

I write to express concern about the proposed increase in water rates from 1 July 2013.

I find it difficult to understand why the desalination plant should have to be paid for in a comparatively short period of time, ie 37 years or was it 50 years. Considering the massive cost of the project I would have thought that the plant would have been designed and constructed to last for a considerably longer period than 37 -50 years. By writing off the cost over a short period of time you are forcing current users of water to pay heavily now so that future users will not have to pay the huge cost of their water.

The various water authorities have announced possible increases of \$300 pa which were subsequently revised down to maybe \$200 pa. I understand that the Commission has not finalized it's approval for the amount of increase which will be allowed. I therefore appeal to you to factor into your determination, the likely impact on residents in Victoria and their capacity to pay a substantial increase. You have consistently approved substantial increases in electricity and gas pricing which have brought considerable hardship to many people, notwithstanding the hardship offers made by retail distributors. You will know more than me that these arrangements do not reduce the actual cost to any resident but only spread or delay the paying of the accounts issued. To add a further impost on households in the way of increased water charges is to further crucify many who didn't ask for a desalination plant, were not told of likely major increases in water rates and are the victims of an authority who have the power to determine where they are required to spend their money.

I appeal to you to further reduce any proposed water rate increases in the interest of the welfare of thousands of people who will be affected by the decision you will make.

Richard Edwards