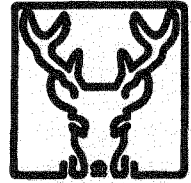


Council of the Shire of Esk

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17/02/03



SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION NO. 133

Your reference

Our reference S002186

When calling ask for Robert Bain

17 February 2003

House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission on Inquiry into Future Water Supplies for Australian Rural Industries and Communities

As previously stated the Esk Shire is situated on the north western edge of Brisbane and contains an area of 3946 square kilometres. However the population of the shire is only about 14,500 people and these are scattered over most of the shire. The shire is 125 kilometres long (running north/south) and 70 kilometres wide. There are several small towns in the shire and these are difficult to service with town water as they are also scattered across the shire.

The main towns and community centres are as follows:-

- Esk with a population of approximately 1,000 people;
- Fernvale with a population of approximately 1,100 people;
- Lowood with a population of approximately 1,050 people;
- Toogoolawah with a population of approximately 950 people;
- Minden Tarampa area with a population of approximately 1,200 people;
- Somerset Dam Township with a population of approximately 150 people;
- Linville with a population of approximately 60 people.

The above towns are served with a treated town water supply except for Linville which is supplied with chlorinated groundwater.

Other Esk Shire towns not served with a treated water supply are:

- Coominya with a population of approximately 550 people;
- Wivenhoe Pocket with a population of approximately 400 people;
- Moore area with a population of approximately 200 people;
- Glamorgan Vale with a population of approximately 60 people; and
- Harlin with a population of approximately 50 people.



17 February 2003

Page 2

The Esk Shire has a very small rate base to rely on to try and operate the seven current water supply schemes.

This year the rate payers on the existing water supply schemes pay about \$1-53 per kilolitre for their town water. This is in contrast to other Council's that form up the Brisbane metropolitan area who only pay \$1-00 to \$1-30 per kilolitre including access charges. This means that the rate payers in this shire are already paying over 30% more for their water than the people living in Brisbane which is next door to our shire. That is within an hours drive of the centre of the city.

Also the shire will only collect about \$1,500,000 this year in water charges. This income includes an amount of \$300,000 paid to the water fund from the general fund. In Brisbane the various Councils' water operations are run as business units. This means they make profits and transfer money from the water business to their general fund. For the Esk Shire Council the water fund currently runs at a loss and the general fund has to subsidise the water fund. This is in spite of the fact that the water charges are more than 30% higher than in Brisbane Councils. Council is not in a position to drastically increase the water charges as generally the residents in the Esk Shire have a low per capita income.

The Esk Shire Council struggles to operate the current town water supply schemes let alone provide town water to those communities with no town water.

For those communities that are not already serviced the cost to provide water supply schemes is excessive. For example to install a water supply scheme Coominya the cost would be about \$5 million for 330 lots and even with State Government subsidy the cost is still more than \$11,000 per lot.

The Federal Government should consider providing some type of grant funding for town water supply schemes for small scattered communities without town water. Attached are typical feelings from local communities who currently do not have a treated town water supply.

Also there should be some type of annual grant provided to local governments which have water supply schemes serving towns and communities of population less than 2,000 people, and who don't have a large rate base to help subsidise the small towns. The size of populations less than 2000 is recommended as the trigger point as they have less than 1000 connections to a water supply scheme, and such schemes struggle to generate enough income to operate effectively let alone provide income for expansion.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Bain
Chief Executive Officer

COOMINYA & DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 408
COOMINYA QLD 4311

Phone: 54279183

2 February 2003

President: Felix Parker OAM
Secretary: Gae Madeley

The Chief Executive Officer
Council of the Shire of Esk
PO BOX 117
ESK QLD 4312

ATTENTION: Manager of Operations

Dear *Viv*,

WATER SUPPLY FOR COOMINYA

This association received with dismay Council's advice of 27 November 2002 regarding the refusal of the State Government to provide any subsidy to Council to provide a treated/reticulated water supply for the 1000 Queenslanders who reside in Coominya.

At the associations' first meeting of 2003, it was resolved to seek Councils' support to again seek subsidy funding in the 2003 State budget, addressing every possible option to achieve success, eg staged development.

