

Water prices steady for year ahead – Amended

Most regional householders will enjoy a drop in water bills for the year ahead while overall city prices will increase by an estimated average \$7.

The Essential Services Commission has released the annual water tariffs for the state's 16 water businesses which show the impact of the [2018 water pricing determinations](#) and other factors including inflation and the [2019 desalination water order](#).

The commission's head of water pricing Marcus Crudden says depending on water usage, city dwellers will pay a little more, while regional households will pay less.

"Your average water bill goes up or down every year based on a number of factors including how much you use, the cost of inflation and how much your water business spends on maintaining infrastructure and services," he said.

Prices for regional customers will fall for the second year in a row following changes to the state's pricing approach last year.

The biggest regional winners, with savings of around \$25, include customers of Coliban Water (- \$24), Goulburn Valley Water (- \$25) and Central Highlands Water customers (- \$27).

Mr Crudden says city prices will increase slightly after some large reductions last year.

"Overall, the full impact of the desalination order will be offset by a reduction in other factors including the low cost of inflation and falling borrowing costs," he said.

Yarra Valley Water customers will, on average, enjoy a \$9 drop in annual bills with the business returning \$3 million for not meeting performance targets.

The commission has also released its quarterly customer perception survey showing Victorians rated their water businesses 5.8 out of 10 for 'value for money'. The highest ranked business across all measures was East Gippsland Water.

All estimates are based on average consumption rates of 150 kilolitres per year for metropolitan customers while regional estimates are based on average consumption levels for each water business. All estimates are in \$2019-20 terms.

See over for a table of water prices across the state

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Indicative actual household bills

Metro water - residential (owner occupier)

Water Business	2018-19 Annual Bill (\$ 2019-20)	2019-20 Annual Bill (\$ 2019-20)	Change
City West Water	\$967	\$984	\$17
South East Water	\$976	\$989	\$13
Yarra Valley Water	\$1,073	\$1,064	-\$9
Average bill change metro			(plus) +\$7

Comparing bills in 2019-20 dollars = including inflation

Based on average consumption of 150kL p.a

Regional water – residential (owner occupier)

Water Business	Average Consumption (kL p.a.)	2018-19 Annual Bill (\$ 2019-20)	2019-20 Annual Bill (\$ 2019-20)	Change
Barwon Water (Geelong)	160	\$1,039	\$1,032	-\$7
Central Highlands Water (Ballarat)	150	\$1,260	\$1,233	-\$27
Coliban Water (Bendigo)	188	\$1,357	\$1,333	-\$24
East Gippsland Water (Bairnsdale)	146	\$1,200	\$1,192	-\$8
Goulburn Valley Water (Shepparton)	260	\$931	\$906	-\$25
Gippsland Water (Traralgon)	168	\$1,352	\$1,338	-\$14
GWM Water (Horsham)	245	\$1,405	\$1,389	-\$16
Lower Murray Water (Mildura)	477	\$985	\$976	-\$9
North East Water (Wodonga)	190	\$886	\$882	-\$4
South Gippsland Water (Foster)	118	\$1,009	\$998	-\$11
Wannon Water (Warrnambool)	144	\$1,126	\$1,106	-\$20
Western Water (Sunbury)	180	\$1,029	\$1,020	-\$9
Westernport Water (Phillip Island)	80	\$1,167	\$1,157	-\$10
Average bill change urban				(minus) -\$15

Based on average consumption rates for each water business