

## Water price review 2023

### Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 28 November 2022

Water business: Central Highlands Water

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From 3 October 2022, we began accepting submissions on our 2023 water price review via Engage Victoria ([www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au)). On this website, people were given the option to send us general feedback or respond to questions we provided.

1. What do you think of the prices proposed by your water business?

N/A

2. What do you think of the proposed outcomes?

I am a town planning consultant in Ballarat and have been for the past 27 years. Over the years I have represented many developers and land owners in the Ballarat area.

The current CHW servicing plan (2023-2028) is based on planning advice from the City of Ballarat that has not been accepted by the Minister for Planning. The Minister has resolved for the VPA to undertake a review of the sequencing of all major residential development in Ballarat. This review is not due until May 2023 (the same time the CHW plan is targeted for adoption).

Ballarat is currently at risk of having a servicing plan that does not match the recommendations of the VPA.

There is a clear land supply shortage in Ballarat. The February 2022 Council report noted Ballarat is down to a 3 year land supply yet surprisingly Council only prioritised the Northern Growth front (6,000 lots maximum in an area with considerable planning constraints).

There is a strong case the North West Growth area is needed in the short term and the servicing plan must provide for this. Planning for this area is well advanced. Planning in the Western growth Area to the best of my knowledge has not progressed at all.

BWEZ the employment engine driver for Western Victoria apparently also has a compromised potable water supply with questionable ability to accept new businesses with large water requirements.

In other words the residential and commercial land markets in Ballarat are currently adversely constrained by both water and sewerage. How can this be? What has happened to the forward planning of our City?

There must be an opportunity to resolve this situation now with a co-ordinated approach between the Minister for Planning, the Minister for Water and other key stakeholders. I intend to raise my concerns directly with these Ministers, local members of parliament and DELWP as these issues are critically important for Ballarat.

