

3469

QLD COMPETITION AUTHORITY

27 JAN 2005

DATE RECEIVED

63 Raglan St
Mt Larcom
23.1.05.

D.E. A.

G.P.O Box 2257
Brisbane

Dear Sirs

I believe in the near future you intend to charge us, the citizens of Mt Larcom, outrageous prices for our water. I am a lone pensioner with a house on 1 acre with a swimming pool (which is a must for my handicapped now) with the last rise in our water rates saw me paying almost \$300 for 4 months. It stresses me to think what I will be paying if you succeed in this madness. I believe that this is another ploy to kill our town. What is it that you know & we the citizens of this town do not. The statement has been made (that we don't want anyone living North of Calliope River)

For years we were the No 1. division of this shire & kept Calliope, Lannum, Pardo & Boyne Island afloat with our rates I believe we are still paying. Our Connection Fee for the water is \$428 whilst rest of shire pay \$100 plus. It is not our fault that we live at the end of the water network so why are we being discriminated against. There is no way I can afford these new outrageous prices. I live on one pension & will have no option but to give up the reticulated water & go back to Tanks & pray for rain. I have lived at present address for 37 years until recently with my husband, who passed away 12 mths ago. In that time we have

developed our acre into Lawns, gardens & an orchard of Exotic Fruit Trees. If we are to be charged this outrageous price I shall have to watch his lifes work die.

I believe we are being singled out for a much sinister reason. I believe this is another nail in the coffin for Mt Larsons & will surely mean its demise. We will be unable to sell our properties, as who in their right mind would buy here when they know what their water charges will be.

This must be the most expensive water in Queensland. The statement in Gladstone Observer on 18.1.05 by Mr Hayes of the Gladstone Area Water Board "We are certainly not extravagantly expensive" must be the joke of the year. Agnes Water has been suggested as having the dearest water in the state at \$2.80 K.L. We will be paying 4 times more than that but "We are not extravagantly expensive" says Mr Hayes. What planet does he live on?

We are not second rate citizens!! Some who live here are 3rd & 4th Generation. We are asking for a Fair go. I believe we deserve better. I for one live here ~~for~~ by choice as do all my friends. We are a township of retirees & Pensioners with most of us Widows. & we deserve a better deal on lifes most precious commodity.

Alice C. Major.