

B 26/3



Mrs Jo Forester  
42 McCulloch St

Attention Senior Commissioner, Paul Baxter.

Curtin 260

24/3/07

Ph 0262810572

Re: Water - Wastewater Price Review

To: I. C. R. C.

Comments re: Water.

1. WATER = HEALTH of our Community.
2. We already have the most expensive water rates in Australia.
3. We are and have been punished for the failure of this Government and ACTEW - because we did not use enough water - So their revenue is down, as should be Michael Costello's Salary (\$650,000.00) as he is not providing or maintaining the infrastructure for the ever increasing housing and population growth, and high rise buildings.
4. We have too many bureaucrats in the ACT. paying themselves extraordinary wages and not delivering services to their community.
5. I have been in the ACT since 1968, really love this place; but now the ordinary citizen or retiree is being forced to face things that should have been maintained and that we have paid for in the past.  
We the taxpayer have already paid for a new dam over and over.  
Where did this money go?
6. We need a new dam now, not just useless talk. Don't waste money on band-aids, and stop making the community pay we are not the failures.

7. Yes! we have been in drought -  
Rain will fall again -  
Michael Costello have a new dam in place to catch it, and stop holding the people who pay your wage (\$650,000-00) to ransom.
8. Don't increase ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> water payments.  
Some families can't afford it - their wage around \$60,000-00 - hard on a family of 5.
9. No householder or business will mind a payment of a once of - say \$200 - to go toward a new dam to secure water for the future.
10. Because of the failure of ACTEW to have already a new Dam (the one we have already paid for) ACTEW should be accountable to the community they serve for their failure, as should the Stanhope government who has put the ACT in the red and as for Simon Corbell who has let power go to his head and is now in the process of making Civic into Sydney - Shame on these self serving men.
11. Please investigate ACTEW's efficiency costs as well as this Government's failures.
12. Thank you for reading my often muddled comments.  
I do worry for the future of ~~o~~ my children and my grand children, and our future
13. We need to think future -  
there will be a tomorrow.

yours faithfully.  
Jo Forester



instance, and some things to be phased out.

Doubtless this means loss of staff, who are necessary for continued efficient service.

I filled out a questionnaire the day before a letter appeared in *The Canberra Times* about this ... obviously a useless exercise for, without public agreement, measures had already been put in motion.

Already books and video cassettes are disappearing (many older and incapacitated people still have VCRs).

What of children's story-telling sessions, computer lessons, general computer use, newspaper/magazine reading?

I urge everyone to lend their voices to mine to action what the populace is angrily saying privately.

D. Cotton, Ainslie

### Association keeping watch

I refer to several recent letters to *The Canberra Times* concerning closure of the Griffith Library and other changes to the ACT Library Service.

The Australian Library and Information Association is the professional association for the library and information sector.

We have more than 300 individual members in the ACT, and the ACT Library Service is an institutional member.

Along with many members of the local community, the association has expressed its concerns regarding current and mooted changes to library service levels within the territory to the relevant Minister, Mr Hargreaves.

Advice received from his office is that no further library closures are being considered; that no charges will be introduced for internet usage and that total number of opening hours will be

maintained, although reallocation of opening times will occur.

The association continues to monitor the situation, especially with regard to imminent employment implications for ACT library workers and the proposed tiered service model for library branches, which will result in serious service reductions.

Sue Hutley, executive director,  
Australian Library and Information Association

### Smyth did his bit

Craig Freeman's letter (Letters, March 9) questions the whereabouts of Brendan Smyth during the time of the fires.

A call to his office advised that, as a volunteer firefighter, Brendan Smyth was out fighting the fires at Tidbinbilla on the evening of January 17 until 6 o'clock the next morning, when he clocked the home to get a few hours' rest.

Smyth was back again a couple of hours later at Tharwa and the Cotter continuing to try to save as many homes as he could.

This action of Smyth's was very different to that of our Chief Minister who, as we now know, was uncontactable while Canberra burnt, as he was out enjoying a private dinner party.

As Chief Minister, it was Jon Stanhope's responsibility to call a State of Emergency, he was uncontactable on the evening of January 17 and the morning of

of building work in the Woolworths car park, which almost overshadowed the Great Wall.

"There's so much building next to Woolies and they are excavating the car park."

## Is there an unsightly location in Canberra that makes you cringe? Send in your Eyesore of The Week nominations to [sunday@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:sunday@canberratimes.com.au)

January 18 and for this reason he needs to resign or be stood down.

Dianne Anderson, Red Hill

### No time to switch off

Given what Coroner Doogan had to say about how much Jon Stanhope and senior bureaucrats knew of the clear and present danger facing us all, being off at the critical time, with the phone turned off, sounds a lot like wilful negligence to me.

Jim Taylor, Kaleen

### Plenty of liquidity

Actew's general manager, Michael Costello, claims ("ACT to pay for water security", March 7, p1) Actew doesn't make much profit out of water.

Really?

It paid a dividend of more than \$62 million this year to the ACT Government and additional water abstraction charges of more than \$27 million.

That's almost \$90 million dollars or \$1.52 per kilolitre.

The all-up price for water is \$2.24 per kilolitre over 300 kilolitres, so a fair whack of our water charges seems to be just a tax by another name (unless Costello is admitting that he taxes electricity that much!).

As for Costello's absurd whinge that "our return on assets for water is 1.8 per cent", can we

*I agree with this*

### Just turn up

I am surprised that John Warhurst keeps asserting that Australia has compulsory voting ("Worms in our political core", March 8, p15).

This is not strictly true.

What we have is compulsory voter registration and attendance at a polling place.

But, contrary to what he says, the option of not voting at all is still very much alive.

Once the voter is in the booth that voter can write anything he or she likes on the ballot paper, or nothing at all.

The problem is that by continuing to assert that we have compulsory voting, people like John Warhurst encourage us to believe this myth, rather than show our "disgust with the political machinations".

Robert Willson, Deakin

### Backyard fight back

I refer to the letter (March 5) by R. S Gilbert in which he seems to be having a pot shot at Professor Troy for wanting to have a garden in his backyard and spend time at home with his family instead of living in an apartment and rubbing shoulders with the latte set.

Well, I agree with Troy and I am sick of governments being able to rezone suburbs and impose lifestyles without offering compensation to those who want to move and get away from this imposition.

Some things that might be considered for compensation are stamp duty, estate agents' fees, removalists, solicitors and all the other money grabs involved in selling and buying a house.

P J Carthy, Lyneham

Who please remind him just who paid for those assets?

Not Actew! We did - when we bought our blocks from the Department of the Capital Territory or land developers hit with (ever-increasing) upfront infrastructure charges.

It is sheer monopolistic arrogance for Actew to claim to be entitled to a profit on assets we have already paid for.

But what do we expect?

His outrageous salary at a time when Canberra has been devastated by water supply failure is itself a tribute to the power of monopoly.

Maxwell Mills, Oxley

### Too many regulations

The chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Graeme Samuel, says Telstra could achieve "regulatory certainty" by applying for an exemption from regulation for higher-speed broadband services ("Watchdog bites over broadband," March 8, p5).

This illustrates just how widespread and intrusive government regulation of this industry is.

I say that because, normally, one would expect government (particularly a "small-government" government) to be selective in deciding which activities of a business are to be subjected to regulation - a phil-

