

Author name: G. Carrard

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Submission: (1) Water usage should follow a tiered pricing scheme, should allow a reasonable amount of water per household per day at a minimal rate and above reasonable use should incur a higher usage charge. This will put a price signal on water to discourage waste. This will reduce overall network system costs and reduce the need for expanded storage. This is particularly necessary in view of the coming extended El Nino period. Fixed costs should be low.

(2) The wastewater service charge should be linked to water usage, rather than just a flat fee. The justification for this recommendation is that processing costs are related to the volume of effluent treated. Minimising sewerage flows also reduces the need to invest in sewage infrastructure, reducing costs. Reducing volumes of effluent also reduces likelihood of overflows thereby reducing environmental harm.