

5-5-08

Michael Davies

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regards to the meeting held at Western Water on 28-4-08 to discuss water charge increases.

Firstly I would like to say it was one of the best meetings I've been to, the fact that all parties were willing to discuss all concerns during the meeting and afterwards while having a cuppa, allowed everyone to exchange their concerns with the different departments. Again well done.

Getting down to what was said the increase that western water put forward was 6.8% but during the breakdown of where money was going, it was said on more than one occasion, that 3% was to go on water service charges, 3% on sewage service charge and 4% on water usage.

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this adds up to 50% over the 5 year period, leaving 18% unaccounted for. I believe even the 10% per year increase is too much to pay, let alone trying to put in an extra 18%.

All businesses should be made to pay more for their water. We pay on a 3 tier system to make us use less, yet businesses pay only 1 tier which is just over our 1st tier yet they can claim the water usage on tax we can't.

Because the planned increases are mainly going on to fixed service charges "water & sewer" then the theory that water prices could come down if it rains and Western Water doesn't have to buy as much from Melbourne water, they won't bring the prices down on the fixed service charges.

Now because I own a holiday house I will be paying twice as much and this has nothing to do with water usage it's all on the availability charges because my water usage on my other property is only \$2-\$6 a time.

With everything going up and not at the rate of inflation which our government said is about 3.5% then

no charges should go past this figure.

Wages for low income workers, average workers and pensioners have not gone up in line with all these increases and we can't make ends meet now so increases like you plan on doing is going to send us further down the gutter.

You should realize that we didn't create this mess it was all done by the government and their departments all of which work on the "pass the buck theory" if it gets to hard leave it for the next party to get into power.

Now I have been asking around and it seems that very few people know there is going to be an increase let alone such an outrageous increase.

So I say the increase overall for each year should be less than 4%.

With these meetings I agree with the people who complained at the meeting held by Wanda Water that they should be held at night after work so everyone can come along.

Thank You.

Yours Truly
Michael Davies.