

(No. 28.)



1872.

SESSION II.

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TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

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HOBART TOWN WATER ACT.

PETITION FROM LONGLEY AND KINGBOROUGH.

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Presented by Mr. O'Reilly, 13 December, 1872, and ordered by the House to  
be printed.



*To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landowners and Occupiers of Land bordering on or interested in the Waters of the North West Bay River, and residing in the Parishes of Longley and Kingborough, in the County of Buckingham.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have heard with great alarm that the Corporation of Hobart Town are about to ask your Honorable House to pass a Bill, entitled "A Bill to further amend 'The Hobart Town Water Act, 1860,'" and which proposed Bill gives them full power to divert the whole of the water now flowing in the several streams or tributaries comprising collectively the North West Bay River, commencing at a point called or known as Long Creek, near Watchorn's Hill on the New Huon Road, and extending in a westerly direction a distance of upwards of Five Miles terminating at and including the western branch of the North West Bay River, thus depriving your Petitioners, through, by, or near whose lands the said streams now flow in their natural course, of their rightful use and interest in the said water; and should your Honorable House grant the Corporation of Hobart Town the powers contained in the proposed Act, not only could they divert so much of the water as they may at the present time require for the supply of the City and suburbs for domestic purposes, but they would have the full and exclusive right to take the whole of the water, to the last drop, for irrigation or manufacturing purposes—thus leaving the Landowners on the banks of the river (in the dry season) without sufficient even for their domestic uses.

Your Petitioners would, therefore, respectfully bring under the notice of your Honorable House the fact, that the permanent and abundant supply of water afforded by the North West Bay River at all seasons, was an inducement to several of your Petitioners in selecting land on that river, having in view the utilizing the water as well for irrigation as manufacturing or milling purposes; and although several of your Petitioners' lands are situate on the banks of the North West Bay River, or some one of its tributaries, and materially affected by the proposed diversion of the said water, not one of them has received any legal notice of the proposed diversion of their sole supply of water.

That a great number of your Petitioners have for many years enjoyed the use of the waters of the said Stream, and sincerely believe that the proposed diversion of the water by the Corporation of Hobart Town will very seriously affect their several interests: and your Petitioners understand from published statements that the water which the Corporation now wish to divert from them is intended to be used largely for irrigation and manufacturing or milling purposes, the Corporation thus deriving a *revenue* from the sale of such water. Your Petitioners have also heard from persons competent to form an opinion on such matters that the City of Hobart Town might be abundantly supplied with water by other means not at all detrimental to the interests of your Petitioners, namely by constructing a series of inexpensive reservoirs on the flats or plains of the Mountain (to the west of Messrs. Piquenit and Dunnett's lot), from whence it could gravitate without any trouble down to and join the present Water-works at Fork Creek, and which might be accomplished at a much less expense than the proposed scheme.

Your Petitioners would further pray that, should your Honorable House see fit to grant the Corporation of Hobart Town the power to divert any portion of the water from any of the tributaries of the North West Bay River, you would be pleased to distinctly specify the exact proportion or part so to be diverted, and always reserving for the use of the settlers on the river the first right to a full and sufficient supply at all seasons as well for domestic as for irrigation and manufacturing and milling purposes, should any mill or factory be erected at any future time by any of the landowners on the said stream.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

*[Here follow 26 signatures.]*

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.