

Hi

I did not hear about the public forum recently held on a Friday in Traralgon but saw an article in the Latrobe City Express about the poor attendance.

I have two houses in Traralgon. About a year ago I bought a smaller house and having been trying to downsize and sell my other home for the last 8 months. I am now trying to rent out the house as I am struggling to pay two house insurances, two house rates and two water rates etc. Paying such bills for one house is difficult enough.

I have been appalled at the cost of water for several years. The cost of the connection fees are about \$50 for drinking water and \$250 for wastewater connection. Water is not a luxury item like a luxury car, leather clothing or expensive perfume. It is not fair that you should charge so much for me to drink water essential for life, to cook food to eat, to wash myself and to do my washing and for other essential activities such as cleaning the house.

You have it wrong you should not charge people such high connection costs but rather for the use if you are genuine about conserving water. God forbid however, that you should increase the usage to exorbitant rates as well. You provide no incentive for people to cut back on water usage, in fact you provide a disincentive as people think their connection fees are so expensive they may as well not bother to reduce the actual water usage and even encourages water consumption. This of course is of little concern to you since our water bills provide income for your company.

I do not know anyone who agrees with the connection costs. If you really cared about the average working family, let alone a pensioner such as myself, than why are your costs so high? Your rates should be reduced not increased, ask ALL your clients, particularly low income households, if you dare.

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Leibrecht.