



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE  
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GPS Ref: OUT08/233B2A2F  
GPS File: 57-11-011, 57-11-008, 57-11-009  
Your Ref:

5 May 2008

Water Price Review  
Essential Services Commission  
Level 2  
35 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Sir/Madam

#### 2008 WATER PRICE REVIEW – CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WATER

I refer the Commission to Council's previous letter dated 3 April 2008 (*copy attached*) where Council expressed concern regarding the proposed deferment of the Smythesdale Sewerage Project. I also refer to Council's input at the public meeting held in Ballarat on 8 April 2008 urging the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to re-consider its position on the deferment of the Smythesdale Sewerage Project.

Council has been advised that the ESC has confirmed to Central Highlands Water (CHW) that the final Water Plan will be amended to reflect CHW's commitment to delivering the sewerage program as early as possible.

Council appreciates the opportunities made available to it through the public meeting and submission process to put the community's case directly to the ESC.

Council wishes to reiterate its position against deferral and looks forward to the ESC's Final Report reflecting Council's position.

Yours faithfully

**ROD NICHOLLS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Enc Copy of letter dated 3 April 2008



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GPS Ref: OUT08/1E48470B  
GPS File: 57-11-011, 57-11-008, 57-11-009  
Your Ref:

3 April 2008

Essential Services Commission  
Level 2  
35 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam

### **2008 WATER PRICE REVIEW – CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WATER**

Council would like to raise with the Commission what it sees as an omission of facts by the Commission's Consultants in the above report.

The Smythesdale Township, located in the Golden Plains Shire, is one of the towns included in the Country Towns Sewerage Scheme Project being funded by DSE and Central Highlands Water. The proposed delay in the sewerage of Smythesdale, as recommended in the Essential Services Commission's report, is unacceptable to Council.

In Table 11, paragraph (c) of the report, your Consultants have acknowledged the obligation to undertake the proposed works and indicated that they were not aware of any timing requirements.

Discussion with Council would have revealed ample reason not to defer the Smythesdale project. For example:

- Extensive investigations indicating the urgent need for sewerage in the township.
- Substantial funds already provided by DSE (\$250,000 with a matching commitment from Golden Plains Shire) for an integrated stormwater scheme.
- Smythesdale Main Street Improvement Project (\$200,000 State funds provided).
- Smythesdale Business, Health and Community Hub (\$1,610,000 State and Federal funds provided).
- Supermarket and Hotel proposals that require sewerage for viability.

Any further delays with sewerage could jeopardise these projects.

Council is disappointed in the lack of consultation by the Commission and its agents in relation to the Smythesdale Sewerage Project, as well as being concerned about the implications of altering the project timelines. Reinstatement of the project to its original timelines will allow other substantial commitments to proceed without delay.

Yours faithfully

**ROD NICHOLLS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Bannockburn Customer Service Centre**  
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**Fax**

To:	Organisation:	<b>ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION</b>
Fax: <b>9651 3688</b>	Pages:	<b>2</b>
From: <b>ED HARVEY</b>	Direct Phone Line:	<b>5220 7124</b>
Date: <b>4 APRIL 2008</b>		
Re: <b>SMYTHESDALE SEWERAGE PROJECT</b>	Reference:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Post Original		

Good Morning

Please find following a letter relating to the 2008 Water Price Review – Central Highlands Water – and its effect on the proposed sewerage of Smythesdale.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require any additional information.

Regards

**ED HARVEY**  
**DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

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Yours faithfully

**ROD NICHOLLS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**