



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



# Water Administration Ministerial Corporation Pricing Proposal

2025-2030

Amanda Jones, Deputy Secretary Water  
Andrew George, CEO Water NSW  
Craig Knowles, Chair NRAR Board  
Grant Barnes, CEO, Natural Resources Access Regulator

14 November 2024

# WAMC delivers water management services for the people of NSW now and for the future

## The department makes water rules

- Develops and implements water plans and regulations required under legislation.
- Policy and strategies to support water sharing and management
- Water modelling and impact assessment.
- Licencing and approvals for larger water users such as utilities and mines

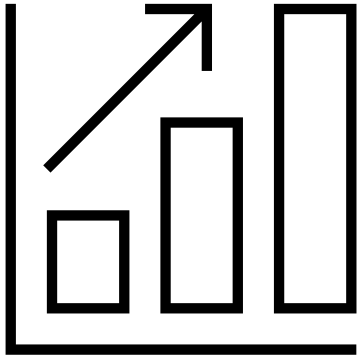
## WaterNSW delivers services to implement the rules

- Customer services including licence applications and approvals, administering water trades, water resource information provision.
- Account management and billing.
- Water quality and quantity monitoring.
- Water take assessment and metering services.

## NRAR monitors compliance with and enforces the rules

- Protects water rights through enforcement of water management laws.
- Ensures water is used lawfully and all communities and environment get a fair share.

# In challenging circumstances, we have largely delivered on our commitments over 2021-25



WAMC's  
performance is  
continuously  
improving

## Key achievements

- ✓ Finalised 11 regional water strategies
- ✓ Reviewed 14, replaced 25, and amended 48 water sharing plans
- ✓ Developed 6 floodplain management plans for Northern NSW
- ✓ Submitted 20 WRPs to the MDBA for review and accreditation (16 now accredited)
- ✓ Delivered Water Added Value Environment (WAVE) program, the Water Insights portal and the Water Licensing Improvement Program
- ✓ Established licensing of floodplain harvesting activities
- ✓ Invested in education and engagement compliance initiatives, including significant on-farm engagement
- ✓ Finalised over 3,500 compliance investigations

# What has shaped our pricing proposal for 2025-30?



## Legislative responsibilities



Efficient expenditure to deliver WAMC's core statutory functions under the Water Management Act 2000 for current and future generations



## Long-term strategic planning



Implementing key water strategies and reforms, that were developed during the current period and the Joint Technology Roadmap



## Continuing to improve



Through an ambitious efficiency program and reporting our performance against clear outcomes










## Customers and the community



We have consulted extensively with customers and the community to inform our pricing proposal and have made commitments going forward

# We have engaged comprehensively with our customers and the community

 <p><b>Desktop analysis of 17+ Engagement Outcomes Reports</b></p>	 <p><b>1,188 Voice of Customer survey participants</b></p>	 <p><b>450 Community sentiment surveys</b></p>
 <p><b>48 peak body, industry, and government stakeholder interviews</b></p>	 <p><b>10 WaterNSW Customer Advisory Group sessions</b></p>	 <p><b>13 online meetings with Water Working Groups</b></p>
 <p><b>Targeted First Nations engagement through the WaterNSW First Nations Roadshow in late 2023 and to develop the department's draft Aboriginal Water Strategy</b></p>		

# We will be accountable for delivering on outcomes based on customer priorities



**Outcome 1** - Enhanced customer experience



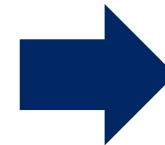
**Outcome 2** - Sustainable and effective water resource management



