

E10/1130

The following is an index associated with the information on the history of the Sewer Access Charge since 2002 as implemented by Bathurst Regional Council.

On the pages noted are items that back our claims of corrupt conduct in regard to this matter.

The numbering for this index is at the bottom right hand corner.

2006

Page 16. If extensive modeling was carried out; lets see it! Volumetric charges mentioned. Council has had discussions with the Minister. What were those discussions ? Obviously it was not about introducing the fairness required or making the charge reflect actual load or make it comparable to the residential charge , all as required by the Guidelines and L G Act 1993.

Meter Size	Access Charge
20mm	\$307
25mm	\$480
32mm	\$787
40mm	\$1229
50mm	\$1920
65mm	\$3245
80mm	\$4916
100mm	\$7682
150mm	\$17284

Page 21. The meeting at which I understood Councils method was to be changed. Mr Roach mentioned that the matter was political. (Now, having the document where Kath Knowles expressed political concerns it is understandable). Of course, I did not know how or why the matter was political at the time. This is probably the escape route for MR Roach when he might be asked why he orchestrated the sewer access charge as it stands. No doubt he will turn it all around and say the Councillors made him do it. He very cunningly leave just a little evidence to suggest this. However .. consider what was presented in 2002 and how Councillor Knowles reacted at THAT time.

Mr Roach conceded at that meeting, that there was merit in the contention that I have continually put forward, that the "sewer charge should reflect the usage" I believe that meeting came about at the request of someone from DEUS. By deduction it should now be clear that Councils present charge is not fair.

Mr Roach must believe that this is a political matter for he suggested that I make representations along that avenue. This matter is not a political one; it is simply one of fairness and transparency. The charge should reflect the usage. All of these have been reiterated to me by the Minister, copy of which I can provide. Reasonable deduction should arrive at a simple use of a nominal size for

Page 27. Again, Council has told the Minister about developing a rebate scheme to fob him off

The minister for Energy and Utilities has been told by Bathurst Regional Council that “ Council would be willing to consider developing a rebate scheme for businesses with a connection sized for fire flows. For such a business which can demonstrate conclusively that no water was used through its fire hose reel or hydrant in a particular period, Council would grant an appropriate rebate toward the business’s sewer access charge for that billing period”

Page 57. The only reason nominal size is not used is because of Councils contention (ridiculous) that hose reel water enters the sewer. Humphries report exposes this, as well as Carters 260 page submission to the 2010 Management Plan

(e) That nominal sizing of meters is not used for calculating access charges due to the common practice of using fire hose reels;

Page 79. Council has worked with us to ensure the charge is “fair and equitable” NOT likely!! Equitable to whom ?? Paying up to \$3.66 to flush a WC at our worst affected property is hardly equitable when residential property pays less that a thousandth of that.

- Council is adamant that their charge is consistent with the guidelines. Yes, they say this when all evidence is to the contrary. Council claim each year since 2004 that they comply in order to access the General Fund. Who does the Auditing. The ICAC has already recognized the inadequacies of the auditing process for Councils in NSW.
- Hence , proper accountability is a matter of trust. The Community is left to simply accept that the right thing is being done, where in this case it clearly is not.
- Hence, the role of senior staff should not be underestimated.

Special claims were made available for users that were assessed as substantially and significantly affected by the new pricing policies in the year of the introduction of best practice sewer in 2004/2005. Council has worked with each of the ratepayers individually to ensure a fair and equitable charge has been reached.

Council has been approached by some members of the public and the Chamber of Commerce to consider properties where meter sizes are affected by the provision of fire fighting facilities contained on their properties.

Council has liaised with DEUS and all effected people over the last two years in relation to this matter and has remained consistent in adhering to the guidelines of best practice set down by DEUS.

Council needs to revisit the charging model for sewer access charges annually to ensure best practice models are being maintained in order for Council, in the future, to be able to apply to the government for a rebate scheme from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund.