

WATER FINANCING

It is sad to see Australian Labor Party Leaders placing vote-catching expediency above social justice, and especially the needs of the unemployed, when pursuing the very necessary tax reforms required to achieve real economic growth and the elimination of unemployment.

Water Boards throughout Australia

including Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane will create unemployment by implementing the 'user-pay' principle. To the best of my knowledge, New South Wales Labor has acquiesced in the replacement of site value by user-pay for Sydney water, the Brisbane Council under Labor is going the same way, and the Victorian ALP Government is also foisting an unjust system of consumer pay on water users.

Two-thirds of all water costs are for the dams and pipelines built in the past, or for future growth brought about by private development. In Melbourne, such costs account for two-thirds of all rate bills. ~~These costs should be largely borne by developers and when passed on, paid only in proportion to the value added to sites by the provision of these facilities.~~

User-pay is intended to curb water consumption, but will it? The biggest guzzlers of water live in affluent suburbs on large allotments with lawn sprinklers, swimming pools, saunas and other high volume water users.

The only just system of raising revenue by developmental authorities is the site revenue principle, which until now has been applied over the whole of the municipalized area of Queensland and New South Wales, and two-thirds of the area of greater Melbourne.

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(sent to various newspapers.)