

Tanks for nothing: council

A NOTICE of motion put forward by Greens councillor Lesa de Leau for Rockdale Council to establish a rainwater tank purchasing scheme was lost at last week's meeting.

Liberal councillor Gary Green spoke against the motion, saying it had not "been thought through" and was "unfair, unsustainable and a little kooky, too".

Cr de Leau's notice of motion recommended the council purchase rainwater tanks in bulk on behalf of residents and businesses of the area and then residents and businesses would repay the council for the tank over the period of a year.

The recommendation also said officers should investigate the proposal and prepare a report for early 2007 on how the scheme could be implemented.

But Cr Green said the notice of motion was unfair because "the people living in houses who can install and show off their 'I'm green and gonna save the world' water tank would be subsidised by the people living in flats who can't".

"It's unsustainable because . . . if you amortise the cost of a 10,000-litre tank over 30 years and divide the cost (its maintenance, its installation, the cost of the pump and electricity charges), then the limited amount of water that comes out of that tank costs many times more than a litre of tap water and it's less useful," he said.

"It's kooky because here we are in Rockdale, blessed by the good Lord above with a plentiful supply of bore water below, and look how tall I've grown as a result of drinking the stuff.

"I'm not saying water tanks are kooky, only that bore water is preferable, where available – and it's available in most parts of Rockdale.

"Eventually, all droughts break and when this one does, we'll have people stuck with unsustainable tanks."