



Maximum prices for Water NSW's Rural
Bulk Water Services from 1 July 2026

Draft Determination

March 2026

Water >>

Acknowledgment of Country

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We pay respect to Elders both past and present.

We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples.

Tribunal Members

The Tribunal members for this review are:

- Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair
- Dr Darryl Biggar
- Sharon Henrick
- Jonathan Coppel

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Contents

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Application	1
2 Commencement and term	1
3 Nil price for Aboriginal Community Development and Cultural Licences	1
4 Replacement of the 2025 Determination	1

Part 2 Regulated River Bulk Water Services

5 Application	2
6 Entitlement charge	3
7 Water take charge	3
8 MDBA/BRC entitlement charge	4
9 MDBA/BRC water take charge	4
10 Irrigation Corporations and districts discount	4
11 Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council charge	5

Part 3 Fish River Water Supply Scheme

12 Application	8
13 Fish River Water Supply Customers	8

Part 4 Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer

14 Application	11
15 Calculating the cost of the Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer	11

Part 5 Miscellaneous charges

16 Application	12
17 Meter service charge	12
18 Meter accuracy testing charge	12
19 Other Miscellaneous Charges	12

Part 6 Legislative framework

20 Legislative framework	15
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Part 7 Definitions and interpretation

21 Interpretation	16
22 Rounding rules	17
23 Explanatory notes	17
24 Prices exclusive of GST	17
25 Billing cycle and meter reading	17
26 Annual charges and pro-rating	17
27 Billing on behalf of WAMC	18
28 Entitlement charges	18
29 Metering of water take charges for Irrigation Corporations	18
30 MDB and Coastal Valleys	18
31 Consumer Price Index	20
32 Definitions	21

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Application

This determination fixes maximum prices for the following Monopoly Services provided by Water NSW:

- a) Regulated River Bulk Water Services under Part 2;
- b) rural bulk water services to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme under Part 3;
- c) the Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer under Part 4; and
- d) miscellaneous services under Part 5.

2 Commencement and term

- (1) This determination commences on the later of:
 - a) 1 July 2026; and
 - b) the date that this determination is published in the NSW Government Gazette, (**Commencement Date**).
- (2) Subject to clause 2(3), the maximum prices fixed under this determination apply from the Commencement Date to 30 June 2029.
- (3) The maximum prices under this determination prevailing at 30 June 2029 continue to apply beyond 30 June 2029 until this determination is revoked or replaced.

3 Nil price for Aboriginal Community Development and Cultural Licences

Despite anything in this determination, the maximum price that Water NSW may charge for the services referred to in this determination in respect of an Aboriginal Cultural Licence or Aboriginal Community Development Licence is nil.

4 Replacement of the 2025 Determination

- (1) With effect from the Commencement Date, this determination replaces the 2025 Determination.
- (2) The 2025 Determination ceases to have effect upon its replacement. Replacement of the 2025 Determination does not affect anything done or omitted to be done, or rights or obligations accrued, under the 2025 Determination and before the Commencement Date.

Part 2 Regulated River Bulk Water Services

5 Application

- (1) This Part sets out the maximum prices that Water NSW may levy on a Licence Holder for supplying rural bulk water services in relation to a Water Licence that authorises the extraction of water from a Regulated River in an MDB Valley or Coastal Valley (**Regulated River Bulk Water Services**), other than Miscellaneous Charges.
- (2) Subject to clause 5(3), the maximum prices that Water NSW may levy for Regulated River Bulk Water Services consist of the following:
 - a) an entitlement charge calculated in accordance with clause 6;
 - b) a water take charge calculated in accordance with clause 7, except in relation to the Lowbidgee Valley;
 - c) for the MDB Valleys of Border, Murray and Murrumbidgee, in addition to the applicable charges referred to in clauses 5(2)a), 5(2)b) and 5(2)e):
 - (i) an MDBA/BRC entitlement charge calculated in accordance with clause 8; and
 - (ii) an MDBA/BRC water take charge calculated in accordance with clause 9;
 - d) for a Licence Holder in the Yanco Creek System, in addition to the applicable charges referred to in clauses 5(2)a), 5(2)b) and 5(2)e), a Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council charge calculated in accordance with clause 11; and
 - e) any relevant Miscellaneous Charges calculated in accordance with Part 5.
- (3) The maximum prices that Water NSW may levy on a Licence Holder listed in Table 2.5 for Regulated River Bulk Water Services consist of the applicable charges in clause 5(2), less the discount calculated in accordance with clause 10.

6 Entitlement charge

For Regulated River Bulk Water Services, Water NSW may levy an entitlement charge calculated as follows:

Box 2.1 Entitlement charge

$$EC \times E$$

where:

EC is the entitlement charge expressed in dollars per megalitre of Entitlement or in dollars per unit share for the relevant MDB Valley or relevant Coastal Valley, relevant year and relevant licence type in Table 2.1; and

E is a Licence Holder's Entitlement for that year.

[Note: Refer to clause 28 for the calculation of the entitlement charge, and clause 30(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley' and 'relevant Coastal Valley'.]

