

Essential Services Commission
Level 2 35 Spring Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Phone: 61 3 9651 0222 or 1300 664 969

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 04/05/2011

Dear Ms Lynch

RE: 2011-12 Price Review Melbourne Water's Special Drainage Areas

I have considered the above price review and advise that I strongly disagree with the proposed pricing for the Tidal System of Patterson Lakes on the following grounds:

1. Patterson Lakes residents are the only residents that pay twice for the maintenance of Melbourne Water Assets, once via the Precept and secondly via the General Waterways and Drainage Charge (WDC). The Pricing Model therefore incorrectly includes costs being charged to Residents for the Maintenance of Melbourne Water Drainage Assets that should be paid for via WDC.
2. Residents are not being treated equally for the maintenance of Melbourne Water assets, which everywhere else in Melbourne, are maintained for via the Waterways and Drainage Charge.
3. Melbourne Water has failed to adequately maintain the Area and is seeking to charge current residents for works, which should have been maintained to a higher standard. Melbourne Water is therefore trying to catch up with the increases in the precept rate that should have been partly funded by previous residents.
4. The pricing model includes capital costs that are Melbourne Water headwork's charges yet are being charged to residents.
5. The original Development Agreement only allows for the charging of Maintenance costs not capital costs to the residents.

I therefore look forward to a review of the pricing model to better reflect the primary purpose of the Tidal System as a Drainage and Retarding Basin.

Yours faithfully


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