

(No. 33.)



1860.

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**HOBART TOWN WATER BILL.**

PETITION No. 6.

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Presented by Mr. Adams, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
9 August, 1860.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Owners of Freehold Property in Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT a Bill for the better supply of Water to this City is now passing through your Honorable House; and that the under-mentioned Clauses of the said Bill are, if passed as at present proposed, likely to affect seriously the interests of the owners of Household property in this City; namely, Clause 50, which empowers the City Council to levy annually a *domestic* water rate, and Clause 51 a *public* water rate; the former to be levied upon the *occupiers* of all dwelling-houses, shops, &c., the latter to be levied upon the *owners* of all dwellings, shops, &c. within the City according to their annual value.

Your Petitioners cannot understand by what measure of justice the person who invests his capital in House property should be compelled to contribute in a twofold degree to the proposed Water Rate; whilst those who invest in Merchandise, in Grain, in Furniture, in Insurance and other shares should only pay *one* Water Rate,—all these being (equally with House property) liable to loss by fire, to prevent which a liberal supply of water is afforded by the above Bill.

Also Clause 60, which renders the owners of all Dwelling-houses, the annual value of which does not exceed £10, or which are let to weekly or *monthly* tenants, &c., liable for the Rates.

Your Petitioners beg respectfully to call your attention to the fact, that many hundreds of houses and shops in this City are at present without tenants; and that the supply being greater than the demand for houses, the landlords now are completely at the mercy of the tenants,—the latter having discovered that, by renting tenements by the week and *month* instead of by the year, the Police and City Rates fall upon the *Owner* instead of the *Occupier*. Many properties (whose rentals are £60, £80, or more per annum, and which formerly used to let by the year) are now only taken by the month, to save the payment of taxes by the *Occupier*.

Your Petitioners fear that Clause 60 will have the same effect with the Water Rates as that complained of in the other taxes; namely, that of causing the unfortunate *owners* of City property to pay more than their just proportion to these impositions.

Your Petitioners respectfully suggest that a maximum valuation should be fixed, (say £10,) over which the *owners* should not be liable for the Water Rates.

Your Petitioners hold it to be unjust that Properties *untenanted* and lying idle should be saddled with the Rates; as their owners are, at the same time, sufferers by loss of rent, loss of interest on cost, of expenses of fire premiums, of payment of housekeepers, and of wear and tear of buildings.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that the above Clauses may be so altered and modified as to prevent the injury which the above Bill would do to their interests if passed in the present state.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 83 Signatures.]