

R.G.Thorne

Manager  
Gippsland Water,  
P.O Box 348,  
Traralgon Vic 3844.

September 2, 2007

**Rate Increases**

Dear Sir,

My wife and I were unable to attend, the meetings held by Gippsland Water in Warragul. We like many other residents, are opposed to the hundred percent rise purposed to our water and sewage rates over the next five years.

In the draft business plan released by Gippsland Water, it will under take \$92.8 million of major works through out Gippsland in the future. Water, is a fundamental necessity for every day life and living. As the State Government owns Gippsland Water, State Governments of the day should therefore be responsible for providing all of the on going major works and infrastructure. What contribution will the State Government be making if any, from the monies, it receives from the service charge, which is attached to the account for water and sewage? Alternatively, when are we going to see our taxes at work in the country?

If the proposal to increase the rates by hundred percent, hopefully not, over the five years of the plan until 2012 –13 was to go ahead could the ratepayers, expect a reduction in our rates, once these major works were completed? Alternatively, will it be on going like the levy of \$10.00 that was attached to our S.E.C accounts to cover the Ash Wednesday bush fires infrastructure that was destroyed and the three cents a litre levy placed on petrol to cover the losses of the Pyramid Building Society by the State Government that has never being removed, both of which have been paid for many times over.

The State Premier Mr. John Brumby criticized the Melbourne water companies when they wanted to increase the cost of water by twenty-five percent and capped the increase to fourteen percent. The communities of Gippsland are suffering enough without being burden by the increase in the water and sewage rates that is been sort by Gippsland Water.

It is my intention to forward a copy of this letter to our local member Mr. Gary Blackwood.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.G. Thorne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R.G.Thorne

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September 7, 2007

Mr. Gary Blackwood,  
State Member,  
For Narracam District,  
3 Mason Square,  
Warragul Vic 3820.

Dear Sir,

Attached is a copy of the letter, which I sent to the Manager of Gippsland Water this week, in protest to the increases, which are being purposed to our water and sewage rates over the next five years by Gippsland Water, for your information and hopefully action on behalf of all Gippsland communities and residents.

Your Faithfully,



R.G.Thorne