**Outcome 3** - Confidence in water resource management



**Outcome 4** - Value for money



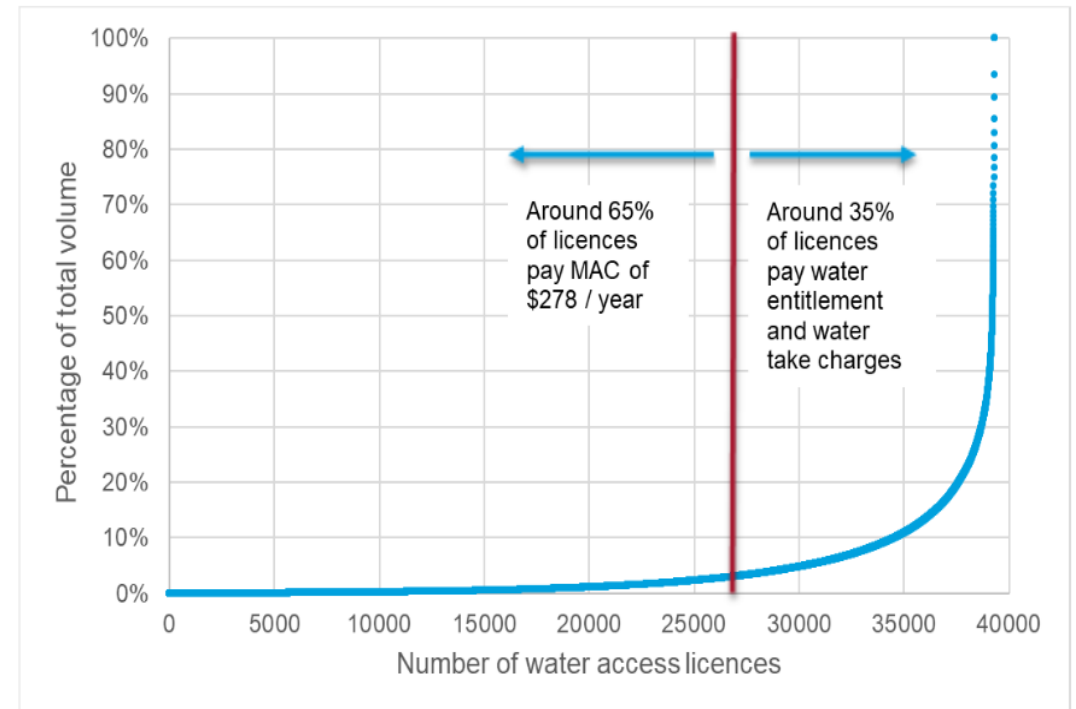
- WAMC activities over the determination period aim to deliver on the outcomes
- We will measure ourselves against objectives relating to the WAMC outcomes
- We will report publicly on our performance against targets each year

# Our proposal will transition prices towards full cost recovery recognising WAMC's diverse customer base

Under our proposal water management prices will increase by:

- **2.5% each year**, plus inflation for the smallest customers who pay the minimum annual charge.
  - The MAC will increase from \$278 to \$314 per year, plus inflation in 2029-30.
- **15% per year**, plus inflation, for all other customers who pay water entitlement and take charges.
- Other charges will be set at full cost recover

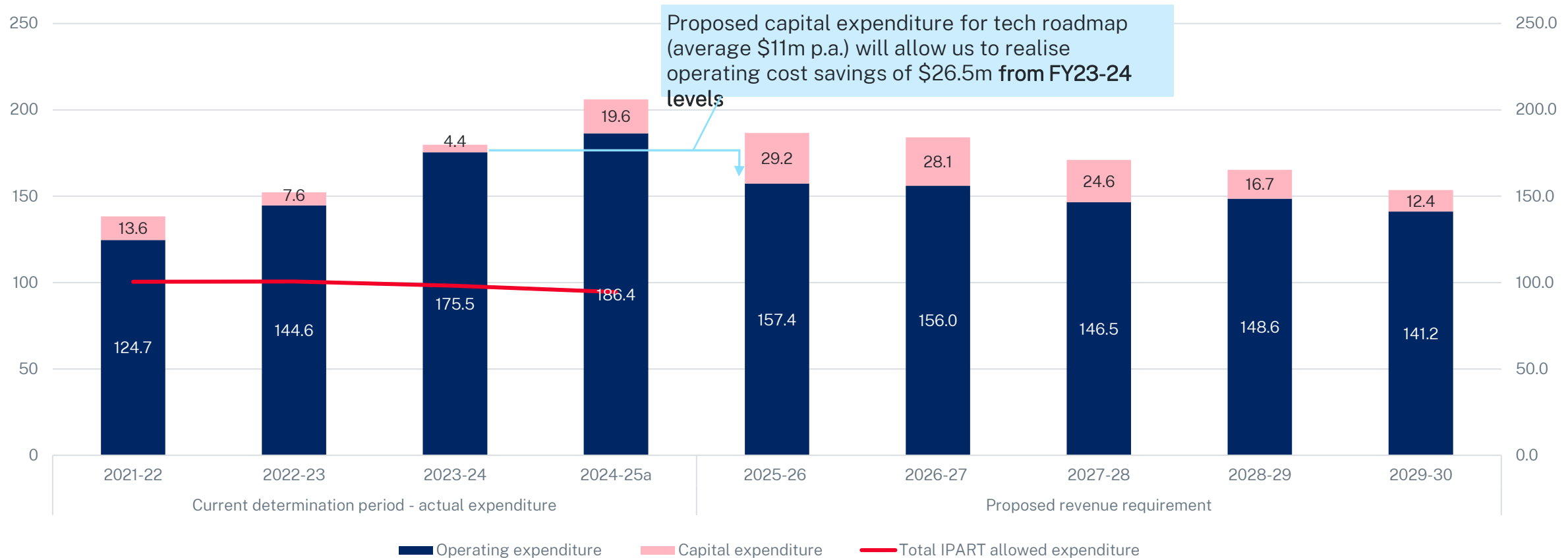
Under our proposal customers will pay 42% of costs and we will ask the NSW Government to pay the rest



# WAMC's proposed water management prices are above IPART's 2021 allowances, but less than current actual expenditure



Actual expenditure vs proposed expenditure (\$m, \$real)



\*Including IPART recommended full cost of compliance CSO

<sup>a</sup>Forecast



