



2018 Water Price Review

Judy James to: water

Cc: Andrew Ramsay, Harley Moraitis, cwaugh

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To whom it may concern

I am responding to the invitation on page 12 of The Senior, November, 2017 to have a say to the Essential Services Commission on the proposed pricing for water by the state's 17 water businesses.

I am an actively involved resident of Australian Unity's Walmsley retirement village, Greeves Drive, Kilsyth. Water is supplied to the 198 independent living units and the Aged Care Facility by Yarra Valley Water.

In order to minimise the impact of removal of the \$100 government rebate in 2018/2019, the Yarra Valley Water Price Submission, 4 October 2017, on pricing for the period 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 proposes to hold bills flat in 2018/2019 for the typical residential customer using 150 kL per year, with annual price changes 0.7% less than inflation for the following four years.

Unfortunately, the elderly and pensioner residents (average age approximately 82 years) of the 198 Walmsley independent living units are not typical residential customers, living as we do in small units of approximately 900 - 1000 square feet only, with annual water usage per unit of less than approximately 70 kL and very closely managed to reduce costs.

In consequence, I estimate, based on data in the Yarra Valley Water Price Submission, that we will suffer a 2018/2019 price increase well above inflation of approximately 6.4%, assuming no change to the current discharge and seasonal factors. The different seasonal factors for houses and units are also recognised.

In my view, it would be an injustice, on top of other price pressures on electricity and gas, for the elderly and pensioner residents of Walmsley village not to similarly receive a flat bill from Yarra Valley Water in 2018/2019, however that may be achieved through the ESC's consideration of Yarra Valley Water's pricing proposals.

Yours faithfully

John Peter James