



Our Ref: DW 199648  
Your Ref:  
Enquiries: Greg Winton

16 April 2012

Mr Glenn Appleyard  
Chairman  
Tasmanian Economic Regulator  
PO Box 770  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mr Appleyard

**DRAFT REPORT AND DRAFT PRICE DETERMINATIONS WATER & SEWERAGE**

I refer to your correspondence of 22 March 2012 inviting a submission response to the draft report and draft price determinations above.

My purpose in making this submission is not to present detailed arguments for wholesale alterations to the draft pricing determinations you have released. The resources available even to organisations such as the Councils I am responsible to manage, are not in a position to dedicate the necessary resources to provide an in-depth analysis and alternative suggestions in the pricing policy mix.

My purpose in writing is simply to state, for the record, that the current philosophy, backed by legislative requirements, that in your role you are not obliged to take into consideration the cost of living impacts is outrageous. Whilst I note your requirement to ensure that pricing increases do not result in price shocks, I remain perplexed that the increases that have been introduced are not considered by many as a price shock.

The introduction of the Water and Sewerage Reform seems to have coincided with an increased appetite by regulators for increasing standards of compliance, both environmental and economically. This race to improve the quality of water provision and effluent disposal comes at a cost. I believe that it is this pace of change that requires significant revision if we are to be realistic about what can be afforded by individuals and as a community.

Yours sincerely

Greg Winton  
**GENERAL MANAGER**