



#25in 25 is a new sub committee of Foundation Broken Hill that has operated in Broken Hill since 1999.

The new sub committee was formed following a public meeting attended by State Member for Barwon Mr Kevin Humphries and Deputy NSW Premier Mt John Barilaro on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Broken Hill.

The meeting was called to address Broken Hill's declining population trends and what we as a Community needed to do to change the perception that we would continue to decline.

A Committee of 20 prominent locals has been established with representatives from all sectors of the Community including Health, Education, Trade, Hospitality, Tourism, Real Estate, Retail, Pastoralists and the Indigenous.

The objective of #25in25 is to increase Broken Hill's population to 25,000 by 2025. We currently sit below 18,000. 25,000 people represent a sustainability Community where all residents benefit from improved health and education and job prospects. To achieve this, the Committee is engaging with all three levels of Government, to lobby to fast track key economic reforms that will stimulate the housing market, grow jobs and improve our transport hubs.

The pipeline W2BH is a tremendous new asset for Broken Hill. Whilst there has been considerable local negativity around the need for a pipeline and the cost impost the Committee acknowledges it will future proof Broken Hill and give confidence to potential new industries and residents to relocate here.

Of concern to the Committee is the potential cost shift onto local ratepayers. Whilst the NSW Government has announced a waiver of all costs in relation to the new pipeline for 4 years the Community seeks greater certainty from the Government for the longer term.

**As a minimum, after the first 4 years, the capital costs/depreciation of the pipeline should never be levied upon Broken Hill water users.**

Broken Hill water users already pay for the maintenance of the Menindee to Broken Hill pipeline, of some 120 kilometres. **Our water charges for the next 4 years should actually be reduced as this maintenance cost will be dramatically reduced with the proposed decommissioning of the old pipeline and the NSW government fully funding the new pipeline.**

Broken Hill is a remote Community, with a dry climate that has been in drought for several years. Residents are forced to purchase all their water to maintain gardens given our lack of rainfall. Being a mining community, with lead dust issues, it is important locals do what they can to green the City.

Our vision of attracting new residents will be impacted if water utility prices are increased. We have many barriers to attracting new Industry and utility charges that are excessive in comparison to other regional areas of NSW will impact negatively on our goals.

With no pipeline maintenance fees payable by Essential Water for the next 4 years, the only increase to our water charges should be the actual cost of water. It is unreasonable to expect that the increase could be anything exceeding CPI for the cost of water.

Kind Regards,

**Peter Nash**  
**Chair of 25in25 sub committee**  
**Foundation BH**