

(No. 129.)



1881.

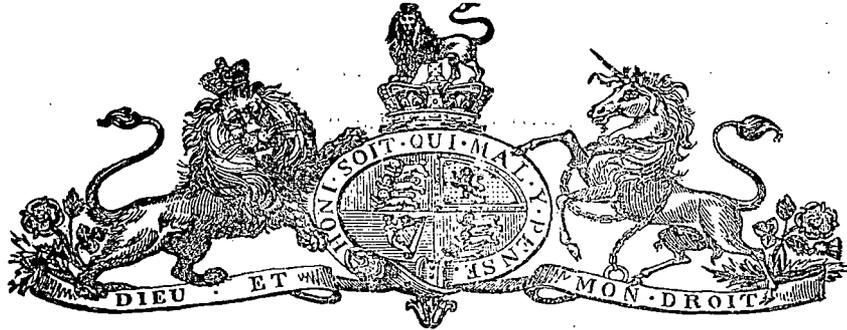
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

CAMPBELL TOWN WATER ACT:

PETITION FOR REPEAL.

Presented by Mr. Dobson, November 1, 1881, and ordered by the House to be printed.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders within the Campbell Town Water District,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT in the year 1878 an Act was passed by Your Honorable House constituting a District to be called the Campbell Town Water District, and providing for the appointment of Trustees and the raising of a loan on the security of a Special Rate for the purpose of purchasing certain land and forming a Reservoir to supply the Elizabeth River, and thus provide a supply of water to the Town of Campbell Town.

That the said Act became law in consequence of the representations of certain inhabitants of Campbell Town and the adjoining Districts that the work was of great public utility, and after a poll had been taken of the Landholders of the said Water District, by which it appeared that a majority of such Landholders desired the works to be undertaken, and were willing to be rated for the purpose.

That while a large minority of the said Landholders were opposed to the said Act on the ground that they would derive no benefit from the proposed works, many of your Petitioners assented by their votes to the passing of the said Act under the belief that, as was then represented to them, the cost of purchasing the necessary land and forming a Reservoir would not be great, and that the interest on the necessary loan would be met by a rate not exceeding three pence in the pound on their properties.

That Trustees have been elected in accordance with the provisions of the said Act; and such Trustees have agreed to purchase the necessary land, and have obtained estimates of the cost of the proposed works.

That unexpected difficulties have arisen in connection with the scheme; and that it now appears that a sum of Two thousand seven hundred pounds will be required to secure the necessary land, in aid of which purchase your Honorable House has assented to an appropriation of Two thousand one hundred and eighty-six pounds eighteen shillings and nine pence from the public revenue.

That the anticipated cost of the proposed Reservoir proves to be much greater than was represented to your Petitioners at the time of taking the poll before mentioned, it being estimated that nearly the whole of the extreme amount sanctioned by the Act, namely, Seven thousand pounds, will be absorbed; while your Petitioners believe that even that amount will be quite insufficient to complete the works in a satisfactory manner.

That a rate of Sixpence in the pound has already been imposed on your Petitioners' properties to meet the cost of preliminary expenses; and your Petitioners believe that if the works are proceeded with, even the maximum rate allowed by the said Act, namely One shilling in the pound, will be insufficient.

That your Petitioners' properties are already subject to heavy burdens for rates for roads and for Municipal, Police, and other purposes, amounting to about One shilling and ten pence in the pound, in addition to the Real Estate Duty imposed by Parliament since the passing of the said Act.

That the imposition of an additional rate of One shilling in the pound for the purposes of the said Act will be oppressive to your Petitioners; and that a large number of your Petitioners, from the situation of their properties, will derive no advantage from the completion of the proposed works; while even to those of your Petitioners resident in and near Campbell Town the benefit received therefrom will not be commensurate with the increased burdens which such works will necessitate.

That your Petitioners believe that a supply of good water sufficient for the requirements of Campbell Town can be obtained at a small expense by the improvement of existing sources of supply.

That a meeting of the Landholders within the Water District was convened by advertisement and held at Campbell Town on the 29th day of October, 1881; and such meeting resolved by a large majority that a Petition should be presented to the Legislature praying for a repeal of the Act.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to repeal the Campbell Town Water Act, due provision being made for the payment of expenses already incurred by means of a rate to be levied on the properties within the Campbell Town Water District, or that such other relief may be granted to your Petitioners as your Honorable House may in its wisdom consider just.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 64 signatures.]