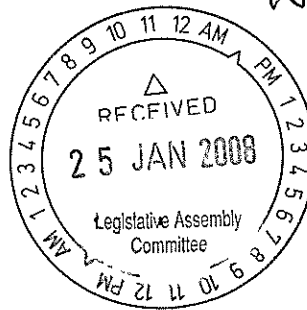


TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND



The Principal Research Officer
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Our Ref: FILE
Your Ref: 14:01/0014
Enquiries: Terry J Dodds
Direct Line: (08) 9158 9320

ATTENTION: Dr Loraine Abernethie

Dear Madame,

RE: Inquiry into water licensing and services

On the 23rd of January Council considered the Economics & Industry Standing Committee request for a submission into water licensing and services.

In short, Council has major concerns with any imposition/s that may be imposed upon, not only non-profit essential services provided to the public by Council, but on how the public and private enterprise may be effected in areas outside of Council's domain.

Specifically, Council resolved to comment in regard to the terms of reference item numbers one (1) and five (5). Please refer to the extract from Council's report below:

Parks and Ovals

ToPH uses recycled water extensively; as it stands we use more recycled water than the Water Corporation has the ability to supply. To help overcome the supply issue the ToPH is applying for two bore licenses, Colin Matheson oval and West End Greening projects. Any fee would severely impede council's aims to provide a quality service to our community in many areas, including the two examples mentioned.

Dust

In addition, industry uses potable water in Port Hedland for suppression of dust. Any change in fee structure that would impact on industry could be detrimental to the public amenity if that industry attempted to reduce their water demand.



Camps

Bore water is used in line track camps and other mining sites. If bore water was more expensive to obtain less water may be utilized thus adding to dust problems of inhabitants. There may also be an expectation that water would be of a sufficient quality for intended use with a minimum of treatment.

Most camps use a reverse osmosis process, of which 50% of the water is discarded (as it doesn't quite meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines). The next level of treatment (Nano filtration) only wastes 5% of the product, making it tempting for companies of lesser financial capability to lower their standards.

Geography

Due to the general economy of scale, geographic location, time of rainfall events and distances between communities the Pilbara has it's own unique set of problems. It is already an expensive proposition to even try to mimic the level of services metropolitan ratepayers take for granted, any increase in any 'tax' will either further erode our ability to provide a sustainable existence, or make the same prohibitantly expensive.

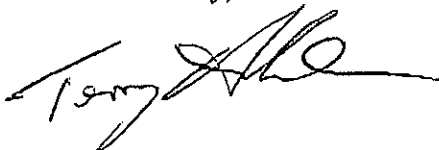
Efficient Water Use

Living in the Pilbara already means coping with 80% of the year having little or no rain, which hones peoples skill in frugal use of what is already a valuable and limited resource: water. I feel to place a further 'tax' on such users will not significantly lower the volume of water used, just penalize the users.

I sincerely hope that this information is taken in the context intended and that the Economics & Industry Standing Committee recognise that the Pilbara circumstances are markedly different. If required, I would be delighted to speak with you further.

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me on ☎ 9158 9320 or mobile 0419 479 439.

Yours faithfully,



Terry J Dodds
Director Engineering Services
Town of Port Hedland

Date