfill the need for community engagement and then just do what the council wants ignoring the communities response.
I would want to see Council provide all information in an open manner to the rate payers Council has lost my confidence
I'd like feedback on my questions thank you.
If a sale was to occur, future projects should be considered as being required to be delivered within the contract. Such investment requirements would ensure the region continues to mature in its approach to waster management which will be critical to future generations.
If Council decides to divest itself of these assets, please show the number of staff that will be also divested.
If it is Sold, I will actively encourage all of my Neighbour's, Friend's, Acquaintances and anyone else that will be affected to Vote against the Current Council Member's and have them Ousted as not maintain our Basic Human Rights!
If it isn't broken don't fix it. The people do NOT trust the political motives of the sociopath council executive.
If it's not broken stop trying to fix it. Curb your spending of my rates
If the sale goes through there should be some guarantee to control pricing and potential price increases.
In general I am opposed to privatization of public utilities and amenities. I believe that it is not impossible for councils to manage projects well and with the good of the whole community taken into account. Onkaparinga Council has shown itself , through its forums and other means to take note of community sentiment and to communicate well, and this survey is further evidence of that.
In the long term any new owner would act in its own self-interest, not in the interest of the community. It must be this way as it would be a business, answerable to

RELEASED

shareholders/owners, not ratepayers. By definition this is a poor model for an essential community service. The Local Govt Act should forbid the divestment of such assets.
Instead of selling off assets to make up for your lack of financial management, come up with a real plan that will provide rate payers with value for their money. I suggest you look at your staff levels and staff structures. Its time that this council had a really good look at itself. The city of Onkaparinga is the biggest council in South Australia....why isn't it the best? Salisbury council has some really good ideas and people, you might want to look at how they manage things. I'm totally aware that any of my rant will not be listened to, that's kind of the theme of current Onka management.
It concerns me when that is even up for discussion. Maybe better money management by council would be a better option
It is clear from the experience of the Electricity sector in Australia that once public assets are privatized the state, or Council, loses control of how they operate. The companies act in a way to maximize their profits in a way that penalizes customers. When an asset is a natural monopoly, such as CWMS and WB there is no sense to privatize and it is not in the rate payers interest to do so. Please refer to the recently released Australian Competition & Consumer Commission 'Restoring Electricity Affordability & Australia's Competitive Advantage. Under private ownership the CWMS would become more expensive, and be run for the benefit of shareholders not rate payers, as has happened in the electricity industry.
It is important to maintain community control to avoid any unforeseen deals by private investors
It is very bad decision to sell our assets. The decisions made in nationally with electricity show that private owners will NOT do the right thing by customers.
It seems like the only one will win from this is the Council who I'm sure will not reduce rates or give back to the community the proceeds
It was very difficult for me to fill in question 8. I strongly disagree with the Council selling these assets. Much money has been invested into these systems by the rate-payers. Of course, the system needs to work and be well maintained. Also, costs for the customers and customer care are of utmost importance. These should not be ranked but be a given. Should these systems be privatised, I expect to see a huge reduction to our rates!
It would be a mistake
It would be great if we could have somebody who will help the people no matter what and not line the pockets for the greedy ones. It is so sad to see people not being able to afford the basics in life and others who can not see it really not caring. It looks as though SA is going to be the worst state to live as a lot of people are just keeping ahead and a lot live in poverty because of greed.
It's never good when companies take over vital assets.
Items B to E above should all be asterisked the same as item C because by selling the assets, control of all of those aspects passes to another body and the communities ability to influence decisions is removed. History shows us that whenever assets have been sold by any level of government to private enterprise, the customer suffers with increased costs, reduced customer service and deterioration in the level of maintenance of the assets. There has not been a case yet where the customer has been better off, nor indeed even have the status quo maintained. If ESCOSA is representative of regulators in other market areas such as energy and health, they become the slaves of the private operators with regard to pricing. This model also places an additional level of management which has to be negotiated by customers. Currently, if there are issues the community can go directly to the source and I believe get better customer service. My impression of this exercise is that council is seeking to divest itself of assets and responsibilities which for a number of decades has been considered core business for a short term injection of funds in an attempt to bring its current level of spending/debt under control. If council wants a broad

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community response to this issue it could be put to the electorate at the council elections in November as a yes/no response. It may encourage a wider cross section of the community to vote, which can only be good for our democratic process.
