

I refer to and strongly support your in principle decision that water charges should reflect the cost of water, rather than that cost being transferred into Access and Discharge prices.

I wish to make three points:

1. Water is the only business that I know of that is permitted to charge an access fee on the basis of the service passing your property. This prevents people from opting out of using the service, and unfairly discriminates against those who are frugal in their use of the commodity.

2. The cost of water by volume used should properly reflect the cost of that water. If I buy wine, I pay the winery for the cost of the product up to its leaving the Winery and Australia Post for its delivery.

People are generally happy to pay for the product they use but not for its delivery when it is not used. This also makes me think twice about the quantity of wine I consume - up to a point!

3. Sewerage costs are inescapable due to planning conditions applying through most of Victoria around the installation and use of black water treatment systems. This gives the water businesses a monopoly over sewerage discharge from properties. This may not fall within your aegis, but it is a further unfair restriction on the right of people to determine their own level of service usage.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Monie