

QLD COMPETITION AUTHORITY

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DATE RECEIVED

3549

Thursday, 3 February 2005

David H Black
1 Raglan St.,
Mount Larcom Q 4695

Queensland Competition authority
G.P.O. Box 2257,
BRISBANE, 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

Re:- Water Charges Mount Larcom

I believe that the suggested price hike for water in Mount Larcom will be the demise of the town.

Currently The water rates for my property is around \$400.00 with a rise of 600% will bring this to approximately \$2,800.00 , Simply unaffordable.

If the Gladstone Area water board considers that is not extravagantly expensive I would hate to think what is.

I have been a resident in Mount Larcom for 14 years and ever since I have been there it has been a constant fight to keep services because the bureaucrats see us as second rate citizens fortunately the citizens of Mount Larcom stand up and fight for their rights and have kept their services.

No one minds paying a fair and reasonable price for water but when we are singled out from the rest of shire to pay such an unaffordable amount is nothing short of discrimination.

I have worked very hard with other community members in conjunction with the Calliope Shire Council in the past to try bring Mount Larcom back to a pleasant township to live .

The population is made up of a lot of pensioners and low income families who simply could not afford such hike in water prices.

In the past it has been difficult to get banks to give loans for housing in Mount Larcom and this is only going to make it more difficult and drop house and land values even more.

It would appear that our residence are being ask to support the cost of the upgrades for water supply to Aldoga as I believe that this was factored in when the investigation for this report was carried out.

I ask you to seriously consider the impact that you will have on the lives of the Mount Larcom Community and the future of the town if this price hike goes ahead.

Yours Faithfully

D H Black.