

18 October 2012

E.R.A..
P.O. Box 8469
Perth BC. w.a.6849

Dear Sir. ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, REFERENCES.

The Minister for Water & Environment has kindly forwarded a copy of your Draft Report into costs and tariffs of the Water Corporation in selected areas.

I was surprised not to have been alerted to this publication by the ERA having demonstrated being an interested party. Hence this late letter.

Nowhere in this report has any opinion been advanced re the principle involved by the Drainage charge levied on a selected section of the community. This should have been a consideration in determining 'efficiencies' although your terms of references seem to be toward pricing only of current structures, not of alternative models.

The question of selected ratepayers paying for "drainage" is a matter of principle and its abolition in itself adds efficiencies to the W.C. administration. I am sure that this area is not dissimilar to the other 23 areas north of the river.

The drainage in this area is not really for private owners benefit only at all.

It is for the benefit of the general public who use the roads and other infrastructure that MAY be under threat. The main drain was not put in to protect the householder - it was put in primarily to protect the public. In this area (as the example) by the Water Corps.. own admission, primarily the drain serves to top up Carine Swamp and Lake Gwelup both of which are popular public places.

Additionally there would be very, very few homes here that would ever be flooded without the W.C. main drain. All similar areas outside their "area" are adequately catered for by sumps. No main W.C drain - no flooding.

I submit that the separate special drainage charges be abolished and any costs should be spread over all ratepayers as part of a public service.

It lessens the administration costs and is fairer to all.

The cost of this charge would be about \$25 p.a. per property owner.

Sincerely.