

Danielle Hage
President of the Karratha City Ratepayers Association

To whom it may concern,

In response to the petition tabled at parliament on my behalf.

I would like the legislative council for this parliament to investigate the following issues raised by myself and the Karratha City Ratepayers Association.

There has been no consultation with the ratepayers or residence of Karratha regarding the PUPP. This is in direct contrast to SUPP, which by all accounts we can see is built on extensive consultation with the communities involved.

There was no consultation with the business owners, or at any time any indication as to what the levy they would have to pay would be. The first time the business owners knew what their amount was, when they received their bill, which they had previously only one month to pay. This for many small business owners was in excess of \$20,000.

Many of the bills that have been issued by the City of Karratha are incorrect. When challenged we are getting back and forth between Council and HP with no one taking responsibility for this. People have been double billed, billed for something they already have or just billed incorrectly.

Some owners are being asked to pay \$16,000 for a fluorescence light and double power outlet in a storage shed in the LIA. People just cannot afford to pay this and there was no mention of this levy when performing land title searches from the council. One couple purchased a small business in the LIA one month before the bills were delivered and have received a \$60,000 bill for PUPP. Nothing was mentioned in their searches, when the council was currently aware of this levy. This is crippling the small business owners who are currently on a down turn. We would like a full investigation into the billing structure and the amount of incorrect bills that have been issued.

How many people have already paid bills that are incorrect? How are the incorrect bills (one bill \$16,000 was actually only \$450) affecting their (HP) budget?

There has been no public apology regarding the issue of incorrect bills or individual apologies. People are spending many hours a week looking into their properties and billing system and currently many proving that they are correct and Horizon Power and the City of Karratha have it incorrect. If not for the work of this association the reduced payment would not be in effect.

The council have already agreed to increase the cap for this project from \$21 mil to \$34.55 mil, so what guarantee do we ratepayers have that they won't increase this again? The council are not working with the community at present and

making decisions that affect us without consultation. The current council needs to be investigated, as they are voting against us in protest, which goes against all oaths they take when becoming a councilor. Their behavior and the way they talk to us in meetings are atrocious.

Currently there is no contractor to tender for PUPP and no work has commenced. We don't believe that paying a fee of 4.5% interest to a party that does not have to enter into any payments currently due to work not commencing should be avoided and dismissed entirely.

The fact that there has been no due diligence of the project by the City of Karratha needs to be investigated.

Please investigate into the failure of Horizon power to carry out a satisfactory due diligence assessment of the project. A 100 million dollar blow out is a massive loss to the community of Karratha and the timing is not good for all involved. Hitting the small businesses the backbone of our town the hardest.

The high voltage upgrade needs investigating, as this is not something that the ratepayers should be paying for in the PUPP fee. Currently there are conflicting responses from Horizon power (Natalie Mansfield) and MR Nahan in Parliament. Whereby it states that it is not normal practice to allocate funds from ratepayers to finance upgrades but yet this is occurring. Although when we have questioned Miss Mansfield she has stated this is not the case. We are unsure now who we should believe and nothing seems to match up.

This whole PUPP fiasco needs investigating completely.

Kind Regards

Danielle Hage.