

9 Boyne Crescent,
Gladstone.
Qld. 4680

2nd February, 2005

- 8 FEB 2005

Liz Cunningham, MLA
Phillip St.
Gladstone.
Qld. 4680

Dear Liz,

Re: Water Rates in the Gladstone area

Please find enclosed copies of letter written to Paul Neville and Peter Beattie on this subject, which I feel quite strongly about.

I am hoping you get many letters along the same lines.

Yours faithfully,


.....
(PAULINE NEWMAN)

9 Boyne Crescent,
Gladstone
Qld. 4680

2nd February, 2005

Mr. Paul Neville
Member for Hinkler,
Andersons Arcade,
Gladstone. 4680

Dear Mr. Neville,

Re: Water Rates in the Gladstone area

I am writing to you as a concerned rate payer in the City of Gladstone, to ask if you can bring some Federal Government pressure to bear on the Queensland State Government, with regard to the proposed increases in water rates for our area.

It seems to me that we are being penalised for saving water during the drought last year, and I can just imagine what the reaction would be if we have another drought and are asked to conserve water. I also feel that we are being punished for not having a Labor member of Parliament. I can't imagine Mr. Beattie trying to increase the water rates in Brisbane by such a large percentage all at once !

Our local paper states that the Gladstone Water Board tells us they do not have the power to increase charges – they have been set by the Queensland Competition Authority. What I would like to know is WHAT COMPETITION – and can I get my water from this competition?

Our local newspaper set three simple questions, to which they received three very obscure and complicated answers. Boiled down, the answers say:

- 1) Yes, the increases in rates are due to the fact that we conserved water during the last drought.
- 2) Yes, the Calliope Shire is being penalised for being situated further away from the Dam/Filtration Plant.
- 3) Yes, if we cut back further on water usage, we will have our rates increased.

I am wondering why the charges we have been paying over the years, which must have been adequate to cover the cost of capital works, and operating costs (otherwise they would have been increased long ago) suddenly are inadequate, and such an amazing increase suddenly needs to be imposed. Surely, the Queensland Government must be looking to make a significant profit from this situation.

As a member of the general public, who does not understand the intricacies of different levels of Government, and various authorities, I find this proposal is positively outrageous, and something needs to be done about it. I am hoping you can help, by bringing up the subject in Federal Parliament, and if necessary actually embarrassing Mr. Beattie into backing away from the matter.

Yours faithfully,

.....
(PAULINE NEWMAN)

9 Boyne Crescent
Gladstone.
Qld. 4680

2nd February, 2005

Mr. P. Beattie,
Premier's Department
Parliament House,
Brisbane.

Dear Mr. Beattie,

Re: Water Rates in the Gladstone area

I am writing to you as a concerned ratepayer in the City of Gladstone, to complain about the proposed increases in water rates for our area.

It seems to me that we are being penalised for saving water during the drought last year, and I can just imagine what the reaction would be if we have another drought and are asked to conserve water. I also feel that we are being punished for not having a Labor member of Parliament. Our Independent member, Liz Cunningham, is an extremely competent representative, and is extremely popular in this region. I can't imagine you and your Government trying to increase the water rates in Rockhampton by such a large percentage all at once, and still expect your Labor candidates to be re-elected.

Our local paper states that the Gladstone Water Board do not have the power to increase charges – they have been set by the Queensland Competition Authority. What I would like to know is WHAT COMPETITION – and can I get my water from them?

I am wondering why the charges we have been paying over the years, which must have been adequate to cover the cost of capital works, and operating costs (otherwise they would have been increased long ago) suddenly are inadequate, and such an amazing increase suddenly needs to be imposed. Surely, your Government must be looking to make a significant profit from this situation.

As a member of the general public, who does not understand the intricacies of different levels of Government, and various Authorities, I find this proposal positively outrageous, and extremely unfair. Why, for instance, should the people of Mt. Larcom pay more just because they live further away from the Dam. Would you prefer we all built our houses around the edges of the Dam?

Yours faithfully,

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(PAULNE NEWMAN)