

79 Blain Lane  
BEECHER QLD 4680

6<sup>TH</sup> February 2005

Queensland Competition Authority  
GPO Box 2257  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir

I wish to object to the recent publicized increase in water charges for Gladstone and surrounding areas.

I have lived at Beecher, in the Calliope Shire Council, for over 7 years. I am 3 minutes travel from Gladstone and live on 3½ acres. We are serviced by the 'Constant Flow Water System' currently in place and there are no long term plans to put Beecher onto the piped water system currently enjoyed by the city of Gladstone.

I object strongly to the ludicrous increase in our water charges when already we have had the added expense of installing and maintaining water pipes, tanks and pumps to supply our houses with same water that Gladstone residents take for granted without incurring these costs.

I also object on the grounds that our electricity costs are much higher due to having to have electric pumps to pump pressurized water to our houses. If we have no electricity at Beecher we have no water. When I first moved to Beecher our water was charged at \$335.00 p.a. My last rates (7 years later) were \$766 p.a. This increase, along with increased electricity cost is a high price already to pay compared to the city.

When Central Queensland was in drought in 2003 our usage was cut to the least amount possible by the council, which was even less than Gladstone City. We were not given the privilege of trying to cut back on water usage like Gladstone residents; the privilege was taken away from us by the council replacing the valve that joins the water line.

We battled to conserve water, sometimes having to live in somewhat primitive conditions, when we had to reduce usage and now we are slogged with overpriced water costs as a result. This is surely sheer greed to charge these ridiculous prices. It is nothing short of blackmail to ask us to pay these exorbitant prices for a resource we cannot live without.



**Mrs Sandra Elise**