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DATE RECEIVED

25 Balfour St
MOUNT LARCOM 4695

February 7, 2005

Queensland Competition Authority
G.P.O. Box 2257
BRISBANE, 4001

Dear Sir,

The 'Draft for Comment' produced by the Queensland Competition Authority regarding the pricing of water by the Gladstone Area Water Board certainly deserves comment from the residents of Mount Larcom. The suggested maximum price of \$8.69 k/litre is ludicrous! How any intelligent person could believe this price to be affordable is beyond comprehension.

I believe water supply to towns is an essential service which government has a responsibility to provide at a fair and reasonable cost to consumers. Mount Larcom residents should not be penalized because they live approximately 25kms further from the source of supply than other Gladstone residents. We are not penalized in this way by Ergon Energy, Australia Post, or Telstra. If water can be pumped from Mundaring Weir to Kalgoorlie in WA at affordable cost, a distance of approximately 570kms, what has gone wrong in Queensland?

I believe the Gladstone Area Water Board to be an efficiently run enterprise and I would not object to the need for some increase in the price charged for water. The Calliope Shire Council is also managed in a manner that must be the envy of other councils. However, when unreasonable demands are made from higher authorities such as the Queensland Competition Authority, I cannot accept that it is fair for the 'buck' to be passed on to authorities at a local level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Coral Johnson

