

To: <water@esc.vic.gov.au>  
cc:  
From: "Caroline Trezise"  
Date: 29/11/2012 08:28:39 AM  
Subject: Bendigo water

I wish to make commitments regarding Coliban water price increase.

I live in Raywood Victoria 25 k's from the end of Coliban's pipe line in Eaglehawk.

During the drought I could understand the need to close the water race that ran into the reservoir. There is a small treatment plant at the reservoir.

From the time the water race closed till now, Raywood township has been supplied with water from water tankers, that replaced the race. ( I think there was at times 6 water trucks a day, but cannot verify the exact amount)

Since 1995 there have been talks, and finally works started, yet to be finished for the pipeline from Bendigo to Raywood.

But we are still on water restrictions, and the pipeline has still not been completed.

So as it stands now we cannot use water because it is restricted, when the pipeline is completed, and the price of water increases we still will not be able to use water, due to the large increase in price.

It would seem to me that we are being penalised, for adhering to water restrictions.

If the drought is the prime reason for this price increase, then like any other business, Coliban Water needs to put in place strategies, before the need to impart a huge increase in the price of water.

Home owners were given incentives by the government to put in place water saving devices, only to be penalised by this increase.

As to how this increase will affect my family, we have not put in any water saving devices, we have a small tank that I can water potted plants, we lost a lot of trees/plants during the drought, but I tried to keep some plants alive using grey water and the small tank. I am a carer for my partner so money is always on a tight budget, with 2 high school kids, there is no money spare for this type of increase, it will mean no 3 minute shower that we are allowed at the moment, we will have to go back to the old days and use a bowl and wash daily instead.

Please seriously look at how this will affect people on low income, and deny such a huge increase.

Caroline Trezise