

1 May 2013

Essential Services Commission
Level 37/2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft determination for South Gippsland Water Plan 2013 - 2018

I respectfully tender this written submission in respect of the recent review of the above plan.

I like many residents in Nyora, Poowong and Loch were hugely concerned to hear that the Essential Services Commission had recommended the delay of the sewerage scheme for no less than one year in order to conduct feasibility work and to re-think the scheme.

I disagree with this course of action and I fully endorse South Gippsland Shire Councils submission on this matter dated 22 April 2013.

Having lived in the town for 3 years I have endured foul odours throughout the town and have endured on going grey water discharging onto my land from neighbouring land.

The township of Nyora (and others) have for no less than ten years lived in what can only be described as a quagmire of bacteria and un-contained waste water. The scale of the health problem that this presents is largely unknown as I can only guess that the required testing has not been carried out in expectation of the problem being resolved by the sewerage scheme. Should the sewerage scheme be delayed any longer the health issue will only get worse. Perhaps the state should be releasing emergency funds to conduct the appropriate studies to properly assess the health issue and potentially direct the sewerage scheme to commence as matter of state emergency?

Over the past two years Nyora has received approx 1200-1300mm of rain each year. This of course exacerbates this issue and must be a consideration in assessing the urgency of the scheme.

I submit that I have full confidence that the scheme has been properly designed, costed and planned by the relevant authorities in order to provide this essential service to the three townships. Any further delays in my view will only increase the cost of the development and the Water Plan should be adopted by the Essential Services Commission.

It was concerning to hear that a small group within the community has purported to represent the views of the community. I hope that my submission and other submissions submitted to the ESC from residents like myself advocating their positions as individuals on this matter will provide a broad synopsis of what the community really thinks and feels about this issue.

It is understood that this scheme will result in a marginal increase to water rates throughout the

water authority. Water rate payers of the three towns have been paying for sewerage schemes for other towns for many years, without a far as I am aware any protest.

I ask that the ESC revoke its recommendation as published and take all reasonable steps to adopt South Gippsland Water plan and allow the Sewerage Scheme to proceed as proposed.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Lewis