

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor slates Messenger 'scaremongering' over water

Member for Burnett Rob Messenger is under fire for "scaremongering" over the Agnes Water/1770 future water supply.

Gladstone Regional Council Mayor George Creed said Mr Messenger was out of line in making statements that suggested residents of the Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy area would be disadvantaged once a planned desalination plant was built in the area.

"Mr Messenger has claimed that residents will not be allowed to drink water from council mandated tanks when the desalination plant is built," Mr Creed said.

"He has also wrongly stated that residents will be charged \$5 a litre for tap water.

"These statements are wrong and can only serve to create angst in that community."

Cr Creed said Mr Messenger had over-stepped the mark in his comments, made via a letter to the editor in the Coastal Rag newspaper.

"These comments are alarmist and scaremongering and serve no purpose other than to upset the community," he said.

Gladstone Regional Council Chief Executive Officer Graeme Kanofski said the cost of water per litre, when mains water became available, was one third of a cent per litre and not \$5 per litre as claimed by Mr Messenger.

Furthermore, he said there would be "absolutely no restrictions" on what residents used their water for from Council mandated water tanks.

Cr Creed said he would speak with Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg about Mr Messenger's unfounded comments and "scaremongering tactics" on the matter.

(more)

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"Most of the concerns from residents about water issues in the Agnes Water area since the desalination plant was announced is a result of the actions of Mr Messenger," Cr Creed said.

"The matter of a water supply and sewerage treatment at Agnes Water has been a difficult one for Council and we have tried to do our best for that area.

"We would appreciate it if Mr Messenger would get his facts right before making such ridiculous statements."

MEDIA: For further information contact council's Chief Executive Officer Graeme Kanofski on 4970 0700.