Just look to the UK where water privatization has led to really terrible outcomes and the water companies rather declare bankruptcy than invest after having made handsome profits without upkeep of the network. As usual: profits are privatized and kisses are for the taxpayer.
Keep it and build it into a profitable business. If private enterprise can make it profitable, so can the council. Any profits can then be put back in to expand the business. Rate payers win a long term investment.
Keep it in Council hands to keep them accountable we have already seen price gouging by private enterprise management of once public utilities
keep water, sell sewer
Last question would not me answe the high importance of good price of water to customers. I feel that with the wording of the last section that the council has already decided that selling is best. Please think of the people, not the almighty dollar for a change. With water and waste being privatised, rates better go down as council wont have anything to charge us for!! Yeah, right.
long term survivability and capability of the processes need to be inherent in whatever decisions are made.
look at the internal operating budget of council to save money on less essential operations, probably starting with mid and upper management unnecessary staff and above market wages.
Look to the water wars on the Murray-Darling and the increased need to conserve / manage and use water into the future. our representatives and officers are responsible , not just to their 2018 ratepayers, but to those ratepayers' (and their own) dependents' future well-being.
Make sure residents using the service are taken care of before, I'd hate to hear that within a year the price has gone up ten fold and yes I will blame the council even though you say it's not your responsibility, as you sold it when you didn't have too. Look after your residents not money grabbing. The parks and so on are the councils responsibilities why do you want to sell the water they use to then have to pay for it anyways.
Neoliberalism doesn't work for the community! Neoliberalism is a policy model of social studies and economics that transfers control of economic factors to the private sector from the public sector.. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/neoliberalism.asp
Never in my life have i experienced customers ever bein g better of by selling a public asset. Do not sell m y asset
nil
no
No
No
no
No private company is interested in taking over public assets for any other reason than to make the largest profit possible, either by cutting services or raising prices. Most people are aware of this & no assurances from council or the new purchasers will make any difference.
No sale. Privatisation causes costs to go up, as we have seen with the sale of electricity and water assets. The STEDS is a community asset, used by the people for the people and council should be looking after the welfare of its ratepayers. When we were put onto STEDS we all had to pay a substantial sum to be connected, so I consider that it belongs to all of us who made that payment, not to be sold off.
Not for sale!

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Not sure how council can assure customers that there will not be a significant rise in price once the assets are sold.
Not to be sold. We own them.
Once assets are sold for short term gain we all suffer in the long term
Once your assets are gone they are gone for good. You may ultimately want to re-establish them once again as the Labour state government started to do with power. Let multinationals buy and manage it. Watch as the prices stay flat for a period and then escalate out of control just like the power industry. Do you really want to be remembered for running a 'fire sale' for the sake of bringing some programs of works forward or repaying a bit of debt? Wrong strategy. History has proven selling the farm doesn't work.
One can not ensure any outcomes for the community from the potential private owner as the owner can not be made responsible to the community.
Onkaparinga should divest itself and hand it onto SA Water the experts.
Opposed to sale
Out with Lorraine Rosenberg completely & in with a member who will manage & look after all areas of council effectively.
Pay the ceo a realistic wage, stop wasting money on community events that support a minority (eg tour down under). We would seriously question the viability of a council willing to sell its communities assets.
Please connect sewer to Maslin Beach. Please reduce CWMS fees. No sales of community assets.
Please continue with the management of these assets and do not hood wink us into believing your sale of the assets is in the rate payers best interest. If the privatization of the resources is realized, how many jobs will be lost by the people already employed to manage these schemes?
