

Joan Dawson

I wish to add a second part to the submission I have made regarding Hunter Water. The first submission related to my personal usage and billing, whereas this section is on behalf of the community and relates to other water matters which concern me as a resident. I had not realised that it would be appropriate to make comment on other than the pricing structure, so I hope you will accept this additional submission from a concerned member of the community.

It is a great concern to me that Hunter Water Corporation continues to plan for the construction of dams as a way of ensuring water supplies for the future. It is my contention that there are many measures which could be undertaken to conserve water, negating any need for damming rivers and destroying the natural environment.

I suggest the following:

- Industries use potable water when often the need does not warrant such purity. All industries should be given incentives to encourage recycling and use of "grey water" when appropriate
- Valuable water is wasted in stormwater drains, when it could be collected for use. High rainfall areas along the coast see large volumes of water pouring out to sea during storms, then at other times, when it is dry there is a need for water, to irrigate crops or pastures or to boost supplies.
- The use of pure drinking water in toilets is a waste. The technology exists for use of "grey water" for this purpose. Surely some of the high fixed Sewerage Charge could be used for the installation of such technology into homes and office premises.
- Developers could be provided with incentives to encourage the installation of systems for recycling and use of "grey water" in housing estates at the initial pre-building stage.
- Community participation and consultation should be ensured in water planning for the future. There should never again be the situation of the Tillegra Dam proposal. Dams are known to be the least efficient means of water insurance, yet the spectre hangs constantly over the Dungog community. This creates uncertainty and loss for the entire community, in creating anxiety over investment. The loss of farming activity in the Dungog district is a disgrace when future food supplies could be crucial.
- Coal seam gas is a threat to valuable future water supplies at Fullerton Cove. There is a large aquifer under the Stockton peninsula, which is known to be of good quality and could provide a means of boosting future Newcastle needs. There should be intervention to ensure this supply is not jeopardised by the gas exploration and drilling processes being allowed to proceed.
- All NSW water sources, such as the Stockton peninsula aquifer, should be protected from destructive mining processes including fracking. The short term profit motive should not be allowed to destroy valuable water sources for the future. With global warming a reality this should be a high priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to have an input into the ipart review of Hunter Water Corporation's operations.

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