

Moreland City Council

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The Hon. Tim Holding, Water Minister
Essential Services Commission
Water Price Review
Level 2, 35 Spring St
Melbourne 3000
By email: water@esc.vic.gov.au

Metropolitan Melbourne Water Price Review 2008-09

Moreland City Council on behalf of its citizens welcomes the opportunity to comment on the **Metropolitan Melbourne Water Price Review 08-09** issues paper. Council at its meeting of 13 May resolve:

Proposed prices and tariff structures

Moreland City Council is concerned with the inequity in the annual residential bills shown in the Water Price Review. On behalf of its residents it wishes to express its deep concern at the price discrepancies between the water retailers and wishes to advocate that all three retailers have the same pricing structure.

Table 8.2 on page 110 indicates that, for "estimated average annual household bills...based on average consumption of 165kl" for 2008/09 charges are as follows:-

- City West Water \$568
- South East Water \$566
- and Yarra Valley Water \$585

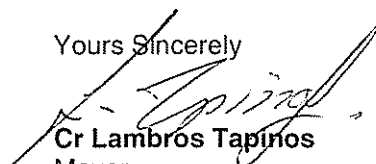
Yarra Valley Water, the retailer that Moreland residents are compelled to use are being charged \$17 or 3% more than City West customers and \$19 or 3.4% more than South East Water customers.

The report also outlines increases to water charges up until 2012/13, showing a worsening situation for Moreland residents. The total four year increase of the draft decision shows that Yarra Valley users will suffer an increase of 60%, whereas South East Water users will only receive a 53% increase and City West Water users will only receive a 48% increase. Refer table 8.3 on page 110.

Moreland City Council understands that the water retailers have a need for certainty and security of ongoing revenue, however we believe that this can be achieved through a fee structure that needs to be equitable. It certainly does not seem equitable if a Moreland resident in 2012/13 will have to pay \$936 compared to \$840 for a City West user and \$865 for a South East Water user. The impact of this is that a resident of Moonee Valley living along side Moreland resident will pay \$95 dollars a year less for the same product and service and have no choice or say about their water retailer.

Moreland Council on behalf of all its residents wishes to express its disappointment that the residents of Moreland currently have to bear an unfair financial burden due to their retailer being Yarra Valley Water.

Yours Sincerely



Cr Lambros Tapinos
Mayor

15/5/2009

c.c. The Hon. Tim Holding, Water Minister
c.c. All Local State members of Parliament in the Legislative Assembly and in the Legislative Council.