

10 FEB 2005

Friday, 4 February 2005

DATE RECEIVED

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David Shephard
PO Box 138
Mt Larcom Q 4695Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane 4001

Cc: Mrs Liz Cunningham, Paul Neville MP, Jeff Seeney MP, Stephen Robertson MP, and Premier Peter Beattie.

Re: Submission to Qld Competition Authority about pricing practices for The Gladstone Area Water Board.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Gladstone Area Water Board is proposing new water prices for the Gladstone and Calliope Shire regions. I believe such increases to Mount Larcom, where I have bought property, are too expensive and are damaging to the development of the town.

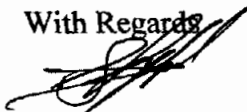
I believe that the new water prices will be in the vicinity of \$8.69 per k/litre, an outrageous increase from the current 0.65c per k/litre, tiered to \$1.20 per k/litre, that is currently paid. This means that I would pay approximately over \$2000 per year, including connection fee (a fee that is already higher than any other town within the Calliope Shire) just to have treated water run to my property. I have bought the land with the intention to build, but this new pricing is too much and I may not be able to afford to build and live here. This believed increase has also devalued my land and I fear I may not be able to sell it, if I choose.

Mount Larcom seems to bearing the main brunt of these proposed water increases, and the high cost of treated water to this town will affect many residents as well as local services and businesses. It is a concern to me that a town, that has much development potential, may instead become a ghost town as no one can afford to pay for their water. Otherwise Mt Larcom may have to remove itself from the treated water system, which is not desirable and again will affect the value of property, including my own, within the town.

This water price would end up being one of the highest water prices within Australia, and I think the Gladstone Area Water Board and the State Government should re-evaluate the pricing structure and prevent over-inflated water increases. After all this is meant to be a natural cheap resource!

I ask you to please consider this issue.

With Regards



David Shephard

NB: Copy sent via email to all parties on Friday 4th February 2005.