

19 August 2009

Doc: D09/107584  
Officer: MF:PK

Mr Lyndon Rowe  
Chairman  
Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges  
Economic Regulation Authority  
GPO Box 8469  
Perth Business Centre  
Perth WA 6849

Dear Sir

## **Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges**

The Town of Kwinana would like to make its objection to any charges proposed to be levied on local governments for the use of ground and surface water.

In general local governments are significant users of ground and surface water (primarily for maintaining sports grounds and public open space) and that water, drawn from ground or surface resources, is used for public benefit and as such should not be subject to licensing fees.

Under the terms of the Economic Regulatory Authority the Authority must consider the need to promote regulatory outcomes that are in the public interest. Charging local governments for the use of ground and surface water would not be in the public interest as the charges would need to be recouped via the rates or local governments would need to impose a levy, either way it is considered that this would be another means of imposing a State tax which would then be collected by local government. This is a very unsavoury proposition and may lead to a reduction in the standards of sports grounds and public open spaces.

The Town of Kwinana has actively prevented the loss of water from its catchment by diverting its water back into the ground. Although the Town borders the Cockburn Sound, we are proud to promote that we do not divert any of our storm water into the Sound. Our Town is very proactive in its environmental management including water management. By imposing charges on local government for the use of ground and

surface water, we believe that the public would be unfairly penalised by another tax which would not be in the public interest.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Maurice Ferialdi, Director of Operations & Technical Services on 9439 0247.

Yours sincerely

Maurice Ferialdi  
Director Operations & Technical Services