

Professor T Parry
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Dear Sir,

Submission: Rental for Domestic Waterfront Tenancies

You have received a number of submissions, many of which I agree with in whole or part, and thus shall be brief.

I believe it is iniquitous to subject owners of properties who can access their homes only by water to charges that are based in some way on property values.

Obviously, urban home owners who traverse Crown Land to reach their properties pay no fee at all.

However I can understand the need to have an authority inspect and regulate jetties, wharves and pontoons and so on, just as septic tanks are currently inspected.

Thus I believe owners of water access only properties should be charged a minimal annual fee similar to that charged householders who have no access to town sewerage systems.

There is already a lot of pressure on those who bought properties which are not so accessible to pay increased rates or sell as waterfront land increases in value.

Many low and medium income owners are being forced out of the homes they once viewed as secure.

I have noted in my area that too frequently the new purchasers lack the commitment to the community that the earlier home owners had and that vital community organisations such as the local volunteer fire fighters, revegetation groups and so forth, suffer.

Having attended a community meeting at which officers from the Department of Land and Conservation and Waterways were present I

have little confidence in their ability to deal sensitively and sensibly with those concerned about this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Piers Akerman