

Dear Sir,

We are informed that the Barwon Water Draft Water Plan for 2008 includes an increase in water charges of 42% + cpi. As significant industrial users of water we fully understand and support initiatives aimed at water conservation and are involved in a number of projects aimed at water usage reduction. However, an increase of such proportion appears to be out of step with all that is being done both federally and within the state to support manufacturing industry.

We, in the textile industry, are particularly vulnerable to the threats of low cost imports which is made worse by the strength of the AUD and any increase to manufacturing cost serves to drive another nail into the coffin. The Brinton Group manufactures carpet around the world and Australia already has the highest manufacturing cost within the Group when converted back into GBP.

Would you please consider this submission when reviewing the Geelong water price increase.

Yours Faithfully

Stuart Peace
Managing Director
Brintons Ltd. Pty