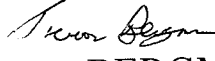


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9th May 2009
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Water Price Review
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Additional Submission for Melbourne Metropolitan Water Price Review 2009

This is an additional submission to my submission dated 25/04/2009. I would like to point out to the Commission the devastating effect raising the fixed water charges will have on the rents that tenants living in Victoria will pay in the form of increased rents. At the moment landlords pay the fixed portion of the water charges so long as there is a separate meter for the tenant and the tenant pays for their usage, being the variable charge. If the Commission allows the large increase in fixed charges to occur, then landlords who will have to pay this extra cost will pass this on to tenants in the form of increased rents. There is little the State Government can do to offset the likely increase in rents, as rental assistance is a Federal Government program run through Centrelink. By the Commission only allowing Variable charges to rise, the State Government can target low income tenants and provide them with relief from the rises in their water usage such as they already do with State Government concessions with electricity, gas and water. This means the Landlord will not have extra costs imposed on them that they will simply pass on to the tenant

Yours sincerely, 
Trevor BERGMAN