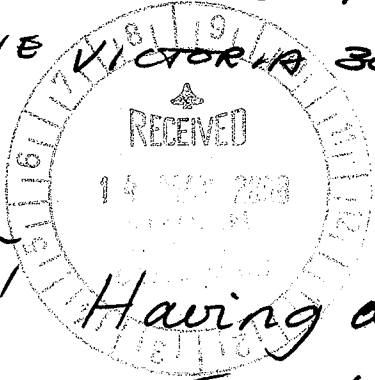


ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
LEVEL 2 35 SPRING ST
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000

JAN KAVICH

9/5/2008



Dear Sir,

Having attended a meeting in Bendigo on Tuesday April 8th 2008 I am writing as a retiree on a fixed income of \$300 per week in the suggested rise in water rates over the next few years to almost double.

I presently have a 1 meg water right that costs me over \$880 in fees before I get 1 drop of water in my dam and find this very difficult to pay at present with the cost of water on top of this again.

There are many people in Bendigo and surrounding areas in the same predicament as myself as the average income of Bendigo is \$26,000 per annum, a very low socio economic area with very limited work prospects. To have the \$800 fee double along with every other price rise for food and services will make this impossible for myself to pay.

I do not understand why I pay the same service charge of \$880 as some one else who has a business and can earn money from their water and also have the availability of a large water right eg 500 megalitres with the same \$880 fees. I feel there is a complete imbalance with the above as there is no way I can earn money from 1 meg to help cover the cost of \$880. ... 2

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PHONE 03 54361221

Other issues I raised at the Essential Services Commission were the inadequate water supply that we are presently getting from Coliban Water Bendigo. I am a rural consumer but the people in Sebastion on town water are having water carted to tanks to supply town water daily as the cockatoo Reservoir has been providing revolting water in the past that burns skin and smells revolting. Both rural & town water was coming from the cockatoo Reservoir in Sebastion in the past. ~~and~~ Also my other concerns I raised was where has my fees been used in the past. I have lived at this property for 34 years and due to the restructure with ^{NO} Coliban water there has been no maintenance on the water channel that runs right through my 9 acres near my back door. Where has all this money gone too? Why are we being asked to increase payments for a service that has not been provided. There has been lack of maintenance through out water bailiff now looking after several channels at the same time instead of maintain ~~ing~~ 1 channel as in the past. I also was concerned that only 5 residents from the whole of Bendigo attended this meeting as it was so poorly advertised

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(cont)

People were completely unaware it was on and the address given was just a 26-28 St Andrews Av Bendigo. Not a very small room behind Best Employment Agency! I know I spent 15 mins walking look for this small unventilated room as there are very few numbers on building in St Andrews Avenue Bendigo.

The time of the meeting also prevented working people from attending this meeting to air their views on a price increase.

Not everyone buys the local Bendigo Advertiser to see a small advertisement or to read that the meeting was held.

Owing to the fact my computer has been offline for a few weeks I am going to try to facc this through today.

Friday 9th. I managed to get an email address and postal address on the day but do not recall a fax number listed or any address listed anywhere.

I hope you can understand my concern on the extreme price rise and also the high services fees that we are presently paying on a very low income and take this into account.

Yours Sincerely,
Jan Pavich