7 Water take charge

For Regulated River Bulk Water Services, Water NSW may levy a water take charge for the relevant MDB Valley (excluding the Lowbidgee Valley) and relevant Coastal Valley calculated as follows:

Box 2.2 Water take charge

$$WTC \times WT$$

where:

- a. **WTC** is the water take charge expressed in dollars per megalitre of water taken for the relevant MDB Valley or relevant Coastal Valley and relevant year in Table 2.2; and
- b. **WT** is a Licence Holder's water take for that year.

Water NSW must not recover more than one water take charge under clause 7 in respect of any water taken.

[Note: Refer to clause 21(5) for the calculation of a Licence Holder's water take, and clause 30(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley' and 'relevant Coastal Valley'.]

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the charge in clause 7 may be levied on all holders of a supplementary water access licence in a relevant Coastal Valley and relevant MDB Valley, except for those in the Lowbidgee Valley.]

8 MDBA/BRC entitlement charge

For Regulated River Bulk Water Services supplied in the MDB Valleys of Border, Murray and Murrumbidgee, Water NSW may levy an MDBA/BRC entitlement charge calculated as follows:

Box 2.3 MDBA/BRC entitlement charge

$$MDBAEC \times E$$

where:

MDBAEC is the MDBA/BRC entitlement charge expressed in dollars per megalitre of Entitlement or in dollars per unit share for the relevant MDB Valley, relevant year and relevant licence type in Table 2.3; and

E is a Licence Holder's Entitlement for that year.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the charge in clause 8 may be levied in addition to any other charges provided for in this Part. Refer to clause 28 for the calculation of the entitlement charge, and clause 30(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley'.]

9 MDBA/BRC water take charge

For Regulated River Bulk Water Services supplied in the MDB Valleys of Border, Murray and Murrumbidgee, Water NSW may levy an MDBA/BRC water take charge for the relevant MDB Valley calculated as follows:

Box 2.4 MDBA/BRC water take charge

$$MDBAWTC \times WT$$

where:

MDBAWTC is the MDBA/BRC water take charge expressed in dollars per megalitre of water taken for the relevant MDB Valley and relevant year in Table 2.4; and

WT is a Licence Holder's water take for that year.

Water NSW must not recover more than one MDBA/BRC water take charge under clause 9 in respect of any water taken.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the charge in clause 9 may be levied in addition to any other charges provided for in this Part. Refer to clause 21(5)(c) for the calculation of a Licence Holder's water take, and clause 30(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley'.]

10 Irrigation Corporations and districts discount

For a Licence Holder listed in Table 2.5, Water NSW must apply the discount (listed for that Licence Holder in Table 2.5) on that Licence Holder's total annual bill for entitlement and/or water take charges.

11 Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council charge

For a Licence Holder in the Yanco Creek System, Water NSW may levy an entitlement charge expressed in dollars per megalitre of Entitlement or in dollars per unit share in Table 2.6 for the relevant year.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council charge may be levied in addition to any other charges provided for in this Part. Refer to clause 28 for the calculation of the entitlement charge.]

Table 2.1 Entitlement charges for MDB Valleys and Coastal Valleys (\$/ML of Entitlement or \$/unit share)^a

MDB Valley / Coastal Valley	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
High Security Licence			
Border	8.57	9.43 x CPI ₁	10.37 x CPI ₂
Gwydir	21.74	23.92 x CPI ₁	26.31 x CPI ₂
Namoi	30.94	34.03 x CPI ₁	35.69 x CPI ₂
Peel	84.97	93.47 x CPI ₁	102.81 x CPI ₂
Lachlan	31.68	34.85 x CPI ₁	38.33 x CPI ₂
Macquarie	25.41	25.41 x CPI ₁	25.41 x CPI ₂
Murray	2.87	3.16 x CPI ₁	3.42 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	5.64	6.20 x CPI ₁	6.55 x CPI ₂
North Coast	17.40	19.14 x CPI ₁	21.05 x CPI ₂
Hunter	27.23	27.23 x CPI ₁	27.23 x CPI ₂
South Coast	45.52	50.07 x CPI ₁	55.08 x CPI ₂
General Security Licence			
Border	3.46	3.80 x CPI ₁	4.18 x CPI ₂
Gwydir	5.80	6.38 x CPI ₁	7.02 x CPI ₂
Namoi	14.50	15.95 x CPI ₁	16.73 x CPI ₂
Peel	8.35	9.18 x CPI ₁	10.10 x CPI ₂
Lachlan	5.32	5.86 x CPI ₁	6.44 x CPI ₂
Macquarie	5.31	5.31 x CPI ₁	5.31 x CPI ₂
Murray	1.42	1.56 x CPI ₁	1.69 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	2.06	2.26 x CPI ₁	2.39 x CPI ₂
Lowbidgee ^b	2.47	2.71 x CPI ₁	2.98 x CPI ₂
North Coast	13.49	14.84 x CPI ₁	16.32 x CPI ₂
Hunter	21.16	21.16 x CPI ₁	21.16 x CPI ₂
South Coast	23.87	26.26 x CPI ₁	28.89 x CPI ₂

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

b. This only applies to holders of supplementary water access licences in Lowbidgee Valley.

