



The heart of the Pyrenees  
PO Box 79, Avoca VIC 3467

Water Price Review  
Essential Services Commission  
Level 2  
35 Spring St  
Melbourne, 3000

7<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Dear Panel,

As the Facilitator of Avoca Business & Tourism Inc- Utilities Sub-Committee I wish to comment on the Review of the Draft Decision handed down by the Essential Services Commission.(E.S.C.)

Firstly I would like to comment on the consultative process conducted by the ESC. As I mentioned in a letter to the ESC Water Price Review dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008, I reiterate the community's disappointment at the short time frame and distribution of the official notification of the Public Meeting to be held in Ballarat. AB&T requests that in future, notification of Public Meetings should be placed in local as well as regional newspapers.

The Utilities Sub-Committee has been working with the Pyrenees Shire and Central Highlands Water (CHW) for several years to improve the quality of our water supply. After reviewing the 5 Year Water Plan timeframes and water pricing, the Avoca community's expectations were that the proposed timeframes would be adhered to.

In November 2006 the State Government committed \$500,000 to assist with the advancement of the Avoca project, and together with the Pyrenees Shire we have consulted with CHW to ensure that their planning meets the requirements and expectations of the consumers.

AB&T and the Avoca community trust that the ESC acknowledges the community's concerns over the publicised changes to the Draft Decision and that it reverts to the initial timeframes as proposed by CHW in the 5 Year Water Plan.

Yours faithfully

Margaret Pilgrim, Facilitator Utilities Sub-Committee, Avoca Business & Tourism Inc