



Maximum prices for Water NSW's Rural  
Bulk Water Services from 1 July 2025

## Final Determination

June 2025

Water >>

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## Acknowledgment of Country

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands where we live and work. Our office is located on Gadigal land and our work touches on Aboriginal lands and waterways across NSW.

We pay respect to their Elders both past and present, and recognise Aboriginal people's unique and continuing cultural connections, rights and relationships to land, water and Country.

## Tribunal Members

The Tribunal members for this review are:

Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair  
Dr Darryl Biggar  
Sharon Henrick

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## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Application

- (1) This determination fixes maximum prices or sets a methodology for fixing maximum prices for the following 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) miscellaneous services under Part 4, and
  - (d) metering services under Part 5.
- (2) For the avoidance of doubt, this determination fixes the maximum prices that Water NSW may levy for Monopoly Services. It does not specify who Water NSW may levy the maximum prices on.

### 2 Commencement and term

- (1) This determination commences on the later of:
  - (a) 1 July 2025; and
  - (b) the date that this determination is published in the NSW Government Gazette, (**Commencement Date**).
- (2) Subject to clauses 2(3) and 2(4), the maximum prices fixed under this determination apply from the Commencement Date to 30 June 2026.
- (3) The maximum prices for the metering accuracy deposit in Table 4.2 and all services under Part 5 of this determination prevailing at 30 June 2026 continue to apply after 30 June 2026 until the determination of those maximum prices is revoked or replaced.
- (4) The maximum prices for all other services under this determination after 30 June 2026 are the maximum prices prevailing at 30 June 2026 multiplied by  $CPI_x$  as applicable to the relevant financial year, and continue to apply until this determination is revoked or replaced.

### 3 Nil price for Aboriginal 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 is nil.

### 4 Replacement of the 2021 Determination

- (1) With effect from the Commencement Date, this determination replaces the 2021 Determination.

- (2) The 2021 Determination ceases to have effect upon its replacement. Replacement of the 2021 Determination does not affect anything done or omitted to be done, or rights or obligations accrued, under the 2021 Determination and before the Commencement Date.

## 5 Legislative background

- (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<sup>a</sup> under Part 3B of the IPART Act.
- (3) The ACCC has formed the view that Water NSW ceases 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.<sup>b</sup>
- (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.

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

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

- (8) Under section 13A(2) of the IPART Act, IPART may not choose to make a determination that involves setting the methodology for fixing a maximum price, unless IPART is of the opinion that it is impractical to make a determination directly fixing the maximum price.
- (9) Under section 13A(3) of the IPART Act, if IPART makes a determination that involves setting the methodology for fixing a maximum price, then it must include a statement of reasons as to why it chose to set a methodology.

## 6 Statement of reasons for setting methodologies for metering services

IPART has set methodologies for fixing the maximum price for metering services. This is because the cost of providing metering services depends on a number of variables such as Water NSW's average capital expenditure and estimates of meter uptake. It is impractical to make a determination directly fixing a maximum price for these services.

## Part 2 Regulated River Bulk Water Services

### 7 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 and New Metering Charges.
- (2) Subject to clause 7(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 8;
  - (b) a water take charge calculated in accordance with clause 9, except in relation to the Lowbidgee Valley;
  - (c) for the MDB Valleys of Border, Murray and Murrumbidgee:
    - (i) an MDBA/BRC entitlement charge calculated in accordance with clause 10; and
    - (ii) an MDBA/BRC water take charge calculated in accordance with clause 11;
  - (d) for a Licence Holder in the Yanco Creek System, a Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council charge calculated in accordance with clause 13;
  - (e) any relevant Miscellaneous Charges calculated in accordance with Part 4; and
  - (f) any relevant New Metering Charges calculated in accordance with Part 5.
- (3) In levying the maximum prices under this Part on a Licence Holder listed in Table 2.5, Water NSW must apply the discount calculated in accordance with clause 12.

## 8 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 33 for the calculation of the entitlement charge, and clause 35(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley' and 'relevant Coastal Valley'.]

## 9 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 9 in respect of any water taken.

[Note: Refer to clause 26(5) for the calculation of a Licence Holder's water take, and clause 35(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley' and 'relevant Coastal Valley'.]

