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QLD COMPETITION AUTHORITY

31 JAN 2005

R & J Clay
25 Gladstone Street
Mt Larcom Q 4695

DATE RECEIVED

26 January 2005

Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Sir,

As residents of Mt Larcom and surrounding districts for nearly 70 years, we would like to respond to your current 'DRAFT FOR COMMENT' for monitoring pricing policies and contractual arrangements concerning the affairs of the Gladstone Area Water Board.

It has been brought to our attention, that your proposal will mean that our water rates are set to increase from 65 cents/kl to \$8.69/kl, while other residents in the same shire will have their rates increased from 65 cents/kl to \$1.30/kl, including Calliope, Tannum Sands and Boyne Island.

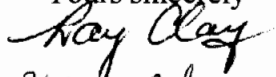
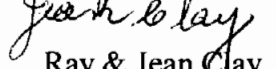
First and foremost, as residents this increase would reduce our standard of living considerably, as pensioners, using the minimum amounts our water bill will rise to nearly \$4,000 per annum. We could make alternate arrangements for water supply, ie water tanks, but our annual rainfall last year was a mere 500 mls. Are we to be reduced to living in a desert?

We feel we are being unfairly punished for living in a rural township. Surely all residents of Calliope shire, regardless of where they live should be charged the same amount for water. We live in a rural area and why should we be penalised for this?

We have witnessed many of our rural services eroded over the years, but we always believed that the elected government of the day would provide such basic commodities as fresh water supply at an affordable and reasonable cost to every Queenslander, regardless of where they live. Your current proposal is not only unfair, but also UNAUSTRALIAN.

We therefore trust you take our comments into consideration and come up with a more equitable arrangement.

Yours sincerely



Ray & Jean Clay