

24 January 2008

Dr Michael Keating
Metropolitan Water Pricing
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230



Dear Dr Keating

Re: Sydney Water DSP Charges for the Yarrunga Industrial Release Area

I live at Prestons in what is now called the Yarrunga Employment Industrial Release Area. I have been informed recently by the Landowners Action Group of huge increases in water and sewer Developer Servicing Plan (DSP) charges for this area over 500%. I believe this coming in on top of Council Section 94 charges brings the total cost per hectare to around \$1million dollars.

The effect of such cost increases has been to stop all development in this area so everybody loses out – the State Government on stamp duties; Sydney Water themselves on massive extra water rates charges, Local Council misses out on extra council rates and we can forget about employment creation in this high unemployment area. Finally, landowners prospects for selling their land is significantly reduced.

My property sits in the middle of the environmentally significant corridor which affects about 50% of my land (zoned 7A with no compensation paid by anybody). It remains my property I have to pay council rates on it and maintain it into the future. The other 50% of my land is classed as flood prone land and only worth a fraction of good land in the area.

As I have donated half my property for environmental purposes surely it would not be too much to ask the relevant government authority to exempt my flood prone land from all taxes and charges. This should also apply to my neighbours up and down along the corridor in a similar situation.

Any plans I had for selling the property to fund my old age are well and truly gone at this time. No developer would touch this kind of land with all these additional and new charges.

Any help you could give me on this problem is appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Giusseppe Vartuli

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CC: The Hon. M. Iemma, Premier NSW Government
The Hon. N. Rees, Minister for Emergency Services & Water Utilities
The Hon. F. Sartor, Minister for Planning
The Hon. M. Costa, Treasurer NSW Government
The Hon. Andrew McDonald MP, Member for Macquarie Fields
Mr Paul Saxby, Sydney Water
Mr Andrew Jackson, Sydney Water