

Blyth Meechan

28th April 2013

Mr Denis Cavagna

Commissioner

Essential Services Commission

Level 2 35 Spring Street

Melbourne Vic 3000



Dear Commissioner Cavagna,

I am writing this letter to express my disappointment and anger with you and the Essential Services Commission in respects to the removal of the sewerage funding for Loch, Nyora and Poowong from the South Gippsland Waters Capital Works Expenditure.

You don't have to live your life as I do with total worry about your child. I am the mother of the child who has had ENCEPHALITIS not once but twice. The first time my son contracted it he was 10 year old and the second time was 3 weeks before his 15th birthday.

We changed every thing back in 2008. We started buying in our water either in big bottles for our water dispensing machine or we buy the water in small bottles. We no longer allowed him to go to his friends places inside the town.

He suffered from from seizures mostly absentee ones. He also suffered from a learning disability after the ENCEPHALITIS bout.

He had many problems such as concentration problems, amnesia , sore joints etc.

The second time he suffered Encephalitis was February this year. This time we can correlate the time and place that caused him to get the bacteria in his system. Normally my son is not allowed to walk home after getting of the school bus inside town. I was late in picking him up one afternoon and he started to walk down the road. He fell over and gashed his knee. I took him home and cleaned it up. He was admitted to hospital 2 weeks later. He was released from Monash and sent home only to end up at another hospital yet again. Over the school holidays of 2012/2013 My son was placed into hospital every 10-14 days. His seizures were extremely violent infact tonic clonic lasting about 1 minute and having 3 seizures in an hour.

My son does not play sport, he does not live the life of a normal 15yr old teenage boy because of the situation.

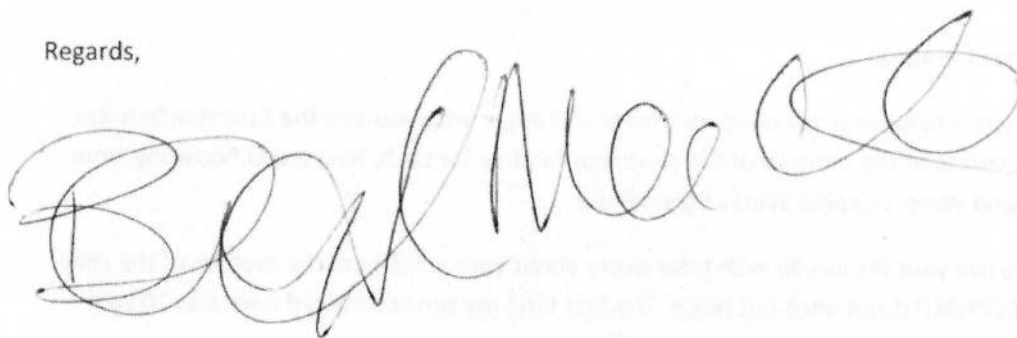
It is time that the ESC included the cost of sewerage back into the capital works budget before another child becomes sick or my son gets Encephalitis.

I should also tell you that there are others in the town, that have been sick with Bacterial Pneumonia.

Attached is the general letter for submission to the ESC.

Please give us what we were promised. All we are asking is that you allow us the right that every other person in Melbourne has and that is the civil liberty of a healthy environment by having sewerage.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blyth Meechan', followed by a large, stylized flourish or scribble.

BLYTH MEECHAN

SUBMISSION REASONS FOR REINSTATING OF THE NYORA, LOCH, POOWONG SEWERAGE SCHEME

There are so many reasons for the re-instating of the sewerage and we are sure that you have had so many submissions as to all of the reasons why.

We agree with everything that has been proposed with by the submission that the South Gippsland Shire has provided to you.

However we would like to highlight a few things to you and your department.

1. The point I would like to make first and foremost is that people are sick in our town..
2. We have people who have been that sick from our environment that they have been placed on disability by centrelink. We all know that for that to occur it is quite serious the illness that the people have.
3. The fact that we can correlate sickness to the unhealthy state of the water/drains that have been identified as having high percentage of ecoli, faecal bacteria should be enough for your department to want to allocate the funds to help us.
4. Dr Finn Romanus has stated that illnesses that can be caught from our environment can be passed onto others outside the initial area through touch.
5. It is easy for everyone to say clean out the septic, for most of us we have done this and do it regularly.
6. The fact that SGW was directed in 2005 by the State Government that they were to budget for and provide a sewerage scheme for the three towns. The mere fact is that we are a high priority project.
7. The council has stated that there were a few sites identified to take the lagoons. After considerable studies the council and SGW have been satisfied that all measures had been taken to ensure that the best site has been chosen and acquired.
8. The fact that with further development in the three towns over time the cost per household will actually become cheaper as more houses are connected to it at full cost..
9. 84% of the people in the community want the sewerage on.
10. There are a lot more people than was collected on the petition that want sewerage.
11. Some of the blocks are extremely small that they could not support the sewerage treatment plants that have been suggested. Without the scheme these people are at risk of being evicted and living in the streets, because they cannot afford to pay a mortgage and rent on another residence.
12. Our town is that toxic that it is on par or worse than the toxic dump site in Cranbourne in which the people were evacuated from the area until clean-up was performed. Shouldn't these three towns be subjected to this sort of action at SGW and Councils expense.
13. Last but not least and probably something that everyone is avoiding from your department- DUTY OF CARE by not putting the Loch, Nyora and Poowong scheme back on track and making it sure that it goes through you are potentially open certain government departments up to being sued. This will add to the cost more than you would like it to be. Remember it has already been proven that the town is septic.