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**Title:**  
Press statement - Increases in Water Rates

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455/16

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, THE HON DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P. JULY 5th, 1968.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan said today that the Government's increases in water rates were disgraceful.

Excess water will cost ratepayers 5c a thousand gallons more from July 1.

"It is interesting to note that it only took the Liberals three months in office to raise the water rates," Mr. Dunstan said. "The Labor Government did not alter them in three years of office - not even during the severe drought period."

"Their decision to raise water rates is an extraordinary one, considering the fact that criticism was levelled at the Labor Government by the L.C.L. when we carried out the periodic reassessment of property values, as required under the Water Works Act - an Act the Liberals brought in."

Mr. Dunstan said the Liberal Party had clearly stated before the State elections that it was against an increased charges for water.

"The L.C.L. put out pamphlets in many districts, including that of the Works Minister, Mr. Coumbe, attacking the Labor Government for increases in water rates," Mr. Dunstan said.

"This increase in rates is a complete contradiction of their previous protests."

Mr. Dunstan said: "There is no justification for a government going to the people on an issue, and then to reverse their decision. People are entitled to know for what they are voting."

"The reason given for the increase in water rates - to meet higher costs involved in pumping of water - is quite unfounded," Mr. Dunstan said.

"The good rains will mean less pumping, and absolutely no reason for this disgraceful increase in water rates."

Mr. Dunstan said: "One can only conclude that this is one of the Government's money raising ventures, about which they said nothing before the general election."