Please do not do it! It is intrinsically wrong and very short-sighted. We would have a good chance of ending up in the same mess as we have with our current electricity supplies. It is an essential service and the community should not be held to ransom.
Please do not do it. Privatization does not work for the common good.
please do not privatize this . If privatized we would not have this type of survey to answer as the privatization would only look at increases and \$\$plus not include the community so NO DON'T SELL OUR ASSETS.
Please don't consider any asset stripping companies for this sale option. if you are going to move down this path then the only reasonable company/organisation would be SA Water as it is highly regulated and spreads cost widely across all of their SA base
Please refer to my humble comments on each question, we appreciate all the efforts and consideration being taken. However, Selling councilsâ€™ responsibility is one way to lose trust from your people and your community. Thank you!
Price increases as a result of privatised water assets will likely outweigh any benefits of a sale
private enterprise are about making money and that can lead to not keeping up standards and basically ripping people off, least with the council controlling the water assets the people of the area still have a say.
Privatisation of government assets, (at federal, state or local level) rarely results in a better deal for the public, be it lower prices , a better service or trust in the service or asset.
Public assets should NEVER be sold off to profiteers. No-one will buy this asset unless they intend to profit from the purchase!!!!!!
Public assets(utilities) should never be sold. 3rd parties cannot be trusted with public assets as they answer to the shareholders and profits are the only thing that matter. If the council sells this asset: For first five years, the cost to ratepayers will be same. After this

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the cost will start to increase, slowly at first and eventually it exceeds CPI. By ten years, the cost will become so excessive and the asset will be overvalued and out of the reach of the council to repurchase. After 15 years, the current CEO retires on a generous full pension after a backlash from the Ratepayers and states 'he wants to spend more time with his family.'
Public resources MUST be retained in public hands. Private enterprise does NOT have a monopoly of expertise.
Q8 ambiguous wont let me select 1 or 2 as am answer
Q8 is n/a. Assets should not be sold for 1 off short gain money. Look at our state govt mess of selling assets.
Q8 not applicable as do not support the sale of these assets. Please do not sell these assets. A crazy and inappropriate idea. Who comes up with this stuff and why? Council should upgrade the service to a proper sewerage system
Question 8 - does not allow changes once a tick has been made. Provision of waste water management is an essential community service and MUST not be privatised. Any decisions regarding the sale of such a major asset should be postponed until after council elections, when a new group of elected members can consider such an important issue
Question 8 does not apply to me as I feel it is ridiculous for council to even consider this option of selling off our water assets
Question 8 is irrelevant if I do not agree with the council selling the CWMS and WB and I object to question 8 having no provision for ratepayers to make note of that. The level of financial desperation the council appears to have got in to and who knows what the next act of desperation will be if this proposal fails, can only leave ratepayers such as myself with a total lack of confidence in any future proposals this council may invent.
Question 8 is not applicable as I am against the sale of Council assets.
Question 8 just destroys any idea that this is genuine consultation. You can now (as Onka does so well) ignore responses you don't like and say that ~this %age of residents wanted....~ from the sale of the assets. Another rigged pretend consultation survey
Selling assets had been a huge fail did why pursue this
Selling assets to private companies always mean higher prices for the users!
Selling assets to private enterprise always ends up with poor outcomes.
Selling essential services is a very bad idea. Financial gains by selling the water systems will be spent on other projects in the short term and then forgotten. Once the water projects are sold to private enterprise, it is gone forever and then becomes another corporations profit centre to make gains for shareholders. Essential services should be run as ~not for profit~.
Selling the assets could lead to putting all the water control in the hands of another company taking away the control of the assets which could take away the focus of drought proofing the region. The wine industry is a huge employer of the people in the region. With out water for growing crops may lead to pricing our products out of the range of the consumer where margins are tight due to the affect the aust dollar plays on exports.
