



**Deputy Premier
Minister for Agriculture & Resources**

The Hon. Patrick McNamara MP

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Ref: MA05072

Recd 27/1/98 Meeting

Mrs Kath Read
Secretary
Coliban Water Investigation Committee
Railway Place
GOORNONG VIC 3557

24 DEC 1997

Dear Mrs Read

SUPPLY TO COLIBAN RURAL USERS

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 1997 in which you requested a formal response following your Committee's deputation to me on 8 October 1997 on issues associated with the future supply arrangements to Coliban rural users.

As you know Coliban Water has introduced agreements for the supply to individuals within the Coliban Rural System to replace the old system of permits which was found to have no legal standing. While the new agreements have caused some concern, most agreements forwarded to users have been completed and returned to Coliban Water. Coliban Water has assured me that users who have not completed the agreements will continue to be supplied providing they agree to pay for water received in the coming year.

Coliban Water has also advised that they are reviewing the basis under which supplies will be made available in the future and are discussing options with Officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The review will cover a range of issues, including the possibility of issuing licences and future trading arrangements which are consistent across the State. In this respect I note your Committee's view on the treatment of any future trading arrangements.

I have been assured that Coliban Water will consult with its rural users before the arrangements are finalised in 1998.

Yours sincerely

**PATRICK McNAMARA MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Agriculture & Resources**



COLIBAN WATER

Your Reference:
Our Reference: MJD/kr 2107/97
300/20

Extension No: 1800 678 690
Contact: Mick Dobson

1 August 1997

SCOTT J S J C T J & A C
WILSONS HILL RD
MARONG 3515

Dear Sir / Madam

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RURAL WATER SUPPLY - PLEASE RESPOND WITHIN 21 DAYS

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a number of significant and necessary changes to the administration of rural water supplies received from the Coliban system of water supply. You are a customer of that rural system.

Coliban Water has received legal advice that the "permit" system and the "trading" of water volumes that have prevailed within this rural system have no legal standing.

Accordingly trading of water permits will no longer be condoned and a supply by Agreement will replace the permit system.

A supply by Agreement will meet the requirements of the Water Act 1989, and provide a legally binding instrument of arrangement for the ongoing provision of a water supply. This instrument will provide security to customers and together with the customer contract define all aspects of the relationship between Coliban Water and rural customers.

Two copies of the Agreement are attached which comprise a one-page Agreement with detailed terms and conditions set out in two Schedules.

This Agreement will be renewed each year unless you are notified to the contrary or make written request to cancel the Agreement.

You may hear discussion within the rural community of Coliban's intention to close certain channels. These channels are mainly where urban development makes rural water supply obsolete. There has been no decision made to close the channel from which you are supplied.

In considering the closure of any channels in the future Coliban Water undertakes to give customers three years notice and consult with those customers on alternative water supply options.

Please sign and return **both copies of the Agreement only**, to Coliban Water in the postage-paid envelope **within 21 days**. One copy will be mailed back to you on completion.

For more information please call the Rural Customer Hotline on **Freecall 1800 678 690**.

Yours faithfully

Mick Bourke
Chief Executive

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