

Metering and consent transaction charges for WAMC

1 Overview

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) has set maximum prices that the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) can charge for its monopoly services. The delivery of these services is currently undertaken by DPI Water on WAMC's behalf. Our Final Report and Determination are available on our website www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

This Fact Sheet sets out our decisions on:

- ▼ water take reading/assessment charges and ancillary service charges
- ▼ meter service charges, and
- ▼ consent transactions charges.

2 Water take reading/assessment charges and ancillary charges

Water take reading/assessment charges apply to water users in unregulated rivers and groundwater sources where meters are read, or water take is otherwise determined, on behalf of WAMC (ie, not read by a water user). The charge only applies to privately owned meters where the meter is not telemetered and the customer does not supply the reading.

Ancillary services charges relate to meter laboratory verification, meter in-situ validation and meter restarts.

Our prices are presented in Table 1 below.



Table 1 Water take reading/assessment and ancillary service charges (\$2015-16) - excluding inflation

Service	Current charges	IPART's charges
Water take reading/assessment (annual charge)		
Water take reading/assessment	\$212.90	\$193.76
Ancillary services		
Meter laboratory verification at request of customer (refundable if meter is tested to be outside the accuracy standard)	\$1,665.38	\$1,751.40
Meter in-situ validation – where a meter is moved or disturbed:		
Mechanical meter or other	\$116.42	\$240.00
Electromagnetic meter or channel meter with mobile phone	\$216.22	
Meter reset after suspension of maintenance for a year or more, at customer request	NA	\$240.00 plus cost of parts

3 Meter service charges

Meter service charges apply to **government-owned water meters in unregulated rivers and groundwater sources**, and recover the efficient cost of operating, maintaining and in some cases reading the meter. These charges are levied annually.



In its submission, DPI Water proposed a differentiated price structure based on meter type, meter size and how it is read.

We decided to adopt differentiation of charges by meter size to better reflect costs, but grouped meters in three size categories. We also applied an efficiency adjustment of 1.5% to set the charges. Our decision is presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Meter service charges (\$2015-16) - excluding inflation

Current charges		DPI Water proposed charges			IPART's charges
Type	Charge	Type	2016-17	2017-18 onwards	2016-17 onwards
Mechanical meter – with data logger	\$236.18	Telemetered sites or agency read sites	\$396.77 (50mm) to	\$446.84 (50mm) to	1st tier: \$481 (50 mm to 300mm) 2nd tier: \$500 (350mm to 700mm) 3rd tier: \$544 (750mm to 1,000mm)
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger	\$309.36		\$776.91 (1,000mm)	\$874.96 (1,000mm)	
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger and mobile data modem	\$403.61				
Electromagnetic meter – with data logger and satellite data modem	\$752.89	Non-telemetered sites with customer reporting	\$286.34 (50mm) to	\$328.59 (50mm) to	1st tier: \$378 (50 mm to 300mm) 2nd tier: \$392 (350mm to 700mm) 3rd tier: \$426 (750mm to 1,000mm)
Channel meter – with mobile phone or satellite telemetry coverage	\$752.89		\$666.48 (1,000mm)	\$756.71 (1,000mm)	
Other	\$236.18				

4 Consent transaction charges

Water consent transaction charges recoup the efficient costs of issuing and amending water access licences, performing water allocation assignments and works approvals.

We adopted the structure of charges proposed by DPI Water. However, we applied an efficiency adjustment of 1.5% to set the charges, and made adjustments to three charges (regulated rivers dealings, unregulated rivers and groundwater low risk dealings, and water allocation assignments). Most of the consent transaction charges (9 out of 14) will decrease from 2015-16 levels (excluding inflation).



In addition, there are also substantial reductions for online lodgement introduced for the first time in the 2016 Determination. Our decision is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Consent transaction charges (\$2015-16) – excluding inflation

Consent transaction activity	Current charge	IPART's decision (charge per transaction)	
		No online lodgement	Online lodgement
Any new water access licence			
Zero share	268.70	322.48	288.72
Controlled allocation	602.85	322.48	288.72
Other	602.85	322.48	288.72
Water access licence dealings			
Dealings – regulated rivers	391.23	347.93	315.67
Dealings – unregulated rivers and groundwater	1,593.14	1,044.89	1,011.13
Dealings – unregulated rivers and groundwater with low risk	758.84	492.21	459.94
Dealings – administrative	758.84	237.62	203.85
Water allocation assignments			
Unregulated rivers and groundwater	242.12	347.93	315.67
Approvals			
New or amended works and/or use approval	2,607.00	1,924.67	1,890.90
New or amended works and/or use approval – low risk	1,286.30	1,040.38	1,006.62
New basic rights bore approval	241.83	398.07	364.31
Amended approval – administrative	881.37	237.62	203.85
Extension of approval – lodged before expiry date	161.22	240.55	206.79
Extension of approval – lodged after expiry date	268.70	400.92	NA