

## INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

Dear Sirs,

### BLOCKS NOT INDIVIDUALLY METERED (WATER)

The Sydney Morning Herald on 10 August 2011, page 3, ran an article 'Water price equity means big bill rise for apartments' which raises some questions.

I live in a block of 18 Units that are not individually metered. However, EACH Unit receives an account covering

- (a) Water Service Fee \$6.95
- (b) Wastewater (Sewerage) fee \$129.29

and a 19th bill - Master Strata - is sent to the Body Corporate covering the water usage (in this case approx 700 kl per quarter = over 40 kl per Unit). This block uses very little water on the garden so this water usage is mainly used by the occupants in their Units - who of-course individually DO NOT see this account.

So compare these figures for a quarter with a free standing house where there is also little garden usage:

- (a) Water Service Fee  
Individual Unit \$6.95  
**The Block in Total \$125.100**  
Free-Standing house \$30.22
- (b) Wastewater (Sewerage) fee  
Individual Unit \$129.29  
**The Block in Total \$2,327.22**  
Free-Standing house \$134.89
- (c) Water usage (in kilolitres)  
Individual Unit 40(but not billed individually)  
**The Block in Total 700**  
Free-Standing house 6

So you can see from one (1) building we DO pay for our water and services - and pay big time.

The difference in service fee is valid because the Water Utility needs do so much less maintenance on one meter (regular replacement, reading etc) and also the input pipes as compared with 18 if the Units were individually metered.

Regards,  
Jan Garlick