This association is seeking the help of the State Development Centre in Ipswich to put forward a submission under the Regional Solutions Programme for some elements of the water supply and thus would be most grateful for a copy of the consultants report and any other pertinent information to assist our submission.

We trust that with our joint efforts, we may in 2003, bring the living standards of this community into the 21st Century.

Yours sincerely,

Felix
(Felix Parker) OAM
President

Ralph Moom 5001920/001
Please *3/2/03*

Document No. 03 1000894	
RECEIVED Council of the Shire of Esk - 3 FEB 2003	
1	<i>H. Moom</i>
2	<i>UE</i>
3	<i>UE</i>
4	

August 21, 2002

Cr Loma Spencer
Esk Shire Council,
P.O.Box 117,
Esk,
Qld 4312

re: - A FAIR GO FOR COOMINYA

File No. 5001920/001		
Document No. 02/008607		
RECEIVED Council of the Shire of Esk		
30 AUG 2002		
1	MAJOR	//
2		
3		

Dear Loma Spencer,

It is with great concern for our community that I write this letter to you.

I am disturbed to learn of the comments that you made to the Brisbane Valley – Kilcoy Sun published 27th June 2002, I quote
“What a reticulated water system would do for the town of Coominya – hopefully without the loss of its village charm”

How dare you, what a hypocrite, especially when I heard you declare to a public meeting, held here in Coominya, it was a MEET THE CANDIDATES, meeting and you campaigned on a policy of SOCIAL JUSTICE.

PRINCIPLES of SOCIAL JUSTICE

EQUITY : promoting fairness in the distribution of economic resources and power; reducing exploitation and poverty.

RIGHTS : establishing equal, effective and comprehensive rights, including political, legal and industrial rights for all people, regardless of income, age disability, social or ethnic background.

ACCESS : ensuring that all people have access to good quality services, regardless of location, in areas which affect the quality of their lives, such as health, housing, employment, education and transport.

PARTICIPATION : expanding the opportunity for people to participate in the social, economical and political life of a community; and in the decisions that affect their lives.

Where is the social justice for Coominya, and indeed the support that a lot of us looked to you for, when we heard those words?

It is high time that you and other Councillors got off your backsides and started working fairly for the Shire as-a whole, instead of selectively seeking funding for your own agendas.

Coominya has always been left out, Council, I believe, knows that the community is a fractured one, and they ride on that notion to its detriment.

This issue of water for Coominya has been on the Council Agenda for far too long, you can not possibly think that these evasive, delaying tactics can keep our community happy, whilst you all go your merry way.

I have requested that Council get their act together and come and face our community, and tell us all exactly what the time frame is, for this long overdue WATER SYSTEM, I also appeal to all Councillors to stop treating us like second rate citizens, get off your backsides and do something for Coominya for a change.

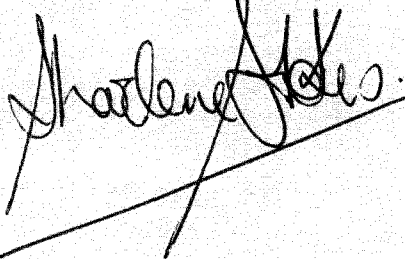
And, to you Loma, I appeal to you to start applying some of the PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE to our community here in Coominya, we are entitled to be treated equally as with other communities within this Shire, a practice that is long overdue, and certainly NOT applied to Coominya.

We are not asking for anything other than, what I believe, is a basic right for our community, or asking for something that other communities don't have access to, GIVE COOMINYA A FAIR GO, it is our right to ask for that much, and now we want it exercised, what are you going to do about it?????????????????????????????

You might like to educate the rest of council on just what SOCIAL JUSTICE means, and more importantly the emphasis should be that these measures must be automatically applied, when Councillors are making decisions on behalf of our Shire, you people are given the power to govern, but you must exercise that power FAIRLY.

I wait to hear of your response to my statements.

Yours truly,
Sharlene Stokes.
Lot 17/11 Cloake Street,
Coominya,
Qld 4311.
Telephone: 07-54-264-467.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharlene Stokes', is written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the center of the page.



COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF ESK

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