

**From:** Anna Froling  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 March 2016 10:52 PM  
**To:** ESCOSA:Essential Services Commission of South Australia  
<[ESCOSAEssentialServicesCommissionofSouthAustralia@escosa.sa.gov.au](mailto:ESCOSAEssentialServicesCommissionofSouthAustralia@escosa.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Orroroo water quality project

To whom it may concern.

My family has lived in Orroroo since the 1880's. The town and its' subsequent generations of people have a great history of being resourceful and resilient, despite living in a semi-arid region, north of the famous Goyder's line. With the building of the town reservoir in the early days with horse and man power, the town established a reliable catchment area for water run-off to accumulate. This in turn was pumped out onto the Lucerne flats through irrigation channels, north of the town where it irrigated hundreds of acres of land. There were prime dairy farms and orchards. This dairy produce was highly sought after, the local butter factory producing ten tonnes a week of butter. This produce also won prizes in the London Dairy Show in the 1920's. Orroroo was known as the "Oasis of the north". There was much to be proud of and the community flourished. The people were innovative and self-reliant, building strong foundations for the future generations.

The non-renewable underground water aquifer, along with the town bore four kilometres north of the town, has been crucial for this town's survival and the well-being and prosperity of the area. In recent years, the quality of the water has significantly decreased.

We are unable to drink the town water it is too "hard". The surrounding population has always collected water in rain water tanks for their survival. It has been our only choice. Despite paying top dollar for the water supplied by SA Water, we cannot drink it and we cannot use it for washing cars, clothes or even people. The people of our town are not getting what we pay for, namely a water supply that is commensurate to a developed first world country. In addition to this, when our rain water tanks become too low we have outbreaks of giardia or gastro, leaving us unable to drink our only source of potable water and forcing us to buy bottled water to drink. Having a reliable source of drinking water should be a basic human right and is a totally reasonable expectation of this government, one that is not being met with our present system.

No longer can you rely on it to service basic requirements such as washing pale coloured clothes, washing the car or watering the leaves of plants. I have ruined countless numbers of clothes, equating to **hundreds and hundreds of dollars**, belonging to my family, the water leaving brown stains splattered over the garments. Pale coloured clothes can only be washed in our precious rain water, which usually is our only source of potable water. Living in a semi-arid region where the rain is not reliable and our rain water tank is often nearly empty, sometimes the light coloured clothes are unable to be washed until the next time it rains. Suitable water is a basic need, a basic requirement and a basic expectation. One that is not granted to our population. Even washing the car requires you to use rain water because the mineral salts within the town water leave a white hard almost un-removable deposit on the paintwork. Again this is our precious drinking water. We manage to grow a vegetable garden by using raised beds, lots of mulch and watering with rain water. If we have to use town water we will use it sparingly, however, we dare not splash any leaves with the town water on a hot day because the leaves will be burnt, guaranteed. The gardens must be soaked with rain water frequently, to flush out the build-up of mineral salts which in turn will destroy the plants if used consistently.

We have continued to be self-reliant, like our ancestors, however, it is not without great challenges. Having an alternative, drinkable source of water would support the invigoration of the

town and future generations and help to stimulate the economy by adding value to the real estate and property market. It would also encourage the production of local produce. With the recent closure of our only town bank, it would also be a step in the right direction to possibly 'turn the tide' of service reduction. The improvement of the local water supply would be such a significant positive statement, giving rise for a restored sense of faith to see the continuation and prosperity of our wonderful community. This in turn can only benefit the state and SA Water, with extra revenue from the expansion of the town and the subsequent enterprises.

I implore you to consider the request of a potable source of drinking water to be supplied to the residents of Orreroo for the long term benefit of all stake holders.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Froling