Short term gain long term pain. I am not in favour.
Should not be sold, will inflate prices & make service unreliable
Should not go ahead before the next council voting in November
Should stay in the hands of the council until a proper sewerage is put in place
Sick of privatisation of our services. Of course it will mean we pay more! It's been proven over and over again! Onkaparinga Council needs to start listening to the people who pay their wages.
Stop selling
Stop selling everything off!!

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Stop selling public assets period!
Surely one of the most important roles of government is to look after the health and wellbeing of the community. This definitely includes ownership and management of water infrastructure. Please do NOT proceed with negotiations for its sale.
The choices on the survey is dodgy, wont allow me to push the buttons I want to. I consider all the choices to be very important.
The cost of the current management of our systems is a disgrace. Among other matters, the suggestion in your advice letter that ESCOSA would somehow do a better job is both deceptive and misleading.
The council must maintain some control of the assets.
The Council needs to honour its ongoing responsibility for the operation and maintenance of water assets invested in its region. Essential services should not be divested. Why not cut expenditure on golf days, flowers, gifts and luxury hotel accommodation?
the council should not follow the state governments' bad examples of selling assets leading to higher prices, lack of investment in infrastructure (because the private owner is driven by profit) and insecurity of basic services. They should better manage the services and budgets.
The council should not sell water assets which belong to the residents of Onkaparinga. The wetlands are valuable and necessary to lessen the impact of pollution to our waterway in increasingly heavily populated areas and attracts bird and wildlife and gives people open spaces which they can access. The wetlands are more than a water asset they support the overall wellbeing of community.
The council should remain focused on best possible long term outcomes for ratepayers .Once assests are sold control is lost ,costs increase for all users .If private enterprise buy this scheme it is ONLY profit motivated and they will work for profit first outcome.
the councils debt , should not be influencing the sale , but if the council , is not managing our expenditures, and there fore , not able to progress , we should be asking questions of its planning , department.
The current council have shown a total disregard for having ratepayers at the forefront of decisions made , rather it has been take our money and do whatever we like with it . The do as little as possible attitude coupled with big spending on themselves has to change, If council had not been spending our monies on restraints' and overseas trips etc. then council debt would not have been such a problem , the last few years have been a disaster for all ratepayers in the area.
The desalination plant was built at a cost of double the San Diego plant in the USA next to pretty dirty water from Mexico, whereas the Bight is pristine. Sand was moved around as if someone was trying to build the pyramids. Costs are not transparent, so I cannot see how we would benefit from as sale as we have not even been told what the proposed asset is worth. I would be interested in reading a single case study where privatisation of essential services improved the lot of these services. Electricity? No, and water next?
The final question has no option to disagree with the premis.
The last page of the survey seems to assume that the council will sell the assets -- very difficult to answer for people against the sale!
The last section of the survey was very badly designed and did not function and thus we were unable to fully articulate our opinions. One could be cynical and think this is done on purpose to confuse those who take the time to fill in the survey and allow the council to distort the findings. We are STRONGLY opposed to this proposition, privatisation of council's assets are held on behalf of the rate payers. This is not your private business but a public service held in trust for us the residents and rate payers.

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The people of Sellicks Beach deserve the same sewerage system as other metropolitan suburbs. The council has a responsibility to ensure all developments are serviced to to same standards. The smell at Sellicks Beach from the treatment is still a problem
The previous questions would not allow you to answer as I feel in priority. You could not use the same priority. I feel this is so the council can still do what they want anyway.
The privatisation of assets has a long history of bad decisions increased prices and reduced services so lets add another disaster to the list.
the sale of public assets never seems to benefit the public - private owners always seeks to increase their profit margin by either increasing fees or reducing services over time
The sale of the council's water assets is a very poor option for the community. Provision and management of water is an essential service that should not be placed in the hands of a private provider. Australia's record of selling public assets has NEVER resulted in improved services or reduced prices for the community. ESCOSA's record regulating essential services in SA is abysmal. They have neither the authority or will to force private providers to control prices or to provide reasonable standards of service. Sale of council's water assets will result in substantial increases in price and reductions in service and reliability. DO NOT SELL WATER ASSETS.
