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Inquiry into Urban Water and Wastewater Pricing
Economic Regulation Authority
Level 6 Governorirling Tower
147 St Georges Terrace, Perth, 6000.



To whom it may concern,

We thank you for this opportunity to make a submission on the draft report "Inquiry into Urban Water and Wastewater Pricing."

Based on historical knowledge I would advocate that the right to take water free of charge be reinstated on domestic households at an amount of 150kl per dwelling. This would create a price trigger so that people would aspire to keep consumption within that basic human right allocation of 150kl. The current pricing model creates a blurr that fails to set a target in peoples minds.

The notion that there is a scarcity of water is a phurphy. There however is a scarcity of common sense in water management ideas. For example recharging aquifers with storm water runoff would alleviate

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pollution of waterways such as the San
River and restate declining water table
as well as reducing the need for restriction
on those prepared to pay for excess water.
The same principle should be applied
to waste water so that it ceases to
cause eutrophication where it is discharge

I would also recommend that
the Water Corporation be de-corporatized
to recreate a public service, assuring
that the Water Corporation pays for a profit
that could save 30 cents in the dollar of
profits for better management of our
resources.

I would advocate a fixed price
charge for waste water. A fee based on
property value can be grossly inequitable
as property value is no indication of capacity
to pay. I myself have neighbours who work
for the government and who have incomes

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Three and more times our own. This disproportionate level of income becomes reflected in property values and bears no correlation with any semblance of equity or fairness. i.e. We can live with lower incomes than our neighbours provided we are not taxed at higher levels because of their disproportionate affluence.

On the issue of "Environmental Externalities" I strongly disagree with the "Authorities" view. In my own situation the Water Corporation has severely diminished the flow of water which belongs to our land and it pumps that water out of the watershed to sell for profit. It is therefore the Water Corporation which should pay those resource management costs out of its profits. The Water Corporation has never monitored its impact on us or our land yet has continued to rip us off to pay for its ~~own~~ own largess.

yours sincerely
Glenn