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the charge in clause 9 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.]

## 10 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 10 may be levied in addition to any other charges provided for in this Part. Refer to clause 33 for the calculation of the entitlement charge, and clause 35(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley'.]

## 11 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 11 in respect of any water taken.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the charge in clause 11 may be levied in addition to any other charges provided for in this Part. Refer to clause 26(5)(c) for the calculation of a Licence Holder's water take, and clause 35(3) for the meaning of 'relevant MDB Valley'.]

## 12 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.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, after 30 June 2026, the discounts listed in Table 2.5 must be multiplied by CPIx as applicable to the relevant financial year, and continue to apply until this determination is revoked or replaced.]

## 13 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 33 for the calculation of the entitlement charge.]

**Table 2.1 Entitlement charges for MDB Valleys and Coastal Valleys (\$/ML of Entitlement or \$/unit share)<sup>b</sup>**

<b>MDB Valley</b>	<b>Commencement Date to 30 June 2026</b>
<b>High Security Licence</b>	
Border	8.31
Gwydir	21.96
Namoi	36.51
Peel	77.43
Lachlan	31.67
Macquarie	25.47
Murray	2.85
Murrumbidgee	5.26
North Coast	15.30
Hunter	25.16
South Coast	40.04
<b>General Security Licence</b>	
Border	3.04
Gwydir	5.10
Namoi	12.75
Peel	7.34
Lachlan	4.68
Macquarie	4.97
Murray	1.25
Murrumbidgee	1.81
Lowbidgee <sup>a</sup>	2.17
North Coast	11.86
Hunter	19.55
South Coast	20.99

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

b. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

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

MDB Valley	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Border	8.87
Gwydir	21.70
Namoi	38.98
Peel	30.93
Lachlan	39.33
Macquarie	27.31
Murray	3.69
Murrumbidgee	6.27
North Coast	22.64
Hunter	24.15
South Coast	22.43

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

	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
<b>High Security Licence</b>	
Border	5.84
Murray	10.37
Murrumbidgee	2.23
<b>General Security Licence</b>	
Border	2.13
Murray	4.56
Murrumbidgee	0.77

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(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)

	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Border	1.04
Murray	2.22
Murrumbidgee	0.44

Table 2.5 Irrigation Corporations and districts discount <sup>a</sup> (\$)

Licence holder	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Murray Irrigation Limited	778,174.97
Western Murray Irrigation Limited	19,658.79
West Corugan	38,914.36
Moirra Irrigation Scheme	20,535.61
Eagle Creek Scheme	7,351.02
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited	678,714.32
Coleambally Irrigation Limited	290,874.66
Jemalong Irrigation Limited	59,371.23

a. The discounts in this table are annual discounts and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination that is less than a full financial year.

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

Charge	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Yanco Creek System entitlement charge	0.92

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(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

### 14 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 15; and
  - (b) any relevant Miscellaneous Charges calculated in accordance with Part 4.
- (3) Subject to clause 14(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 Part 5 do not apply in any circumstances to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme.]

### 15 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 15(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 15(1) for any period under this determination that is less than a full financial year, the charge must be calculated in accordance with clause 15(1), then pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(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 2026	
<b>Access Charge</b>	
Major Customers (except Oberon Council)	0.62
Oberon Council	0.53
Minor Customers	0.62
<b>First tier water take charge</b>	
Major Customers (except Oberon Council)	0.41
Oberon Council	0.32
Minor Customers	0.41

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

Commencement Date to 30 June 2026	
<b>Access Charge</b>	
Major Customers	1.08
Minor Customers	1.08
<b>First tier water take charge</b>	
Major Customers	0.67
Minor Customers	0.67

## Part 4 Miscellaneous charges

### 16 Application

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), 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.
- (2) For a Government-Owned Meter to which Part 5 applies, on and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day for that meter, the:
  - (a) meter service charge in clause 17 will cease to apply; and
  - (b) charges in clauses 22 and 23 of Part 5 will instead apply.

