

North West Municipalities Association

Chairperson: Cr Darryl Argall
Secretary: Jim McKay

PO Box 201
EDENHOPE VIC 3318
(03) 5585 9900

AD0026/SMK:JM

26 November 2007

Mr. Paul Fearon
Chief Executive Officer
The Essential Services Commission
Level 2, 35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Sir,

The North West Municipalities Association wishes to raise with you its concerns regarding the GWM Water 2008-20013 Water Plan, which sets out their proposed activities over this five year period. Whilst there is much detailed information about supply of water and water quality, one of the most important pieces of information, that being the price increases proposed over the five year period, are missing. The Plan only provides for an increase in the first year, with no detail about what will happen in subsequent years.

From the point of view of the Councils of the North West Municipalities, this is an unacceptable position, given that GWM Water are currently facing a significant cost blow out in the construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and it is our fear that the community will, through increased water tariffs, bear the brunt of the cost over run without taking account of the difficulties that these drought affected communities are currently facing.

It would seem reasonable that GWM Water should be made to provide their proposed costing structure over the five year life of the Plan and we would ask the Essential Services Commission to advocate on our behalf in ensuring that GWM Water does, in fact, provide this information in their Plan.

Should you have any questions, or require further information, please contact me on 5585 9900.

Yours faithfully


James McKay
Secretary
North West Municipalities Association

AD0026 concerns re GWM Water Plan

Working Together for our Communities

*Buloke, Gannawarra, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians
Swan Hill, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack*