

To: <water@esc.vic.gov.au>  
cc:  
From: "Sue Kent"  
Date: 21/11/2012 09:44:52 PM  
Subject: Increased water charges.

I would like to add my voice to the many who have probably already voiced their objections to the astronomical increase proposed to our water charges. With the huge increases in utility charges householders have already had to face, the proposed extra \$300 for water would place an intolerable strain on my household finances. I understand the need for infrastructure but the ever increasing demands being made on ordinary working families by utility companies is leading to grave financial difficulty for many, including myself. There is only so far a wage can go.

When we were in drought we were all urged to conserve water – 155 litres per day! Most households worked hard to achieve this but instead of being congratulated on the achievement, Yarra Valley water put the rates up because they weren't making enough money. We also have the annual parks and gardens charges which I consider unfair because when you work full time plus extra shifts to pay the bills, the opportunity to utilise these parks is zero.

I rue the day that utilities were sold off to private companies. The charges have just climbed steadily ever since. I am now watching my adult children who have worked and struggled so hard to try to get a foot in the housing market, realising that having achieved a mortgage, they cant actually afford to run a household.

Water companies are holding householders to ransom. They have a monopoly on the product, we all need water but their greediness really needs to be reined in.

Yours Sincerely.

Sue Kent.