

Water price review 2023

Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 28 November 2022

Water business: Central Highlands Water

Submission written by: Jackson Zaal from Beveridge Williams

Postcode: 3350

From 3 October 2022, we began accepting submissions on our 2023 water price review via Engage Victoria (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?

Proposed NCC's and staged increases are reasonable to enable delivery of major infrastructure. It is encouraged to utilise collection of NCC's to plan/deliver key infrastructure for all three identified growth fronts. This will enable faster collection of NCC's via multiple growth fronts.

2. What do you think of the proposed outcomes?

I would like to see capital infrastructure projects being delivered for the west. In particular major trunk infrastructure to facilitate ultimate sewer and water assets. Without delivering this infrastructure as part of this water plan, a shortage of available land is inevitable.

Our Reference: 2001444

28 November 2022

ACN 006 197 235
ABN 38 006 197 235

Ballarat Office
Suite 3, 180 Eleanor Drive
PO Box 1489
Lucas VIC 3350

Essential Services Commission

Tel: (03) 5327 2000

beveridgewilliams.com.au

To Whom it may concern

RE: Central Highlands Water - Water Price Review 2023

We (Beveridge Williams) operate one of the largest land development consultancies in Victoria - offering civil engineering, surveying and town planning locally in Ballarat.

Beveridge Williams have provided local professional jobs for over 30 years and assisted the development community during the land sales boom in Ballarat over the past 5 years. Land development in the western growth areas of Ballarat, resultant from strong interstate and local major developer interest has almost exhausted urban growth area zoned land.

It is now critical for Ballarat to provide a 15+ year diversified land supply. Ballarat must not have the only greenfield land supply option in the Sebastopol/Bonshaw area for future residents wishing to relocate/reside in Ballarat. This area is already constrained by sewerage delays, issues and environmental infrastructure waste (temporary assets).

To achieve this Ballarat needs multiple growth fronts including the Northern Growth Area and the North West Growth area for short term development.

The CHW plan needs to allow for both of these fronts to be available for short term development (i.e. less than 4 years). This means to provide sewer and water major infrastructure, or at a minimum enable brought forward infrastructure servicing or contributions.

Servicing of the Western Growth Area should also be a priority to avoid the current necessity of temporary assets, which ultimately result in contaminated waste infrastructure and unnecessary construction and operational costs.

As the VPA are currently undertaking the strategic review for the sequencing of major development in Ballarat, we consider it imperative the NGA and NWGA are available as short-term development options.

These environmental and housing affordability considerations should also be critical information for the VPA as part of their deliberations.

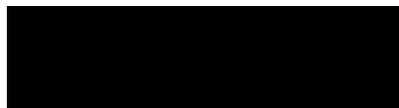
We cannot have a water plan finalised that does not provide for the land development deemed necessary by the VPA.

With the economic boom generate by the Commonwealth Games the above issues become even more critical for Ballarat.



We need the Council, CHW, State Government, developers and consultants working together to achieve these important outcomes.

Yours faithfully,



JACKSON ZAAL

Manager Western Victoria – Senior Engineer
BEVERIDGE WILLIAMS