

# *“Raevernlee”*

8<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Essential Services Commission  
KooWeeRup – Longwarry Flood Protection District  
Rate Review

Dear Sir / Madam,

I'd like to provide some feedback with regards Melbourne Water and the rates / drain maintenance or lack thereof.

I have lived at this address for 7 years now and I have only ever once seen Melbourne Water attending to maintenance on our drain. With the recent flooding of the Bunyip River our property flooded primarily because the overflow drain that goes under the road – (which I note is supposed to have a flood gate that closes) brought a substantial amount of water back into our property because the flood gate would not close. The gate itself is so old and wooden and was so dry it floated and would not close – we even tried tying it shut but it kept floating back, so thanks to Melbourne Water's Maintenance (or in my opinion – lack of) we had 5 paddocks flooded and not available for use for at least a month for our stock.

The drain is also so overgrown with blackberries, trees and weeds that it is now nearly higher than the car when driving up the road.

I do not mind paying fees if you can see that they are actually being used for maintenance – clearly on my drain / road they are not.

I do thank Melbourne Water for giving us this opportunity to put our view forward and I would like to see them be held responsible for doing actual maintenance work on the drains – if we have another dry year the drain bank is a disaster waiting to happen (fire) and if we have another wet period – well we will flood again.

So I am asking that in your brief you set minimum maintenance standards which need to be met for each drain in the area.

Regards

Leanne, Vern & Raelene Marriott