

To whom it may concern

I am unable to attend the meeting of the ESC in Horsham this coming Monday though I would like to be there. I live in Birchip and do not own a car, and the

only public transport to Horsham is on a Wednesday.

I wish to advise you of my concerns about GWM water and ask you to address these in your meeting, or directly to me, or both.

Summary: I am extremely impoverished because my only income is the Newstart Allowance, 25% of which is dedicated to debt repayments. When I became unemployed I moved to my property in Birchip where I live in a hut. I am not connected to either electricity or the GWM water supply. I use tank water and solar power instead.

GWM has begun charging me service charges for both sewerage and water, which amounts to \$211.93 a quarter. I have offered to pay the sewerage charge but informed GWM that I simply cannot afford to pay both service charges.

I am waiting for their deliberations on this matter but I am fearful that they will insist that I pay these charges in full. This will leave me in a dire situation of deep poverty. I do not want to second guess their response but I would like to know whether you think that there should be relief from certain charges for a poor person in my situation. I would also like to know whether this amount of \$211.93 is reasonable for "availability" of services. I am told that in Yarra Glen the service charge is just above \$100 per quarter so that the GWM charge may be excessive by comparison.

I await your response and hope that the meeting in Horsham is fruitful. I wish to tender my apology.

Yours

David Bell