

MELBOURNE WATER QUIET LAKES BORE FLUSHING TARIFF PROPOSAL

Illawong Retirement Village spans half the shore of Lake Illawong. The village is in two sections, Stage 1 with 44 units, and Stage 2 with 32 units. It is run as one village and all 76 units face the waterfront.

I have been the Retirement Village Quiet Lakes representative and have been involved in all the discussions on the issues since shortly after the Patterson Lakes Advisory Committee was formed, and then disbanded after 10 years because of the Independent Review. Each time that we have requested a meeting with Melbourne Water, they have come to the village with two or three of their staff and explained the position clearly and answered all our questions.

There have been three meetings with residents and Melbourne Water about tariffs and other water issues. There were roughly equal numbers of residents from Stage 1 and Stage 2, and on each occasion there was also a handful of residents from the houses on the other side of the lake.

In Melbourne Water's original proposal before the Independent Review, residents at Illawong Retirement Village were being asked to pay a tariff of a little more than the precept rate. It was agreed at that first meeting that residents wanted the lake to remain as a private lake and they voted unanimously to pay the tariff.

After the Independent Review was released two further meetings were held, again with Stage 1 and Stage 2 residents. At both meetings and in the survey there was agreement to pay the tariff to have Melbourne Water maintaining the water quality.

We had a third residents' meeting in 2016 when Melbourne Water proposed a new bore flushing tariff and outlined the services we could expect. Again it was agreed to pay the tariff.

Due to other issues at the village at present, I have been unable to call a further meeting to put the latest proposal to them, but a quick check with as many residents as I have been able to talk to shows that they haven't changed their minds. Everyone I have spoken to insists they want bore flushing and water testing to continue and accept \$135 as a reasonable price to pay. They had no issues with other households paying the same tariff, although a few felt it would not be unreasonable to have to pay according to the rate value. Some also thought the flushing should be year round, not just seasonal.

Only one person I spoke to had heard anything about the latest proposal. It is unfortunate that from December to March I was mostly away from home and didn't know about it either. There should certainly have been a meeting where other views could have been put forward for consideration by all the residents of Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Residents have stated at several meetings that PLQLOR do not speak for Illawong Retirement Village. Only one resident is a member.

Nannette Stubbs OAM

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