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DATE RECEIVED

Queensland Competition Authority  
G.P.O. Box 2257  
Brisbane, 4001

Linda Schenckel  
PO Box 72  
Yarwun, 4694, QLD

Monday January 31, 2005

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed change in future cost of reticulated water to many areas of our community, but particularly Mt Larcom.

Mt Larcom township will be greatly disadvantaged by this outrageous increase of 1300% to over \$8 per kilolitre.

I believe that this increase in water costs will cause many if not all community and volunteer organisation to close their doors. Many are struggling to pay public liability insurance premiums as it is, holding raffles, markets and trivia nights just to keep the doors open. Some of the organisations that currently exist in Mt Larcom and who would be adversely affected are the Silver Spurs Western Performance Club, The Gladstone Calliope Equestrian Group, the Mt Larcom RSL, The Mt Larcom Pony Club, The Mt Larcom & District Social Kennel & Obedience Club. These are just organisations who use the Mt Larcom Showgrounds on a regular basis. Other groups like the SES, Rodeo, and Variety Club will also be affected.

I also believe that the township of Mt Larcom is being unfairly disadvantaged for being the last town on the line, literally and figuratively. It seems to me that increasing costs this dramatically to larger towns and heavens forbid, industry would cause too much of an outcry so instead of averaging out the costs and applying them evenly to all customers equally the people of Mt Larcom are being discriminated against and baring the brunt of what surly must be a case of mismanagement.

Can you please tell me what right the government has to take away the right of Mt Larcom residents to affordable water? Surly all residents of Australia deserve the right to have potable water without having to blow the family budget or take a second job to be able to afford it. After all, Australia is not a third world country. People with fixed incomes, in particular pensioners will suffer greatly if this alarming price increase takes place.

I also believe that the proposed increase will cease all future development in Mt Larcom and render the community a ghost town. No one will build a house in the town with the average cost of a years water supply to be over \$4000. Under those circumstances who would be able to sell a house and move somewhere with affordable water? I also ask you this, who would be able to afford to rent a house in Mt Larcom with the added cost of approximately \$80 a week for water? Lawns and gardens will die, children's pools will go empty and social outings would have to be curtailed greatly just to be able to afford to turn on the kitchen tap.

I also believe that the proposed increase would also increase the incidence of water theft. The Calliope Shire Council is currently prosecuting residents found to be tampering with their water metres. An increase like the one currently on the table would be enough to tempt the most saintly Mt Larcom resident to tamper with their metre.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and look forward to a reply.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Schenkel', written in a cursive style.

Linda Schenkel