Table 2.2 Water take charges for MDB Valleys and Coastal Valleys (excluding Lowbidgee) (\$/ML)

MDB Valley / Coastal Valley	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Border	10.09	11.10 x CPI ₁	12.21 x CPI ₂
Gwydir	24.68	27.15 x CPI ₁	29.86 x CPI ₂
Namoi	44.34	48.77 x CPI ₁	50.26 x CPI ₂
Peel	35.18	38.70 x CPI ₁	42.57 x CPI ₂
Lachlan	44.73	49.21 x CPI ₁	54.13 x CPI ₂
Macquarie	31.06	31.51 x CPI ₁	31.51 x CPI ₂
Murray	4.20	4.62 x CPI ₁	4.79 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	7.13	7.84 x CPI ₁	8.26 x CPI ₂
North Coast	25.75	28.33 x CPI ₁	31.16 x CPI ₂
Hunter	27.47	29.07 x CPI ₁	29.07 x CPI ₂
South Coast	25.51	28.06 x CPI ₁	30.87 x CPI ₂

Table 2.3 MDBA/BRC entitlement charges^a (\$/ML of Entitlement or \$/unit share)

MDB Valley	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
High Security Licence			
Border	6.01	6.61 x CPI ₁	7.27 x CPI ₂
Murray	10.20	10.20 x CPI ₁	10.20 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	2.31	2.31 x CPI ₁	2.31 x CPI ₂
General Security Licence			
Border	2.42	2.66 x CPI ₁	2.93 x CPI ₂
Murray	5.05	5.05 x CPI ₁	5.05 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	0.84	0.84 x CPI ₁	0.84 x CPI ₂

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 2.4 MDBA/BRC water take charges (\$/ML)

MDB Valley	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Border	1.18	1.30 x CPI ₁	1.43 x CPI ₂
Murray	2.38	2.38 x CPI ₁	2.38 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee	0.49	0.49 x CPI ₁	0.49 x CPI ₂

Table 2.5 Irrigation Corporations and districts discount ^a (\$)

Licence holder	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Murray Irrigation Limited	790,329.78	787,966.68 x CPI ₁	784,878.52 x CPI ₂
Western Murray Irrigation Limited	17,044.04	16,993.08 x CPI ₁	16,926.48 x CPI ₂
West Corugan	41,838.13	41,713.04 x CPI ₁	41,549.56 x CPI ₂
Moirra Irrigation Scheme	22,595.96	22,528.40 x CPI ₁	22,440.10 x CPI ₂
Eagle Creek Scheme	4,109.73	4,097.44 x CPI ₁	4,081.38 x CPI ₂
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited	700,810.08	699,555.29 x CPI ₁	698,235.58 x CPI ₂
Coleambally Irrigation Limited	310,025.37	309,470.27 x CPI ₁	308,886.46 x CPI ₂
Jemalong Irrigation Limited	47,654.79	47,499.18 x CPI ₁	47,460.29 x CPI ₂

a. The discounts in this table are annual discounts and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2) for any period under this determination that is less than a full financial year.

Table 2.6 Yanco Creek System entitlement charge ^a (\$/ML of Entitlement or \$/unit share)

Charge	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Yanco Creek System entitlement charge	0.95	0.95 x CPI ₁	0.95 x CPI ₂

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Part 3 Fish River Water Supply Scheme

12 Application

- (1) This Part sets out the maximum prices that Water NSW may levy for supplying rural bulk water services to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme, other than Miscellaneous Charges.
- (2) The maximum prices that Water NSW may levy on customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme consist of the following:
 - a) an access charge and a water take charge for each of bulk raw water and bulk filtered water, calculated in accordance with clause 13; and
 - b) any relevant Miscellaneous Charges calculated in accordance with Part 5.
- (3) Subject to clause 12(4), the minimum annual quantity (**MAQ**) for a customer is the MAQ for that customer set out in Table 3.1.
- (4) Where the Fish River Licence has been amended after the Commencement Date:
 - a) to alter the water allocation for a Major Customer (including Oberon Council); or
 - b) to include a water allocation for a new Major Customer,

the MAQ for that Major Customer is the yearly supply availability for that Major Customer under the Fish River Licence at "Nil" restriction level.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the new metering charges in the 2025 WAMC Determination do not apply in any circumstances to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme.]

