

The Essential Services Commission

We are the independent economic regulator of the Victorian water industry. The Commission periodically assesses prices put forward by water businesses in a three to five year Water Plan.

Draft decision prices 2013-2018

This fact sheet shows the indicative bills from our draft decision. The draft decision prices are subject to consultation and will change based on our final decision in June. Our draft decision has prices for the regional water businesses generally increasing in line with inflation. We approve the maximum prices that each water business can charge its customers in each year during the regulatory period.

Household bills

All of the water businesses have similar tariff structures, but prices vary depending on location and your water supplier. Household bills are composed of fixed and usage-based charges for both water and sewerage. Some water businesses have inclining block tariffs, which contain two or more variable prices that increase as their water use exceeds defined volumetric 'tiers'. All residential sewerage charges are fixed regardless of how much water a household uses.

- Tenants of rental properties are not responsible for fixed charges.
- Owner-occupiers are responsible for all of the above charges.
- Tenants whose premises are separately metered are responsible for water usage charges.
- Landlords are responsible for all service charges, water usage charges on unmetered premises and all sewerage charges in regional Victoria.

Next stage of the process

Businesses and customers are invited to participate in the review by attending public meetings, or making written submissions. Public feedback is an important part of the review. We will use your submissions to inform of our final decision.

Table 1. Illustrative annual owner occupant bills (\$2012-13) draft decision

Water Business	Current bill	Bills based on businesses' proposals			Bills based on draft decision	
		2012-13	2013-14	2017-18	2013-14	2017-18
BW	1 049	1 050	1 055	1 011	933	
CHW	1 147	1 245	1 245	1 181	1 181	
CW	1 003	1 153	1 297	1 153	1 256	
EGW	1 102	1 123	1 126	1 068	1 076	
CGW	1 236	1 249	1 298	1 222	1 167	
GVW	819	839	926	811	806	
GWMW	1 168	1 204	1 323	1 204	1 207	
LMW-u	774	809	881	803	851	
NEW	836	855	935	824	795	
SGW	956	969	1 068	944	882	
WNW	1 163	1 131	1 131	1 127	1 045	
WPW	1 029	1 044	1 214	1 029	1 044	

Note: Bills are calculated using businesses' average consumption.

Table 2. Illustrative annual tenant bills (\$2012-13) draft decision

Water Business	Current bill	Bills based on businesses' proposals			Bills based on draft decision	
		2012-13	2013-14	2017-18	2013-14	2017-18
BW	338	338	340	326	300	
CHW	235	255	255	242	242	
CW	328	346	390	346	377	
EGW	224	258	340	255	257	
CGW	312	315	328	309	295	
GVW	248	254	280	254	252	
GWMW	321	330	363	330	331	
LMW-u	174	196	214	195	206	
NEW	417	427	467	412	397	
SGW	189	193	218	188	176	
WNW	264	263	263	262	243	
WPW	108	129	150	125	127	

How to get involved

We invite the public to comment on our draft decision until 2 May 2013. Public forums will be held around the state to gather your feedback in April and May. Written submissions can be sent by email to water@esc.vic.gov.au or posted to Water Price Review, Essential Services Commission, Level 37, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000. More information, including material from past price reviews can be found on the Commission's website www.esc.vic.gov.au.