

WAMC prices for Hunter regulated rivers

9 September 2021

Your total prices will increase from 1 October 2021

We have reviewed the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation's (WAMC) efficient costs and prices. As presented in Table 1, total prices will increase from 1 October 2021.

For this water source, the WAMC water management prices are transitioning towards full cost recovery. Price increases will be capped at 2.5% per year (before inflation) to mitigate bill impacts for water users. The total prices are increasing by 11.5% (before inflation) from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Schedule of prices from 1 October 2021

Table 1: Prices for 2-part tariffs (\$/ML, \$2021-22)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change from 2020-21 to 2024-25
Entitlement price						
Water management		3.24	3.32	3.40	3.49	NA
MDBA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
BRC		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Combined	3.12	3.24	3.32	3.40	3.49	11.8%
Water take price						
Water management		2.21	2.27	2.33	2.38	NA
MDBA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
BRC		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Combined	2.14	2.21	2.27	2.33	2.38	11.1%
Total price	5.26	5.45	5.59	5.73	5.87	11.5%

Note: The percentage change includes the impact of inflation from 2020-21 to 2021-22 of 1.1%.

Source: IPART analysis.

Key drivers of prices changes

Total prices will increase by 11.5%. This is mainly due to higher total costs allocated to this water source (up by 10% or around \$0.4 million) since the 2016 price review because of:

- Higher capital costs. During 2016-2021 period, WAMC actual capital expenditure was much higher than allowed in the 2016 price review. A large proportion of the additional capital expenditure was on corporate systems. Over the 2021 determination period, we have allowed further capital expenditure on corporate systems to deliver required functions. The additional historical and future investments result in higher return on assets and regulatory depreciation, and therefore an increase in the costs allocated to this water source.

Total prices have increased by more than total allocated costs because total prices for this water source were below full cost recovery in 2020-21. To mitigate bill impacts on water users, total prices are increasing at 2.5% (before inflation) annually while transitioning to full cost recovery over the 2021 determination period.

Minimum annual charge set at \$221.50 per licence

We have set the minimum annual charge (MAC) at \$221.50 per licence in 2021-22. The MAC recovers most of WAMC's costs associated with account management services (i.e. compliance management, customer management and billing management). The MAC will increase by 2.5% per year (before inflation) over the 2021 determination period.