

From: Joy Ford

Sent: Monday, 7 March 2016 4:50 PM

To: ESCOSA:Essential Services Commission of South Australia

[<ESCOSAEssentialServicesCommissionofSouthAustralia@escosa.sa.gov.au>](mailto:ESCOSAEssentialServicesCommissionofSouthAustralia@escosa.sa.gov.au)

Subject: Orroroo Quality Water Project

Hi Committee,

As an elected member and a resident of Orroroo, I was disappointed with your decision re no supporting the Orroroo Quality Water Project. The Orroroo Carrieton District Council have been working with SA Water for the past 16 years, I think we have been patient enough.

Since the commissioning of a desalination plant at Hawker, we have the worse quality water in the state. Isn't that a real asset for us as a small community to be known for "Orroroo the country town in South Australia who has the worse quality water", what a great promo line for investors, tourism and business, you would look at that and say " I think we will look elsewhere or stop somewhere else, great another small country town dies unnecessary.

I would like to bring to your attention:-

Many years ago the Orroroo Carrieton District council due to the poor water quality that SA Water were providing to the , held a bulk purchase rainwater tank programme, which enabled ratepayers to purchase rainwater tanks at a cheaper price to give them access to higher quality drinking water. We also had a very good season for rain so therefore all rainwater tanks were running at capacity, not like now nearly empty. This is why I believe the ratepayers who completed the survey responded that they would drink rainwater not town supply, not realising the benefits of having good quality water piped from Peterborough would have.

It was surprising when discussing the Orroroo Water Quality Project as an elected member, with many of the elderly who did not have rainwater tanks stated they were buying cask or bottled water as they couldn't drink the tap water, it tastes horrible. If we had good quality water this would cease and they didn't mind if they had to pay a little more as it was costing them a lot for bottled/cask water anyway.

I also have grave concern if the project is not supported for the elderly in our community. Many of these community members have evaporative air conditioners, which with the current water supply, damages the unit if not cleaned out at least annually. With the forecast of drier hotter climate, if these air conditioners fail, most of these elderly would not replace or afford new air conditioning units thus putting their health at risk and possibly ending up at our local hospital suffering heat stress.

Another question, how long will our bore which supplies the town with water last, many of the bores in that vicinity have dropped their levels considerable in the past 10 years, so then what happens less water more salinity, or no water at all !! Why wait till this happens then will there be another excuse used to not pipe the water from Peterborough.

As we strive to increase our tourist population, it is difficult to attract travellers to stay longer as we as a community can not offer good quality water to fill up their water supplies, we can not afford to allow them to use our diminished supplies of rainwater.

We also have had many enquiries about housing in the area but due to poor quality water these people have deferred their decision, upon waiting your decision with the Quality Water Project.

I hope you will reconsider your decision re the Orroroo Water Quality Project, the money will be well spent. We are a striving community with a strong heart for what the future has to offer, so please don't break our heart.

Passionate community member

Joylene Ford