

Mr. Richard Warner
Metropolitan Water Pricing
P.O. Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

19th December 2007

Dear Minister,

**RE: SYDNEY WATER DSP CHARGES FOR
YARRUNGA INDUSTRIAL RELEASE AREA**

My family and I have owned land within what is now known as the Yarrunga Release Area. We are extremely concerned about the increases for sewer and water Developer Servicing Plan (DSP) charges for the area, which falls within what is known as 'Liverpool precinct'.

We have been informed by potential purchasers/developers that the area is subject to excessive Sydney Water charges for water and sewage of approximately \$500%. Sydney Water can not possibly be serious.

We have owned the land since 1987. During those years we have been paying rates and taxes. Now the Government wants to hit the landowners/developers for \$500,000 per hectare, which renders our land almost worthless.

What justification could there possibly be for such charges, let alone the 500% increase. In my opinion there could not be any legitimate reasoning behind this.

These potential purchasers/developers are telling us that they would be interested in our land, however, after paying Sydney Water these kind of charges on top of Council's Section 94 Contribution as well as all other development costs, they can only afford to pay very low prices for the land.

In an area like Liverpool where unemployment is very high you would think that the Government would do all they could to help landowners/developers with these excessive charges.

The Lemma Government appears to pride itself on promises of ensuring an abundant supply of urban affordable residential and employment land. These charges are further proof that all they are is empty promises.

If the Government was serious about it's promises, they should immediately abolish these unfair and unjustified charges/taxes, let alone the increases, in order to provide affordable housing and employment land.

According to potential purchasers/developers other areas are subject to much lower charges and some other areas again are apparently void of any charges/taxes altogether. Why then are we lumbered with such ridiculous charges?

We would urge you to make your fellow Government Cabinet Ministers aware that people in the southwest are working class people and are being treated with contempt and discrimination.

As the person responsible for Metropolitan Water Pricing we appeal to you to look into these unfair and unjust charges/taxes and to take appropriate action to have them removed or at the very least grossly reduced.

I apologise if I appear to be blunt, it is my frustration with all these taxes that have led me to this point.

We look forward to your early response.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Siciliano.