13 Fish River Water Supply Customers

Water NSW may levy the following maximum prices on customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme:

- (1) an access charge, expressed in dollars per kilolitre of MAQ, in:
 - a) Table 3.2 for bulk raw water; and
 - b) Table 3.3 for bulk filtered water,

for the relevant customer and relevant year in that table, multiplied by that customer's MAQ; and
- (2) a water take charge, expressed in dollars per kilolitre of water taken, calculated as follows:
 - a) for each kilolitre of water taken up to and including the MAQ for the relevant customer – the first tier water take charge in:
 - (i) Table 3.2 for bulk raw water; and
 - (ii) Table 3.3 for bulk filtered water,

for the relevant year in that table, multiplied by that customer's water take, up to and including that customer's MAQ; and

- b) for each kilolitre of water taken in excess of the MAQ for the relevant customer – the second tier water take charge, which is calculated by adding together the access charge and the first tier water take charge in:
- (i) Table 3.2 for bulk raw water; and
 - (ii) Table 3.3 for bulk filtered water,

for the relevant year in that table, multiplied by that part of the customer's water take which is in excess of that customer's MAQ.

[Note: The calculation in clause 13(1) requires multiplication by a customer's 'minimum annual quantity' and on that basis is an annual charge. In order to calculate the charge under clause 13(1) for any period under this determination that is less than a full financial year, the charge must be calculated in accordance with clause 13(1), then pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2).]

Table 3.1 Fish River Water Supply Scheme customers – minimum annual quantity (MAQ)

Customer	Bulk Raw Water	Bulk Filtered Water
Minor Customers (kL/year)	200	200
EnergyAustralia (ML/year)	8,184	0
Oberon Council (ML/year)	1,064	0
Lithgow City Council (ML/year)	100	1,678
Water NSW (Greater Sydney) (ML/year)	3,650	0

Table 3.2 Fish River Water Supply Scheme customers – bulk raw water (\$/kL)

	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Access charge			
Major Customers (except Oberon Council)	0.71	$0.77 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.77 \times \text{CPI}_2$
Minor Customers	0.71	$0.77 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.77 \times \text{CPI}_2$
Oberon Council	0.60	$0.66 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.73 \times \text{CPI}_2$
First tier water take charge			
Major Customers (except Oberon Council)	0.47	$0.51 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.56 \times \text{CPI}_2$
Minor Customers	0.47	$0.51 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.56 \times \text{CPI}_2$
Oberon Council	0.36	$0.40 \times \text{CPI}_1$	$0.44 \times \text{CPI}_2$

Table 3.3 Fish River Water Supply Scheme customers – bulk filtered water (\$/kL)

	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Access charge			
Major Customers	1.23	1.33 x CPI ₁	1.33 x CPI ₂
Minor Customers	1.23	1.33 x CPI ₁	1.33 x CPI ₂
First tier water take charge			
Major Customers	0.76	0.84 x CPI ₁	0.84 x CPI ₂
Minor Customers	0.76	0.84 x CPI ₁	0.84 x CPI ₂

Part 4 Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer

14 Application

Part 4 sets the maximum price that Water NSW may charge Tamworth Regional Council for the Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer.

15 Calculating the cost of the Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer

The maximum price that Water NSW may charge Tamworth Regional Council for the Chaffey Dam Pipeline transfer for a month is the amount calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Volume} \times \text{Composite Energy Factor} \times \text{Energy Price}$$

Where:

- Volume** is the actual volume of water (ML) transferred during the month through the Chaffey Dam Pipeline, as measured and recorded by Water NSW;
- Composite Energy Factor** is 0.391MWh/ML;
- Energy Price** is, in respect of the month, an energy price benchmark specified in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Energy Price (\$ per MWh)

Commencement Date to			
30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029	
134.92	132.32 x CPI ₁	132.52 x CPI ₂	

Part 5 Miscellaneous charges

16 Application

This Part sets out the maximum prices that Water NSW may levy for supplying various miscellaneous rural bulk water services across MDB Valleys and Coastal Valleys, as well as to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme.

17 Meter service charge

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), Water NSW may levy the relevant meter service charge set out in Table 5.1 on the holder of a Water Supply Work Approval with a Government-Owned Meter installed. This charge is expressed in dollars per Government-Owned Meter per annum, and is determined according to the size of the Government-Owned Meter.
- (2) On and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day for a Government-Owned Meter, Water NSW may not levy the charge in clause 17(1).

[Note: For a Government-Owned Meter that measures water taken from a Regulated River water source, on and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day for that meter, refer to clauses 24 and 25 of the 2025 WAMC Determination.]

18 Meter accuracy testing charge

- (1) Where a Licence Holder requests that Water NSW conduct a Meter Accuracy Test, Water NSW may levy the meter accuracy deposit set out in Table 5.2. Water NSW must return the meter accuracy deposit to the customer if the relevant Government-Owned Meter is not found to be within relevant accuracy standards.
- (2) Where Water NSW conducts a Meter Accuracy Test and the Government-Owned Meter is found to be within the relevant accuracy standards, Water NSW may levy the total meter accuracy testing charge set out in Table 5.2, less the meter accuracy deposit set out in Table 5.2.

19 Other Miscellaneous Charges

Water NSW may levy the other Miscellaneous Charges set out in Table 5.3 on a Licence Holder.

