

# Essential News

Latest news from the Essential Services Commission  
December 2024

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Welcome to Essential News, your regular update on key decisions, releases and events from the Essential Services Commission.



## Court orders Sumo to pay \$10M penalties for breaches of Victoria's energy laws

The Supreme Court of Victoria ordered energy retailers Sumo Power Pty Ltd and Sumo Gas Pty Ltd (together, **Sumo**) to pay penalties totalling \$10 million for unlawful door-to-door marketing and failures related to its best offer messaging.

This outcome represented the largest penalty ever imposed for breaches of Victoria's energy laws and codes of practice.

[Learn more →](#)



## Water performance report 2023-24

Key findings from our annual water performance report show higher water bills across Victoria, increased water usage, and more opportunities for water businesses to support customers seeking financial hardship support.

The report shows water bills across Victoria increased in 2023-24. Key drivers of increased bills include high annual inflation and increased water usage brought on by a drier year than 2022-23.

[Read the report →](#)



## Council rate cap compliance report 2024-25

We released our annual council rate cap compliance report, showing each of Victoria's 79 local councils kept their rate increases within the 2.75 per cent cap for 2024-25 set by the Minister for Local Government.

This is the fourth consecutive year all councils have been compliant with the rate cap.

[Read the report →](#)

## Your consumer rights and the support available to you



Learn about your rights as a consumer in the sectors we regulate, including electricity and gas, local government, water, transport and the Victorian Energy Upgrades program.

[Find out more →](#)

## Consultation

We're currently seeking feedback on the following:

- [Victorian Default Offer price review 2025-26](#) - consultation closes 24 December 2024
- [Lumea Pty Ltd application for electricity transmission licence](#) - consultation closes 20 January 2025
- [Accident towing fees review 2025](#) - consultation closes 5 March 2024

[View all current consultations →](#)

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