

Central Coast

Community Environment Network Inc.

An alliance of community and environment groups from Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford.

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

11th January 2006

PO Box Q290

QVB Post Office

1230

Re: Review of Water Prices for Gosford and Wyong Councils

Dear Sir,

The Community Environment Network Inc. (CEN) is a not for profit, volunteer based, non -government community group that works in the Gosford, Wyong and Lake Macquarie region for the ***Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)***. We have over 300 members including over 90 groups.

In September 2004 CEN provided a detailed submission on water pricing for the Gosford and Wyong areas. However, CEN is unable to resource a similar submission for the current inquiry. The key issues from the submission of September 2004 are repeated below for your consideration.

1. Promote demand Management more aggressively with service, education and a range of subsidies, incentives and disincentives. This will provide a low cost reliable water service.
2. Increase the rate of installation of rain water tanks by providing incentives for retrofitting tanks on existing homes.
3. Simplify and reduce the cost of council requirements on installation of water tanks.
4. Request IPART to prepare an Issues paper as a precursor to developing a full Operating Licence.
5. Review and make public Price Waterhouse corporate structures report of 2004.
6. Require the Water Authority to justify cost increases when significant cost savings are currently available through restructuring.
7. Do not fund resources for pre-construction work on desalination.

Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

John Asquith

Chairman