Table 5.1 Meter service charges^a (\$ per meter)

Size of Government-Owned Meter	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
50mm	593.52	593.52 x CPI ₁	593.52 x CPI ₂
80mm	596.29	596.29 x CPI ₁	596.29 x CPI ₂
100mm	596.28	596.28 x CPI ₁	596.28 x CPI ₂
150mm	603.28	603.28 x CPI ₁	603.28 x CPI ₂
200mm	606.74	606.74 x CPI ₁	606.74 x CPI ₂
250mm	609.96	609.96 x CPI ₁	609.96 x CPI ₂
300mm	618.24	618.24 x CPI ₁	618.24 x CPI ₂
350mm	655.48	655.48 x CPI ₁	655.48 x CPI ₂
400mm	677.66	677.66 x CPI ₁	677.66 x CPI ₂
450mm	681.93	681.93 x CPI ₁	681.93 x CPI ₂
500mm	700.10	700.10 x CPI ₁	700.10 x CPI ₂
600mm	723.38	723.38 x CPI ₁	723.38 x CPI ₂
700mm	751.03	751.03 x CPI ₁	751.03 x CPI ₂
750mm	789.76	789.76 x CPI ₁	789.76 x CPI ₂
800mm	815.93	815.93 x CPI ₁	815.93 x CPI ₂
900mm	824.22	824.22 x CPI ₁	824.22 x CPI ₂
1,000mm	839.54	839.54 x CPI ₁	839.54 x CPI ₂
Channel	7,778.65	7,778.65 x CPI ₁	7,778.65 x CPI ₂

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 26(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 5.2 Meter accuracy testing charges (\$ per meter tested)

Meter accuracy testing charges	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Meter accuracy deposit	1,750	1,750	1,750
Total meter accuracy testing charge (if meter is found to be within accuracy standards)			
Verification and testing in situ	7,519.52	1,750 + 5,769.52 x CPI ₁	1,750 + 5,769.52 x CPI ₂
Lab verification and testing	10,383.45	1,750 + 8,633.45 x CPI ₁	1,750 + 8,633.45 x CPI ₂

Table 5.3 Other Miscellaneous Charges (\$)

Charge	Commencement Date to 30 June 2027	1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028	1 July 2028 to 30 June 2029
Trade processing charge per application	61.59	61.59 x CPI ₁	61.59 x CPI ₂
Fish River connection charge (per connection)			
Low complexity connection ^a	1,142.70	1,142.70 x CPI ₁	1,142.70 x CPI ₂
Medium complexity connection ^b	4,332.60	4,332.60 x CPI ₁	4,332.60 x CPI ₂
High complexity connection ^c	8,858.31	8,858.31 x CPI ₁	8,858.31 x CPI ₂
Fish River disconnection charge (per disconnection)	321.70	321.70 x CPI ₁	321.70 x CPI ₂

a. Where no tapping band or pressure reducing valve is required.

b. Where a tapping band is required.

c. Where a pressure reducing valve is required.

Part 6 Legislative framework

20 Legislative framework

- (1) This determination is made under Part 3 of the IPART Act. IPART is required to conduct investigations and make reports to the Minister on the determination of pricing for government monopoly services supplied by a government agency specified in Schedule 1 to the IPART Act.
- (2) Water NSW is listed as a government agency in Schedule 1 to the IPART Act, but excluding any services provided by Water NSW in respect of which fees or charges may be approved or determined in accordance with Parts 6 or 7 of the WCR, or the applied provisions^a under Part 3B of the IPART Act.
- (3) The ACCC has formed the view that Water NSW ceased to be a Part 6 operator under rule 23 of the WCR after 30 June 2025, such that fees and charges for services provided by Water NSW may not be approved or determined in accordance with the WCR and must be set under NSW law.^b
- (4) Section 4(1) of the IPART Act provides that a government monopoly service is a service supplied by a government agency and declared to be a government monopoly service. Section 4(7) of the IPART Act provides that Water NSW is taken to be the supplier of any government monopoly services for which fees and charges are payable under the Water NSW Act.
- (5) The Water Services Order declares certain services provided by the 'State Water Corporation' to be government monopoly services, namely:
 - a) the making available of water;
 - b) the making available of the State Water Corporation's water supply facilities; or
 - c) the supplying of water, whether by means of the State Water Corporation's water supply facilities or otherwise,(together, **Monopoly Services**).
- (6) References to the former State Water Corporation in the Water Services Order are to be read as references to Water NSW, in accordance with clause 24 of Schedule 2 of the Water NSW Act.
- (7) Accordingly, under the IPART Act, IPART is to conduct an investigation and make a report to the Minister that determines maximum prices for Monopoly Services supplied by Water NSW.

^a The 'applied provisions' include, among other things, Divisions 2, 3 and 4 of Part 6 of the WCR, and Schedule 2 of the WCR.

^b 'ACCC Decision - WaterNSW will cease to be a Part 6 operator under the Water Charge Rules 2010', 13 April 2022.

