

Mrs. Carole Crack
41 Venus Street
Gladstone, 4680

Ms Liz Cunningham, MLA
Phillip Street
Gladstone, 4680

RE: Water Rates increase in the Gladstone Shire

Dear Liz,


During the recent drought conditions, I like most people in Gladstone endured many hardships.

- Two little boys (Aged 3 and 1) being bathed in the same tub of water for two days straight
- No grass for them to play on when the lawn died
- No fresh vegetables because the veggies garden died
- Buckets of soaking clothes (eventually, I let them roam the house just in nappies to save even more water)
- No pot plants survived!

As a thank you for my neighbours hard work and mine we are being slugged with a rise in rates for water consumption that even Donald Trump would balk at! Why is this so? As soon as I can afford to put a rainwater tank onto this house, then the Gladstone Shire Council can attract zero rates money from me.

I beg you, in your capacity as MLA for Gladstone to shame the City Council, or the Gladstone Water Board or the Queensland Competition Authority [whoever is responsible for this stuff this week!] into reducing this rate now that the Wooronga Dam has more water in it then ever before, not increasing it!

Yours faithfully,


Carole Crack

3.2.05

cc Mr Peter Beattie, Premier, Queensland
Mr Paul Neville, Federal Member for Hinkler
Mr Peter Coronos, Mayor of Gladstone

Mrs Carole Crack
41 Venus Street
Gladstone, 4680

Mr Peter Beattie,
Premier's Department
Parliament House,
Brisbane, 4001

RE: WATER RATES INCREASE IN THE GLADSTONE SHIRE

Dear Mr Beattie,

Could you explain something to a mere working mother of two young children? Why is it that now the Awoonga Dam near Gladstone has the most water in it since the original (Three dams ago!) was built, has the cost of water in the Gladstone Shire skyrocketed to the point that it is now more cost effective for me to buy water off the shelf in the supermarket then purchase it from the Shire council! Our local paper (The Observer) reported last week that the Gladstone Area Water Board "do not have the power to increase charges – they have been set by the Queensland Competition Authority."

So, my next question then to you Mr Beattie is this:

Who does the Queensland Competition Authority answer to? If it is your government then I strongly suggest that this problem is well within your purview to solve – reduce the cost of running water to households in the Gladstone Shire. I include a letter to Ms Liz Cunningham (Our MLA) so that you are aware of the difficulties I have recently endured to do my part in water conservation. This reward for my efforts is not appreciated and will not be tolerated!

Your Faithfully



Carole Crack

3.2.05

cc: Ms Liz Cunningham, MLA Gladstone
Mr Paul Neville, Federal Member for Hinkler
Mr Peter Coronos, Mayor of Gladstone

Mrs Carole Crack
41 Venus Street
Gladstone, 4680

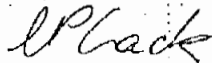
Mr Peter Corones,
Mayor of Gladstone Shire
Goondoon Street
Gladstone, 4680

RE: WATER RATES INCREASE IN THE GLADSTONE SHIRE:

Dear Mr Corones,

I have to ask who is responsible for the provision of fresh running water to my house in Venus Street, Gladstone? Is it the Local Shire Council, State Government or Federal Government? I don't really care who takes responsibility this week but understand that I am very upset that after the enormous effort my family endured throughout the last three years of drought and in particular 2002-2003, I am mortified that anyone would consider *increasing* the cost of that water out of my tap. As soon as I can afford to have a rainwater tank added to this house I will, and rest assured that the Gladstone City Council would likely get zero water rates from us again!!

Yours Faithfully,



Carole Crack,

2.3.05

cc: Ms Liz Cunningham, MLA Gladstone
Mr Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland
Mr Paul Neville, Federal Member of Hinkler
The Observer, Your Opinions Section

Mrs Carole Crack
41 Venus Street
Gladstone, 4680

Mr Paul Neville
Federal Member for Hinkler
Anderson's Arcade
Gladstone, 4680

RE: WATER RATES INCREASE IN THE GLADSTONE SHIRE:

Dear Mr Neville,

I impress upon you to bring your considerable negotiation power to bear on the problem outlined above.

I include copies of letters I have written to both the MLA for Gladstone Ms Liz Cunningham, and also to the Premier of Queensland, Mr Peter Beattie. I cannot emphasise how upset I am enough to you and to your political colleagues!!

I will not have the health of my children compromised while people sought out who wants to be responsible for the provision of running water to my house this week. Someone take responsibility now!

Someone then understand that I expected a reduction in water rates cost not an increase (I will compromise with remaining the same!), as a result of the filling of Awoonga Dam, and as a reward for "doing my bit for water conservation" for the past three years of drought!

Yours Faithfully,



Carole Crack

3.2.05

cc: Mr Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland
Ms Liz Cunningham, MLA Gladstone
Mr Peter Coronos, Mayor of Gladstone