



**Shire of Derby /  
West Kimberley**

# SHIRE OF DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

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JP:EP  
 GS/85

17th March, 2006

Mr. Greg Watkinson,  
 Acting Director,  
 Economic Regulation Authority,  
 P.O. Box 8469  
**PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE. W.A. 6849**

Dear Sir,

## **ENQUIRY ON COUNTRY WATER AND WASTEWATER PRICING IN W.A.**

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley would like to provide comment on the draft report released into country water and wastewater pricing.

Of considerable concern to this local authority was the lack of consultation occurring within the Kimberley on this substantial issue. It appears that most other regions were briefed in person yet for some reason, the Kimberley was bypassed.

Council fully supports a formal policy statement setting out the objectives with regard to uniform pricing. These need to include both social and economic issues particularly relating to commercial vs. residential usage.

The sustainability of towns within the Kimberley and indeed all local government has been an issue for a number of years and further increases in utility pricing substantially restricts the capability of infrastructure and social development within our towns and other communities.

Traditionally, Governments have played a role in delivering utilities and recognising that this may need to change in the future, the local community should not bear the greater burden due to change in Government policy.

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley fully supports uniform price tariffs and believes that any pricing changes should reflect the social aspects of town development and encourage decentralisation.

I trust that the above points will be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

John Pearson,  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*The True Kimberley*