

Essential Service Commission
Att: Evaluation Committee
35 Spring Street
Melbourne
Victoria 3000

Date:20/5/2012

Dear Committee

Subject : Patterson Lakes Quiet Lakes MW precept price increase

With regards to Melbourne Waters' proposed precept rate price increase I have amongst others the following points to justify my objection

1. Rates increase every year but the water quality has deteriorated every year for years because MW cut the lakes off its essential water flow.
2. As these lakes are part of the local storm water drainage system lake residents are double charged as MW are already charging a waterways and drainage charge on every water bill.
3. MW like to engage consultants which drains the precept budget but over the years have produced no results at all.
4. In spring last year for example MW engaged Evaluation Solutions for a residents survey. The residents top priority was to have the water supply restored which did not happen.
5. Another example: Carp removal (another residents' priority) in the lakes is normally conducted by netting the lakes. However, this is not successful due to excessive plant growth at least in 2 of the lakes. Nevertheless MW is going ahead with a new planting program which is not supported by the residents but provides MW with many years of excuses to spend precept money.
6. I believe that a CPI indexed precept rate should be appropriate. The lakes' infrastructure and reserve is owned by MW, therefore MW should have the financial responsibility.
7. MW know by how much they have to increase the precept rate in advance but lack on accountability and transparency where the money being spent.

Best Regards



Rolf Daniel