### 17 Meter service charge

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), Water NSW may levy the relevant meter service charge set out in Table 4.1 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, the charge in clause 17(1) is replaced by the charges in clauses 22 and 23 of Part 5 for that meter.

### 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 4.2. 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 4.2, less the meter accuracy deposit set out in Table 4.2.

### 19 Other Miscellaneous Charges

Water NSW may levy the other Miscellaneous Charges set out in Table 4.3 on a Licence Holder.

Table 4.1 Meter service charges <sup>a</sup> (\$ per meter)

Size of Government- Owned Meter	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
50mm	574.00
80mm	576.68
100mm	576.67
150mm	583.44
200mm	586.79
250mm	589.90
300mm	597.91
350mm	633.93
400mm	655.38
450mm	659.51
500mm	677.08
600mm	699.59
700mm	726.33
750mm	763.79
800mm	789.10
900mm	797.12
1,000mm	811.93
Channel	7,522.87

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 4.2 Meter accuracy testing charges (\$ per meter)

Meter accuracy testing charges	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Meter accuracy deposit	1,750
<b>Total meter accuracy testing charge (if meter is found to be within accuracy standards)</b>	
Verification and testing in situ	5,579.81
Lab verification and testing	8,349.56

Table 4.3 Other Miscellaneous Charges (\$ per meter)

Charge	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Trade processing charge per application	59.56
<b>Fish River connection charge (per connection)</b>	
Low complexity connection <sup>a</sup>	1,105.13
Medium complexity connection <sup>b</sup>	4,190.14
High complexity connection <sup>c</sup>	8,567.03
Fish River disconnection charge (per disconnection)	311.12

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 5 New Metering Charges

### 20 Application

- (1) This Part sets out maximum prices that Water NSW may levy on a:
  - (a) Licence Holder; and
  - (b) holder of a Water Supply Work Approval,
 for supplying various metering services in relation to a Water Licence or Water Supply Work Approval that authorises the taking of water from a Regulated River.
- (2) For a Government-Owned Meter, on and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day for that meter, the charge set out in clause 17(1) of Part 4 will cease to apply and the charges in clauses 22 and 23 will instead apply.
- (3) For a Privately-Owned Meter, on and from the New Private Meter Charge Trigger Day for that meter, the charge in clause 23 will apply.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, none of the charges in this Part apply to customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme.]

### 21 Scheme management charge

Water NSW may levy on a person referred to in clause 20(1), the annual scheme management charge set out in Table 5.1 for the relevant year, and relevant Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for that year.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the scheme management charge set out in clause 21 applies regardless of whether a relevant person has a meter or not and applies from the Commencement Date. Where a person referred to in clause 20(1) holds more than one Water Licence and/or is the holder of more than one Water Supply Work Approval, then the scheme management charge may be levied in respect of each such Water Licence or Water Supply Work Approval.]

### 22 Government-Owned Meter service charges

- (1) On and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day for the relevant Government-Owned Meter, Water NSW may levy on a person referred to in clause 20(1) with:
  - (a) a Government-Owned Meter that is not a channel meter:
    - (i) the meter service charge – operating costs; and
    - (ii) the meter service charge – capital costs; and
  - (b) a Government-Owned Meter that is a channel meter: the channel meter service charge – operating costs,

set out in Table 5.2 for the relevant year and expressed in dollars per relevant Government-Owned Meter per annum.

## 23 Telemetry and non-telemetry service charges

- (1) The charges in clause 23 apply on and from:
  - (a) for a Government-Owned Meter, the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day; and
  - (b) for a Privately-Owned Meter, the New Private Meter Charge Trigger Day.
- (2) Water NSW may levy on a person referred to in clause 20(1) the telemetry service charge expressed in dollars per meter in Table 5.3 for the relevant year and relevant Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for that year, if:
  - (a) the Metering Requirements require the relevant meter to use telemetry; or
  - (b) the Metering Requirements do not require the relevant meter to use telemetry and the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake is:
    - (i) less than 25%, regardless of whether or not the relevant meter is read using telemetry; or
    - (ii) equal to or greater than 25% and the relevant meter is read using telemetry.
- (3) Water NSW may levy on a person referred to in clause 20(1) the non-telemetry service charge expressed in dollars per meter in Table 5.4 for the relevant year and relevant Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for that year, if:
  - (a) the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake is equal to or greater than 25%; and
  - (b) the Metering Requirements do not require the relevant meter to use telemetry; and
  - (c) the relevant meter is not read using telemetry.