Part 7 Definitions and interpretation

21 Interpretation

In this determination:

- (1) headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this determination;
- (2) a reference to a part, clause, paragraph or table is a reference to a part of, clause of, paragraph in, or table in, this determination unless otherwise indicated;
- (3) a construction that would promote a purpose or object expressly or impliedly underlying the IPART Act is to be preferred to a construction that would not promote that purpose or object;
- (4) a reference to a law or statute includes regulations, rules, codes and other instruments (including licences) under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of them or of the law or statute itself;
- (5) a reference to a Licence Holder's water take for the purposes of calculating a water take charge as that term is used in Part 2 (including an MDBA/BRC water take charge as that term is used in Part 2) means:
 - a) where the Licence Holder has traded or transferred an allocation of water (including by "tagging" the relevant Water Licence) to a person whose extraction of water is measured by a Government-Owned Meter - the metered volume of water extracted by that person;
 - b) where the Licence Holder has traded or transferred an allocation of water (including by "tagging" the relevant Water Licence) to a person whose extraction of water is not measured by a Government-Owned Meter:
 - (i) if Water NSW has access to relevant and reliable metering information – the metered volume of water extracted by that person; or
 - (ii) if relevant and reliable metering information is not reasonably available to Water NSW – Water NSW's best estimate of the volume of water extracted by that person; or
 - c) in any other case - the metered volume of water extracted by the Licence Holder;
- (6) a reference to a person includes a reference to the person's executors, administrators, successors, replacements (including, but not limited to, persons taking by novation), agents and assigns;
- (7) a reference to a body, whether statutory or not:
 - a) which ceases to exist; or
 - b) whose powers or functions are transferred to another body,is a reference to the body which replaces it or which substantially succeeds to its powers or functions; and

- (8) a reference to a business name which is replaced by a different business name is taken to be a reference to the replacement business name.

22 Rounding rules

- (1) Any maximum price calculated in accordance with this determination is to be rounded to the nearest whole cent.
- (2) For the purposes of rounding a maximum price under clause 22(1), any amount that is a multiple of 0.5 cents (but not a multiple of 1 cent), is to be rounded up to the nearest whole cent.
- (3) The CPI Multipliers calculated under clause 31 are to be rounded to three decimal places before adjusting a maximum price for inflation.
- (4) For the purposes of rounding the CPI Multipliers under clause 22(3), any amount that is a multiple of 0.0005 (but not a multiple of 0.001) is to be rounded up to three decimal places.

23 Explanatory notes

Explanatory notes and examples do not form part of this determination, but in the case of uncertainty may be relied on for interpretation purposes.

24 Prices exclusive of GST

- (1) Maximum prices specified in this determination exclude GST.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, where GST is lawfully applied to maximum prices under this determination, the resulting GST inclusive price is consistent with this determination.

25 Billing cycle and meter reading

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this determination affects when Water NSW:

- (1) may issue a bill to a customer for prices or charges under this determination, or
- (2) must read a meter.

26 Annual charges and pro-rating

- (1) The annual charges in this determination apply to each financial year (1 July to 30 June inclusive).
- (2) In respect of any period after the Commencement Date that is less than a full financial year, the annual charges and annual discounts in this determination (other than charges calculated by reference to water take) will be pro-rated for that period, based on the proportion that the number of days in that period bears to the number of days in the financial year.

[Note: For example, if this determination were to commence on 1 August 2026, the annual charges in this determination would be pro-rated based on the number of days in the period from 1 August 2026 to 30 June 2027 as a proportion of the total number of days in the financial year from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.]

- (3) Different annual charges apply to Government-Owned Meters and Privately-Owned Meters. Where a person switches from a Government-Owned Meter to a Privately-Owned Meter (or vice versa), the annual charges will be pro-rated based on the proportion of days in the year that the person had:
- a) a Government-Owned Meter installed; and
 - b) a Privately-Owned Meter installed.

[Note: Clause 26 is not intended to prohibit Water NSW from issuing a bill for any period before the Commencement Date.]

27 Billing on behalf of WAMC

Nothing in this determination prevents Water NSW from billing on behalf of WAMC for services provided by WAMC.

28 Entitlement charges

For the purpose of calculating an entitlement charge, as that term is used in Part 2 (including an MDBA/BRC entitlement charge as that term is used in Part 2):

- (1) a reference to an Entitlement is a reference to an Entitlement without regard to any part of the Entitlement that may be carried over from a previous year;
- (2) where the share component of the Water Licence is expressed as a volume, the entitlement charge is expressed in dollars per megalitre of Entitlement; and
- (3) where the share component of the Water Licence is expressed in unit shares or as a proportion of available water, the entitlement charge is expressed in dollars per unit share.

29 Metering of water take charges for Irrigation Corporations

The metering of water take charges for the supply of water to an Irrigation Corporation from a Valley is to be determined at the point or points of offtake from the Regulated River or as set out in that Irrigation Corporation's Water Supply Work Approval.

