

## Poor treatment

LOCAL government candidate Richard Orchard says Goulburn Mulwaree is indulging in "Gestapo" style tactics with rate arrears.

He claims in the past year, 470 summonses were issued to recover rates, 2,974 letters of demand sent, and 148 judgments ordered. Mr Orchard is concerned the summonses for even small amounts are jeopardising people's credit rating.

"Lots of people are on fixed incomes, and recently electricity bills have gone through the roof," Mr Orchard said.

"On top of this, we have Council taking court action against the very people who are struggling most."

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## Have compassion

Cr MARGARET O'Neill has lambasted her colleagues after they voted down her move to re-allocate money for cemetery drainage at Tuesday's meeting.

"They've got no bloody compassion," she told the Post. Drainage problems have turned some graves into a soggy mess in recent time, distressing families who've voiced their concerns to Cr O'Neill.

But councillors opposed her move to complete the work this year, instead, splitting it over two years.

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**WATER INSURANCE POLICY:** Cr Geoff Peterson believes the \$30,000 per annum maintenance bill for the Highland Source Project is a cost ratepayers will just have to accept, saying the alternative is to let a multimillion dollar piece of infrastructure deteriorate.

# Under the pump

## Pipe upkeep hits ratepayers

By TOM SEBO

WHILE the Highland Source Project (HSP) has been touted as Goulburn's lifeline should we ever face another drought, its minimum maintenance will cost ratepayers \$30,000 a year.

A report tabled at Tuesday's council meeting revealed that in order for the pipe to remain operationally ready, staff will need to

pump nine megalitres of water a month.

Cr Geoff Peterson says people will struggle to understand its need, especially at times water is gushing over Marsden Weir.

While more than a dozen of his constituents have contacted him to voice their concerns, Cr Geoff Peterson believes it is a cost we just have to incur.

He said if the pipe was neglected and not properly maintained it would become a "multimillion

dollar white elephant" if we ever went into drought again.

"Many people have said to me why do we need to pipe water when there is water flowing over Marsden Weir going back into the Sydney Catchment," he told the Post.

"It just seems a little absurd. But the operational reality is, that is what we need to do to keep the Highland Source infrastructure ready in case we need to use it," Cr Peterson said after the meeting.

"Goulburn has an insurance policy with regards to water security, which has a premium of \$30,000 per annum."

During the meeting, Council's water services manager Grant Moller used the analogy that the HSP was like an old car sitting in a garage and that if it wasn't operated regularly it wouldn't work properly.

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## Dirty Reds mark 140 years

- Sport

# 500 days

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