[Note: Water NSW may levy either a telemetry service charge or a non-telemetry service charge (not both) on a person to whom clause 23 applies, in accordance with that clause. Where the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake is less than 25%, Water NSW may levy the telemetry service charge (not the non-telemetry service charge), even if the relevant meter is not read using telemetry.]

## 24 Exit fee

Water NSW may levy on a person referred to in clause 20(1) who provides notice that they no longer require services in respect of a Government-Owned Meter, an exit fee calculated as follows:

### Box 5.1 Exit fee

$$CX - (DD \times N)$$

where:

1. **CX** is Water NSW's average capital expenditure on each Government-Owned Meter expressed in dollars per meter in Table 5.5 for the relevant year;
2. **DD** is the daily depreciation of that capital expenditure expressed in dollars per meter in Table 5.5 for the relevant year; and
3. **N** is the number of days between, but not including, the dates that:
  - a. the Government-Owned Meter became compliant with the Metering Requirements; and
  - b. the person provides notice to Water NSW that they no longer require services in respect of the Government-Owned Meter.

## 25 Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake

- (1) Subject to clause 25(2), the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for each year of this determination is to be calculated as follows:

### Box 5.2 Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake

$$\frac{A}{B}$$

where:

1. **A** is Water NSW's estimate based on the best available information, of the total number of Voluntary Telemetric Meters that will operate by the end of that year, as notified by Water NSW to IPART before the beginning of that year, for publication on IPART's website; and
2. **B** is Water NSW's estimate based on the best available information, of the total number of Potential Voluntary Telemetric Meters that will operate by the end of that year, as notified by Water NSW to IPART before the beginning of the year, for publication on IPART's website.

- (2) If, in respect of a relevant year, the value of 'B' in Box 5.2 is 0, then the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for that year will be taken to be in the '75% or more' Percentage Band.
- (3) If notification is not made by Water NSW in respect of a relevant year in accordance with the value for 'A' and / or 'B' in Box 5.2, then the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for that year will be taken to be:
- (a) if the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for the previous year was less than 75%, in the next Percentage Band up from the previous year; and
  - (b) if the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake for the previous year was equal to or greater than 75%, in the '75% or more' Percentage Band.

[Note: For example, if Water NSW fails to notify in accordance with the value for 'A' in Box 5.2 in respect of a relevant year, and the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake in the previous year was 35%, then the Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake in the relevant year will be taken to be in the 50% - <75% Percentage Band.]

Table 5.1 Annual scheme management charge<sup>a</sup> (\$)

Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
0% - <25%	85.35
25% - <50%	76.90
50% - <75%	68.44
75% or more	59.99

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 5.2 Annual Government-Owned Meter service charges (\$ per Government-Owned Meter)<sup>a</sup>

Charge	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Meter service charge - operating costs	1,047.16
Channel meter service charge - operating costs	7,346.54
Meter service charge - capital costs	0.00

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 5.3 Annual telemetry service charge<sup>a</sup> (\$ per meter)

Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
0% - <25%	263.86
25% - <50%	243.18
50% - <75%	222.99
75% or more	212.16

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 5.4 Annual non-telemetry service charge <sup>a</sup> (\$ per meter)

Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
25% - <50%	254.63
50% - <75%	254.63
75% or more	254.63

a. The charges in this table are annual charges and must therefore be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31(2) for any period under this determination to which this charge applies, and that is less than a full financial year.

Table 5.5 Exit fee (\$ per meter)

Input	Commencement Date to 30 June 2026
Average capital expenditure	0.00
Daily depreciation	0.00

## Part 6 Definitions and interpretation

### 26 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, ordinances, by-laws, 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.