30 MDB and Coastal Valleys

- (1) In this determination, a reference to an MDB Valley is a reference to the relevant Valley in the MDB more fully described in the following table:

Table 6.1 MDB Valley

	Description
Regulated Rivers	
Border	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Border Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Border Rivers including the Severn, the Macintyre and Dumaresq rivers down to Mungindi.
Gwydir	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Gwydir Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Gwydir River and Gwydir Wetlands, Mehi river, Gil Creek and Moomin Creek to the junction with the Barwon River.
Namoi	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Namoi Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Namoi River to Peel River and Pian Creek to Barwon River.
Peel	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Peel Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Peel River to junction with Namoi River.
Lachlan	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Lachlan Valley and Belubula River, then the water sources as defined in those plans. In any other case: Lachlan and Belubula River to the Murrumbidgee River junction.
Macquarie	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Macquarie Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Macquarie River, the Cudgegong and Bogen rivers to junction with Darling River.
Murray	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Murray Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Murray River including the Darling River below Menindee.
Murrumbidgee	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Murrumbidgee Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan (excluding Lowbidgee extractions). In any other case: Murrumbidgee River to junction with Murray River, including Yanco, Columbo and Billabong Creeks and Tumut River.
Lowbidgee	If a relevant water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Lowbidgee Valley, then the water sources for the Lowbidgee area as defined in that plan. In any other case: the area of the former Lowbidgee Flood Control and Irrigation District, as constituted under the former Part 7 of the Water Act (NSW), plus a small additional area required to incorporate the whole of the water body Lake Marimley in the water source.

(2) In this determination, a reference to a Coastal Valley is a reference to the relevant Valley more fully described in the following table:

Table 6.2 Coastal Valley

Regulated Rivers	Description
North Coast	If a water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the North Coast Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Regulated flows for Iron Pot and Eden Creeks.
Hunter	If a water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the Hunter Valley and Paterson River, then the water sources as defined in those plans. In any other case: Hunter River, including Paterson River and Glennies Creek.

South Coast	If a water sharing plan under the Water Management Act is in place for the South Coast Valley, then the water sources as defined in that plan. In any other case: Brogo and Bega River Catchments.
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- (3) A reference in this determination to the 'relevant MDB Valley' or the 'relevant Coastal Valley' (other than in the case of the water take component of a licence) is a reference to the MDB Valley or the Coastal Valley for a Licence Holder as set out in the Licence Register. In the case of the water take component of a licence, the 'relevant MDB Valley' or the 'relevant Coastal Valley' is:
- in the case of a Tagged Water Entitlement: the MDB Valley or Coastal Valley as set out in the Licence Register for the Licence Holder whose nomination of the 'tagged' extraction point has been approved under section 71W of the Water Management Act; and
 - in the case of a licence transfer, or an assignment of rights or water allocations, each under Chapter 3, Part 2 of the Water Management Act: the MDB Valley or Coastal Valley as set out in the Licence Register for the transferor or assignee (as the case may be).

31 Consumer Price Index

- (1) CPI means:
- the consumer price All Groups index number for the weighted average of eight capital cities, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, or
 - if the Australian Bureau of Statistics does not or ceases to publish the index, then CPI will mean an index determined by IPART.
- (2) The CPI Multipliers are calculated using the applicable formula in Box 6.1:

Box 6.1 Calculation of CPI Multipliers

$$CPI_1 = \frac{CPI_{March2027}}{CPI_{March2026}}$$

$$CPI_2 = \frac{CPI_{March2028}}{CPI_{March2026}}$$

Where:

$CPI_{March2026}$ means CPI for the March quarter of 2026;

$CPI_{March2027}$ means CPI for the March quarter of 2027; and

$CPI_{March2028}$ means CPI for the March quarter of 2028.

32 Definitions

32.1 General definitions

In this determination:

2025 Determination means IPART's determination titled 'Maximum prices for Water NSW's Rural Bulk Water Services from 1 July 2025' published in New South Wales, *Government Gazette*, No. 265 of 27 June 2025, p 195.

2025 WAMC Determination means IPART's determination titled 'Water Administration Ministerial Corporation - Maximum prices for water management services from 1 October 2025' published in New South Wales, *Government Gazette*, No. 397 of 29 September 2025, p 2.

Aboriginal Community Development Licence means the category of access licence referred to in Schedule 3 of the Water Management Regulation as a 'regulated river (high security) Aboriginal community development' licence.

Aboriginal Cultural Licence means the category of access licence referred to in Schedule 3 of the Water Management Regulation as a 'regulated river (high security) Aboriginal cultural' licence.

ACCC means the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

BRC means the Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission constituted under the New South Wales–Queensland Border Rivers Agreement made in 1946 and ratified under section 5 of the *New South Wales–Queensland Border Rivers Act 1947* (NSW).

Chaffey Dam Pipeline means the pipeline that:

- (a) transports water from the Chaffey Dam to Calala Water Treatment Plant; and
- (b) is operated by, or on behalf of, Water NSW.

Coastal Valley has the meaning given in clause 30(2).

Commencement Date has the meaning given to that term in clause 2(1).

CPI Multiplier means CPI_1 or CPI_2 as defined in clause 31.

Entitlement means the maximum quantity of water that a Licence Holder has a right to take from a Regulated River in a Valley by means of a Water Licence.