The sell off of assets at state level has shown no long term benefits to the state. Increased prices, reduced service, lack of investment in infrastructure and profits benefiting big business. Council can own and manage their own assets if they are smart enough to ditch the existing outdated methods of management, resistance to change within the workforce, over management and employ people with the skills to do this so Council can retain these important assets. Selling off assets is not a viable long term solution.
The survey sounded like an ad to put all the prices up. We pay too much now. Keep the service and only put up by CPI rates and water asset fees . Selling will be a disaster with a greedy monopoly gouging us.
The water assets and CWMS are council run and belong to the City of Onkaparinga as a whole. Any divestment of these assets should be a decision taken by all residents and they all should be surveyed.
there is no long term benefit to the region in selling these assets, water security is paramount to sustainability of many businesses in the South, with continued pressure from global warming we can not afford the risk of privatising and potential overseas ownership of our water!!!!!!!!
There should not be any sale. A sale of infrastructure that has been a community asset is not conceivable into the future unless the council continues to fail to focus on their core responsibilities to the community of ratepayers, now and more importantly, into the future, beyond the next election.
These are very much loaded questions. Why do you ask if council is the right organisation to deliver water services and then ask how important it is to ensure customers receive the 'same high quality of service'. If they are receiving this high quality of service, as the question implies then they must be the right people to deliver the service. In previous sales of publicly held assets how has the public generally fared?
This Council has lost its way
This council is showing more and more it's out to line it's own pockets and not doing what is best for the rates payers. Selling off assets is wrong just plain and simple
This increases my mistrust of the council and its members, who in the council is gaining from this sale, is the chief exec a shareholder of the company. Private water companies are making obscene profits from the public and this will continue after this sale
This is a 'bandaid' solution to the council's perceived economic problems. The mayor and other senior people in the council need to be sacked and the council restructured to run efficiently and without favour to a few 'chosen ones'. Buck up your attitude and performance and you wont have a need to raise money unnecessarily. Remember that you can only sell an asset once!!!!!!

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This is a money grab... stop spending our rates on unnecessary costs and tighten your budget; live within your means. Selling assets to make cash, reeks of desperation.
This is a short term solution to provide a cash injection into the Council. There would be little cost saving as the Council would have to purchase water to use in it's parks and other ventures - so very little money could be used for 'other projects'. Also, it is unfair to subject people in low socio-economic areas and schools to a possible price increase.
This is not yours to sell It is already bought and paid for by City if Onkaparinga rate (tax) payers
This is only a survey with no real inference as to what council will do. I do not like that final question as I think it's loaded and simply indicates that council has already decided to sell!
This is our council most valuable asset. Many droughts in future. Water prices will only increase and we must save as much water in Murray river as possible.
This matter should not be voted on until after the November elections. The City of Onkaparinga has received considerable criticism in the past 12 months over expenditure of public funds and a range of other issues. The administration has lost the confidence of the community. The criticism is not at those who deliver the important services but at the senior administration and part of the elected members. It would be inappropriate to make such a decisions so close to the 'caretaker period' before the elections in November. I am sure that there will be quite a number of new faces as elected members who are annoyed with the way things have gone in recent times. They will be looking at the services council should be providing, expenditure and reduction of the millions of \$ debt. So this proposal should not occur until a new Council is formed.
This really is the most short sighted strategy. No doubt public money is being wasted to have external companies assist in "evaluating" or "assessing" the viability. Can the council just do its job and manage the assets it is lucky enough to have. Sale of assets will ultimately end in the council raising rates because it has no source of income. Perhaps some FOI claims on expenditure for this proposal need to be made.
