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- 9 FEB 2005

31st January, 2005

DATE RECEIVED

John & Rhonda Denney,
15 Slade Rd,
BEECHER. Q. 4680.Queensland Competition Authority,
GPO Box 2257,
BRISBANE. 4001.

Dear Sir,

I wish to give our comments on the recently announced increase in water charges to our area by the Gladstone Area Water Board by your recommendation.

To begin with, I must say that this increase in charges is simply atrocious. Gladstone & part of Calliope Shire up to 23.3% higher and Mt Larcom's increase is simply unspeakable.

Water, as you realize, is an absolute necessity in life. The Awoonga Dam here holds an enormous capacity of water. A huge amount of which goes to the big industry. Eg water being pumped to Biloela and wasted on the way. Why are household residents punished for this by paying extra in rates? Will we be subsidising all the big industry? Their increase seems nil to very minimal.

During the drought, the Gladstone Area Water Board asked all to conserve water. We all did. They didn't make enough profit from the drought, so now we have to pay extra to make up for it. How unfair is that? We all thought we were doing the right thing by conserving the water. Will we all do it next time we are asked to?

Gladstone's water is noted for its foul taste & chlorine odour. (Even after going through the treatment plant). We cannot even safely swim in the water. (Refer to the article in the Gladstone Observer on 28/01/05 page 7). And you want us to pay more for it!!

The residents of Beecher already pay high water and general rates to the Shire Council (higher than Gladstone). We are only supplied with a trickle feed system, fed to the tanks each resident supplies on their own property. For pressure we supply our own pumps. If we loose power, we have NO water! Again, you want us to pay more for this type of supply. If we don't pay for this trickle feed system, we would have to rely solely on rainwater tanks.

We implore you to reconsider the recommendations so as we may continue to live in this area. Should this increase be implemented, I feel certain our properties in the Beecher area (and Mr Larcom) will loose value, as an increase onto the high rates we already pay would be disastrous. (Even financially for ourselves if we decided to stay).

Yours sincerely,



CC: Gladstone Area Water Board.