

To: water@esc.vic.gov.au
cc:
From:
Date: 26/03/2013 06:36:27 PM
Subject: Increased water rates

I appreciate that water bills must rise due to costs of :

- maintenance and replacement of existing ageing infrastructure.
- increased supply due to the Government's ill-thought out decision that despite the fact that we live on an island that is mainly desert, we must nevertheless increase our population by huge migration every single day.
- that trillion dollar horror that no-one wanted that one day may spew out recycled water - you know the one, that could have been run for little charge on sun and wind power instead of needing 90% of Melbourne's electricity supply.

Nevertheless, those on welfare or low incomes just cannot afford to have any of their utility bills increased any further.

After paying rent/mortgage and the bills, and buying a little food, how much do you think is left over on the paltry Widows Allowance or even smaller Newstart?

Absolutely nothing, that's how much.

I got \$180 Household Assistance payment, and that barely covered the increase of just the electricity bill, never mind increased water, gas, phone, food, fares, petrol, rates etc. etc. etc.

There is no place in the full-time work-force for my age group, so we are forced to take any menial part-time low-paid job we can get, just to try to keep out of debt.

So when you increase the costs, that increase should NOT apply to anyone on an income under say, \$30,000 per annum.

Merrilyn Whitecross