

11 Boyne Crescent
Gladstone.
Qld. 4680

5th 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 "The Observer" on Friday 4th February stated that the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) water rates pricing was governed by a draft report and pricing suggestion put together by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).
Competition with whom?

The Chief Executive of the GAWB, Mr. Hayes, is quoted as saying "At the end of the day the price of water in the region was dependant upon the role of GAWB in being a commercial business, a decision made by the State Government in 2000". One might well ask is the competition between the conservation of water versus a viable government financial business

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,

.....
(CLAIRE SUCHTING)

11 Boyne Crescent,
Gladstone
Qld. 4680

5th 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 Rockhampton by such a large percentage all at once, and still expect his Labor colleagues to be re-elected.

Our local paper, "The Observer" on Friday 4th February, states that the Gladstone Water Board (GAWB) water rates pricing was governed by a draft report and pricing suggestion put together by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA). Competition with whom?

The Chief Executive of the GAWB, Mr Hayes, is quoted as saying "At the end of the day the price of water in the region was dependant upon the role of GAWB in being a commercial business, a decision made by the State Government in 2000" One might well ask is the competition between the conservation of water versus a viable government financial business.

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,

.....
(CLAIRE SUCHTING)