## 27 Rounding rules

- (1)  $CPI_x$  calculated under clause 36 is to be rounded to three decimal places before adjusting a charge or maximum price for inflation.
- (2) For the purposes of rounding  $CPI_x$  under paragraph (1), 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.
- (3) Any charge or maximum price in a table of this determination is to be rounded to the nearest whole cent after adjusting the charge or maximum price for inflation.
- (4) Any other maximum price calculated in accordance with this determination is to be rounded to the nearest whole cent.
- (5) For the purposes of rounding a charge or maximum price under paragraphs (3) and (4), 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.

## 28 Explanatory notes and alternative text

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

## 29 Prices exclusive of GST

- (1) Maximum prices specified in this determination do not include 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.

## 30 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.

## 31 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 2025, the annual charges in this determination would be pro-rated based on the number of days in the period from 1 August 2025 to 30 June 2026 as a proportion of the total number of days in the financial year from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.]

- (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.
- (4) Different annual charges apply to meters that are read using telemetry and meters that are not read using telemetry. Where a person switches from a meter read using telemetry to one that is not read using telemetry (or vice versa), the annual charges will be pro-rated based on the proportion of days in the year that the person had a meter installed that was:
  - (a) read using telemetry; and
  - (b) not read using telemetry.

[Note: Clause 31 is not intended to prohibit Water NSW from issuing a bill for any period before the Commencement Date.]

## 32 Billing on behalf of WAMC

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

## 33 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.

## 34 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 off-take from the Regulated River or as set out in that Irrigation Corporation's Water Supply Work Approval.

## 35 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	
<b>Regulated Rivers</b>	
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.

- (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:
- (a) 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
  - (b) 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).

## 36 Consumer Price Index

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

### Box 6.1 Calculation of $CPI_x$

$$CPI_x = \left( \frac{CPI_{\text{March}x}}{CPI_{\text{March}2025}} \right)$$

Where:

$CPI_{\text{March}2025}$  means CPI for the March quarter of 2025; and

$CPI_{\text{March}x}$  means CPI for the March quarter immediately preceding the start of the financial year for which maximum prices are determined in accordance with clause 2(4).

## 37 Definitions

### 37.1 General definitions

In this determination:

**2021 Determination** means IPART's determination titled 'WaterNSW Prices for Bulk Water Services from 1 October 2021' published in New South Wales, *Government Gazette*, No. 474 of 24 September 2021, p 304.

**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).

**Coastal Valley** has the meaning given in clause 35(2).

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

**$CPI_x$**  has the meaning given in clause 36.

**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.

[Note: Clause 33 sets out how entitlement charges are calculated.]

**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 the regulations made under that Act):

- (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 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 14(3) or 14(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 35(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 customer'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 4.

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

**New Metering Charge** means any charge included in Part 5.

**New Private Meter Charge Trigger Day** means, in respect of a Privately-Owned Meter:

- (a) where a person is directed by the Minister under the Water Management Act to have a meter installed, the date by which that person is required to have an operational meter as specified in that direction; and
- (b) in all other circumstances, the 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 or, if no such date exists in respect of the meter, then the Commencement Date.

**Percentage Band** means, as the case may be:

- (a) 0-<25%;
- (b) 25%-<50%;
- (c) 50%-<75%; or
- (d) '75% or more'.

**Potential Voluntary Telemetric Meter** means a meter that operates (whether by telemetry or not) in respect of a person to whom Part 5 applies, that is not required under the Metering Requirements to use telemetry but could, in Water NSW's opinion based on the best available information, be practically read using telemetry and includes Voluntary Telemetric Meters.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, a meter that is subject to a temporary exemption from the Metering Requirements under the Water Management Regulation is not a Potential Voluntary Telemetric Meter.]

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

**Proportion of Voluntary Telemetry Uptake** means the proportion of voluntary telemetry uptake calculated in accordance with clause 25.

**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 7(1).

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

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

**Voluntary Telemetric Meter** means a meter that operates in respect of a person to whom Part 5 applies that uses telemetry and is not required under the Metering Requirements to use telemetry.

[Note: For the avoidance of doubt, a meter that is subject to a temporary exemption from the Metering Requirements under the Water Management Regulation is not a Voluntary Telemetric Meter.]

**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 the regulations made under that Act):

- (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*.