

State MPs go to water

Mayor Kettle accuses neighbours of 'us v them'

GOULBURN Mulwaree Mayor Geoff Kettle says he would welcome a review by the State Government on how Highlands Source Project (HSP) water should be used following "concerns" raised by State MPs. He yesterday also denounced Wingecarribee Shire Council's stance that Goulburn had engaged in "deceiving" behaviour and was "profiteering" from the HSP. "I also find it very disappointing that the Wingecarribee Shire Council is turning this into an 'us versus them' issue," Cr Kettle said.

"The original resolution from Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Ordinary Council Meeting in December 2011 quite clearly states that any third party access to this water supply is on the condition that the Southern Highlands (Wingecarribee Shire) water supply (is) not compromised, nor is the supply for Goulburn's residents compromised. "The five megalitres a day we can potentially take (which would include any access by potential

industrial customers) is a very small percentage of the dam's capacity, roughly 0.02 per cent." He said Wingecarribee was part of the consultation process Goulburn Mulwaree undertook for the Environmental Assessment, including having copies of the EA in their Civic Centre and Library. "They lodged a submission in response to the preferred project report, which requested three points; a working group to facilitate clearer discussion between

the two councils, a 'no net loss' environmental offsets plan, and underboring waterways to reduce any erosion," he said. "Goulburn Mulwaree Council formed the working group, we created environmental offsets for trees which were removed along the pipeline route, and while we tried where possible to follow their third request, ultimately we were governed by the design and plans approved by the NSW Department of Planning." Cr Kettle also rejected com-

ments yesterday by Liberal MP for Kiama Gareth Ward and the State Opposition's water spokesman Luke Foley. "This water was always intended to drought proof Goulburn. It shouldn't be sent to cool down industrial machinery at a power plant," Mr Foley told the ABC. "There's a very strong case for the O'Farrell Government to step in and rule out any transfer of water to power plants."

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Ronald Gann - a tribute to a local icon

"HE was more like a friend than a boss," says an employee of the late Ronald Gann. And that's how Goulburn will remember the iconic local businessman and clothing retailer who passed away last Wednesday, aged 55. Ronny, whose funeral is on Friday, was an all-round good bloke, a dedicated family man and highly respected by the local community. "Every morning always started with a coffee and a chat ... I cared about his family, he cared about mine. We had a shop family and that was very unique," said G Store manager Leanne Coveney, who worked for Ronny for nine years.

Full tribute: Page 2

Right: The late Ron Gann, with his wife Helen and children Georgina and Nicholas on a family holiday in New Zealand a few years ago.



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