This would be a retrograde step and I insist the Council obtain fully independent advice which must be reported to the constituency.
Time to start looking at wasted money on internal labour cost, i known first hand how much money is wasted on too many workers!
To ensure that the revenue is used to pay down debt only.
Totally against privatisation of Assets.
Utilities should not be in the hands of private companies. They always promise investment and competitive prices but they never do. Profits are always the overwhelming incentive
Vehemently oppose the possible sale.....
Water Assets Divestment, Question 8 is a joke, all the responses are all equally extremely important to consumers. My opinion of this is the council like state governments etc, have made up their minds and this is just lip service to say that a consultation process was done. So what happens to the employees at present, who were employed to maintain these services!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Water is a precious, scarce resource. Local council should manage it, in my view.
We do not want council's water assets sold at all.
We have noticed a significant improvement in customer service and professionalism over the past five years - it seems strange that council is trying to sell a business that is capable of providing an ongoing income for the community when there is capable staff to manage the business. It seems like the current administration is trying to sell the assets to mask years of mis-management which will be to the detriment of the current customers. If the assets are viable to another company why are they not worth investing in as the current asset owner

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we should not be forced to pay a private profit making company for a basic service, there will be no market forces to ensure a fair charge, we are already paying more than the rest of the city for our service, this will make it worse. Do not sell off a public service
We, my husband and I, do not want this asset to be under the control of the Chinese. Councils, and many other large businesses have an attitude of ' EYES WIDE SHUT' when it comes to investment in our country. Millions of Chinese people are neglected due to expansionist policies elsewhere.
We're tired of seeing public assets sold off only to be hit hard by price rises in the name of profit and inefficiency. Can't believe, after all the previous episodes of this playing out, the council wants to repeat it.
When I decided to do the e surveys I thought that my voice would be heard, but now I know that not one person in the council cares and what ever I say is not heard. If the council sells the water assets and management then the rate payers need to know exactly we're that money is going to be spent. The council needs to pull there heads in and look to the rate payers, most of the rate payers are struggling. DO THE RIGHT THING BY THE RATE PAYERS.
Who thought this up. Council should be providing these essential services. Any Privatisation is rubbish!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT SELLING? JUST TO GET MORE MONEY? WHAT WOULD THAT MONEY BE SPENT ON? GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIPS, ETC?
Why does council want to sell its assets? Once it is sold it is gone and the new operator will do as they please in the long run. DO NOT SELL If council had more controll of how it spent money willy nilly then there would not be these issues. Yes sewer and water cost money, just run it responsibly like any household budget and not like a government run budget where they do not care how money is spent. Its a pity councilors could not be held accountable and charged for negligence.
Why would the council members wish to sell community/council owned assets? What's really going on? You need to live up to the responsibility that has been entrusted to you and keep all the asset pay for by the community in council ownership and control.
with your reputation of handling our ratepayers monies, if it aint broke,dont fix it, and hopefully our new councillors will be honest and capable administrators of our beautiful area
Yes I have another comment.....Section 8, Water Assets Divestment is rigged !! How do you expect to get honest opinions when it is impossible to list the answers correctly ?? They are all equally important, but will not happen if these assets are sold. As explained below !! If the Council makes a decision for a sale to go ahead, pricing for customers would be the responsibility of the new operator, not the City of Onkaparinga. Ducking and weaving before the decision ha even been made.....or has it ??
Yes, why waste our time with the choice of 'C' in the last question? If you acknowledge that you have no control over the pricing structure where do you get off implying that it's even an option? I gave it the Least option because it's ridiculous and an insult to the Publics intelligence. Whoever buys it will be grabbing as much money as they can as quick as they can . Ba Boom. If we sell the damn things then it's gone the End.
Yes. I would definitely prefer the Onkaparinga Council to continue to look after this important asset
You have given no guarantee that billing will not go through the roof and as a rate payer in a council that provides very little service for the very high rates we pay I have no confidence in this decision