Fish River Licence means the water management licence granted in May 2012 under Part 9 of the Water Act (NSW) pertaining to the taking and use of water from the Fish River and the Duckmaloi River, as amended or replaced from time to time (including, where replaced by a licence or approval under the Water Management Act).

Fish River Water Supply Scheme has the meaning given to that term in the Water NSW Act.

General Security Licence means a Water Licence of any of the following types (within the meaning of section 57 of the Water Management Act and Schedule 3 of the Water Management Regulation):

- (a) supplementary water access licence to the extent that it applies to the Lowbidgee Valley;
- (b) the following access licences:
 - (i) regulated river (conveyance) access licence;
 - (ii) regulated river (general security) access licence;
 - (iii) Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance) access licence;
 - (iv) Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance) access licence; or
- (c) any other access licence that is not a High Security Licence or a supplementary water access licence.

Government-Owned Meter means a meter that is owned by the NSW Government and installed in connection with a Water Supply Work, including any such meter owned by Water NSW, WAMC or any other NSW government agency or state owned corporation.

High Security Licence means a Water Licence of any of the following types (within the meaning of section 57 of the Water Management Act):

- (a) local water utility access licence;
- (b) major utility access licence;
- (c) domestic and stock access licence; or
- (d) regulated river (high security) access licence.

IPART means the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales established under the IPART Act.

IPART Act means the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (NSW).

Irrigation Corporation has the meaning given to that term under the Water Management Act.

Licence Holder means the holder of a Water Licence.

Licence Register means the Water Access Licence Register kept under section 17 of the Water Management Act.

Major Customer means a customer in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme specifically identified in the Fish River Licence.

[Note: At the Commencement Date, the Major Customers are EnergyAustralia, Oberon Council, Lithgow City Council and Water NSW (Greater Sydney).]

MAQ refers to minimum annual quantity and has the meaning given in clauses 12(3) or 12(4), as the case may be.

MDB has the meaning given to the term 'Murray-Darling Basin' in section 18A of the Water Act (Cth).

[Note: An indicative map of the MDB is set out in Schedule 1A of the Water Act (Cth).]

MDB Valley has the meaning given in clause 30(1).

MDBA means the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, being the authority established under section 171 of the Water Act (Cth).

Meter Accuracy Test means a test, conducted at a Licence Holder's request, of a Government- Owned Meter to determine whether that Government-Owned Meter meets relevant accuracy standards.

Metering Requirements means the metering equipment requirements set out in Schedule 8 of the Water Management Regulation.

Minor Customer means a customer in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme that is not a Major Customer.

Miscellaneous Charge means any charge included in Part 5.

Monopoly Service has the meaning given to that term in clause 20(5).

New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a Government-Owned Meter, the later of:

- (a) the day the meter becomes compliant with the Metering Requirements; and
- (b) if there is a date specified in the Water Management Regulation from which a temporary exemption from the Metering Requirements would cease to have effect in respect of the meter, that date.

Privately-Owned Meter means a meter that is not a Government-Owned Meter.

Regulated River has the meaning given to that term under the Water Management Act.

Regulated River Bulk Water Services has the meaning given in clause 5(1).

Tagged Water Entitlement means an Entitlement held by a Licence Holder that has been 'tagged' to an extraction point under section 71W of the Water Management Act.

Tamworth Regional Council means any council constituted from time to time under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) in respect of an area which covers all, or a substantial part, of the area of the Tamworth Regional Council as constituted at the Commencement Date.

Valley means an MDB Valley or a Coastal Valley, as the case may be.

WAMC means the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation, being the corporation established under section 371 of the Water Management Act, and which is a continuation of, and the same legal entity as, the corporation of that name constituted by the *Water Administration Act 1986* (NSW) (by virtue of clause 17 of Schedule 9 of the Water Management Act).

Water Act (Cth) means the *Water Act 2007* (Cth).

Water Act (NSW) means the *Water Act 1912* (NSW).

Water Licence means an access licence referred to in section 56 of the Water Management Act, of any the following categories (as referred to in section 57 of that Act and Schedule 3 of the Water Management Regulation):

- (a) regulated river (high security) access licence;
- (b) regulated river (general security) access licence;

- (c) regulated river (conveyance) access licence;
- (d) supplementary water access licence;
- (e) major utility access licence;
- (f) local water utility access licence;
- (g) domestic and stock access licence;
- (h) Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance) access licence;
- (i) Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance) access licence; or
- (j) any other category of access licence that authorises the extraction of water from a Regulated River.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, this determination does not apply to floodplain harvesting access licences.]

Water Management Act means the *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW).

Water Management Regulation means the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* (NSW).

Water NSW means the statutory corporation constituted under the Water NSW Act.

Water NSW Act means the *Water NSW Act 2014* (NSW).

Water Services Order means the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (Water Services) Order 2004*.

Water Supply Work has the meaning given to that term in the Water Management Act.

Water Supply Work Approval has the meaning given to that term in the Water Management Act.

WCR means the *Water Charge Rules 2010* (Cth).

Yanco Creek System has the meaning given to the term 'Yanco System' in Schedule 4 of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source 2016*.