



Water Price Review
C/- Prices Tribunal
P.O. BOX Q290
QVB P O NSW 1230

7 September 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: WATER PRICING

I have recently read and heard with much dismay that the price of water is to be increased particularly for people who use more water than the suggested amounts set by Sydney Water. Firstly:

1. It would help to know just how the amount of water a person can or should use is set – no matter how I try to conserve use of water we cannot get down to the suggested level. Are any differences made for people who are home all day? It would be easier if everyone in the household went out to work each day. What about people who are ill and have to use the toilet more than the average (do they need a doctor's certificate to get a reduction in their water costs).
2. The price of water keeps on going up. **Has the Prices Tribunal set itself up as a Tax Collector**, because all the extra money has been going to the State Government as revenue, nothing extra has been spent on infrastructure or maintenance for years and years. The Prices Tribunal has just been allowing the Government to put up the price of water without giving back something to the consumer in return.
3. We have always had aerators on the bathroom and kitchen and laundry taps and dual flush toilets for over 12 years.

The Government/Sydney Water should be doing more for the consumer the rebate for water tanks is a joke. A small tank costs almost \$3000.00 installed and the rebate is \$150.00. The Government/Sydney Water should be putting water tanks in each and every household free.

All money over 80 cents should have been earmarked for water storage, sewerage treatment and improvements instead of going in taxes.

All this extra money should be helping to make our lives easier not worse and harder.

Sydney Water must build more dams and reservoirs to store water and more treatment plants. Consumers should be able to purchase and have delivered water suitable for gardens/outdoors, from Sydney Water. Some years ago there was talk of a dual water system for all households why is nothing being done to get this set up?

What has happened regarding installing dual systems of water into each household, one for fresh water and one for treated water?

I have had quotes for installing water tanks but the price is too much for a person on a pension with a mortgage and I am sure families could not afford to spend money on water tanks.

Swimming Pool builders should also be forced to put in water tanks when they build pools to enable water used in back-flushing and emptying the pool to be returned to the pool when levels need topping up. Nothing has been spent on water storage for over 50 years and the convicts set up our sewerage system over 200 years ago. It's more than time that both the Government and Sydney Water were forced to put some of this money back into the community to help us with our water use.

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Yours faithfully

Maria