

# South East Water Determination

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2028

23 June 2023

## **Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways on which we work and live.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

As the First Peoples of this land, belonging to the world's oldest living cultures, we recognise and value their knowledge, and ongoing role in shaping and enriching the story of Victoria.

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# 1. General

## 1.1 Introduction

- (a) Clause 14 of the **WIRO** requires the commission to either:
  - (i) approve the maximum prices the **regulated entity** may charge for **prescribed services** or the manner in which the **regulated entity's** prices are to be calculated, determined or otherwise regulated, as proposed by the **regulated entity** in its price submission (as defined in the **WIRO**); or
  - (ii) specify the maximum prices the **regulated entity** may charge for **prescribed services** or the manner in which the **regulated entity's** prices are to be calculated, determined or otherwise regulated.
- (b) On 21 June 2023, the commission made its decision in respect of the prices which **South East Water** may charge for **prescribed services** during the regulatory period.
- (c) This Determination is made by the commission under section 33 of the **ESC Act**, pursuant to clauses 10 and 14 of the **WIRO**.
- (d) The purposes for the making of this Determination are to:
  - (i) give effect to the decision of the commission referred to in clause 1.1(b);
  - (ii) specify the maximum prices which **South East Water** may charge for **prescribed services** during the **regulatory period** or the manner in which such prices are to be calculated, determined or otherwise regulated;
  - (iii) facilitate the achievement of the commission's objectives in the **ESC Act** and the **WI Act**; and
  - (iv) reflect the requirements of the **WIRO**.
- (e) The reasons for the making of this Determination are as set out in the decision of the commission made on 21 June 2023.

## 1.2 Application

This Determination applies to **South East Water** and its successors and assigns in respect of the business carried on by **South East Water** at the date of this Determination.

## 1.3 Effective period

### (a) Term

This Determination takes effect on the later of the date on which notice of its making is published in the Government Gazette or 1 July 2023, and subject to clause 1.3(b), has effect until the date on which it is amended or revoked by a later determination or 30 June 2028.

## (b) Next regulatory period

Subject to clause 2.3(b)(iv) and clause 2.3(c)(ii), if the commission has not made a determination in respect of the prices to apply in the **next regulatory period** on or before 30 June 2028, the prices or the manner in which such prices are to be calculated or otherwise determined as set out in this Determination will continue to apply in respect of **prescribed services** provided by **South East Water** from 1 July 2028 to the day before the date on which the determination for the **next regulatory period** comes into effect.

## 1.4 Modification of time periods

The commission may, by notice to **South East Water**, extend or reduce the time by which, or the period within which, **South East Water** or the commission must comply with an obligation under this Determination.

## 1.5 Summary and structure

Clause 2 of this Determination specifies the prices which will apply to **prescribed services** during the **regulatory period** and sets out the procedure and formula according to which prices may be adjusted during the **regulatory period** on an annual basis. Clauses 3 to 6 provide for the circumstances in which prices may be adjusted or amended during the **regulatory period** other than in accordance with clause 2.

## 1.6 Definitions and interpretation

In this Determination, unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) words and phrases in bold italics have the meanings given to them in part A of Schedule 1 (or, where only used within a clause, the meaning given upon their first use); and
- (b) the rules of interpretation in part B of Schedule 1 will apply.

## 1.7 Annexure A

- (a) For convenience, Annexure A to this Determination summarises the assumptions underpinning the prices to apply to **South East Water** during the **regulatory period** or the manner in which such prices are to be calculated, determined or otherwise regulated.
- (b) Full details of these assumptions are contained in the commission's decision in which it has set out its reasons for this Determination.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, Annexure A does not form part of this Determination.

## 2. Price control

### 2.1 General principles

Subject to this Determination:

#### (a) Scheduled prices

**South East Water** must not charge more than:

- (i) the scheduled prices in Schedule 2, during the first **regulatory year**; and
- (ii) the amounts determined in accordance with clause 2.3, during each subsequent **regulatory year**,

in respect of those **prescribed services** to which the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 relate.

#### (b) Application principles

The application principles in Schedule 3 will apply to the prices charged by **South East Water** in respect of **prescribed services** specified or deemed to be included in Schedule 2 during the **regulatory period**.

#### (c) Pricing principles

During the **regulatory period**, **South East Water** must apply the pricing principles in Schedule 4 when determining the prices to apply to the **prescribed services** to which the pricing principles in Schedule 4 relate.

### 2.2 Ancillary matters

#### (a) Contracts

Where **South East Water** has entered into a contract which relates to the provision of **prescribed services** prior to 1 July 2023 (a **relevant contract**), **South East Water** may charge the prices for **prescribed services** which are set out in that **relevant contract** until its expiration, termination or a periodic review of the prices set out in the contract. Once a **relevant contract** has expired or been terminated or the prices in a **relevant contract** have been subject to a periodic review, the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 (as adjusted in accordance with this Determination) or the prices determined in accordance with the pricing principles in Schedule 4 will apply for the remainder of the **regulatory period**.

**(b) Dispute Resolution**

Any dispute as to whether a price has been set in accordance with this Determination will be determined by the commission on the basis of the commission's interpretation of this Determination.

**(c) Publication**

**South East Water** must publish a list of its current prices and pricing principles for **prescribed services**, and all relevant supporting information that it has relied upon to apply the prices or pricing principles, on its website at all times during the **regulatory period** and must provide a written copy of the list to its customers on request. The list must clearly indicate in respect of each price, the amount determined in accordance with this Determination, the amount of **GST** payable and the total price.

**(d) GST**

**South East Water** will not be considered to be in contravention of this Determination if a price charged by it for a **prescribed service** exceeds the amount determined in accordance with clause 2 only by reason of the levying of a charge on account of **GST**.

## **2.3 Annual adjustment of prices**

**(a) Adjustment**

- (i) Subject to Schedule 2 Part A, Schedule 5 and clause 2.3(b)(iii), the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 Part A will be adjusted in each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** in accordance with the formulas in clause 2.3(b)(ii) and Schedule 5, and the procedure in clause 2.3(d), and will apply to the **prescribed services** to which the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 Part A relate in that **regulatory year**.
- (ii) Subject to Schedule 2 Part B and Schedule 5, the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 Part B will be adjusted in each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** in accordance with the formula in clause 2.3(c)(i) and the procedure in clause 2.3(d), and will apply to the **prescribed services** to which the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 Part B relate in that **regulatory year**.

**(b) Tariff basket formula**

- (i) Subject to Schedule 2 Part A and if applicable Schedule 5, each price for the **prescribed services** referred to in clause 2.3(a)(i) will be adjusted in accordance with the formula set out in clause 2.3(b)(ii) with effect from the beginning of each subsequent **regulatory year** and all subsequent regulatory years remaining in the **regulatory period** (the **revised tariff schedule**).

- (ii) The average price movement for the **relevant regulatory year** and for each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** determined in accordance with the **revised tariff schedule** must not exceed the weighted average price movement that would otherwise have applied under this Determination as calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t-1,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}} \geq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{p}_{t,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t-1,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}, i = 1,2, \dots n \text{ and } j = 1,2, \dots, m$$

where **South East Water** has  $n$  tariff categories, which each have up to  $m$  tariff components, and where, for each **regulatory year**  $t$  for which the calculation is undertaken:

$p_{t-1}^{ij}$  is the tariff charged in **regulatory year**  $t-1$  for component  $j$  of tariff  $i$

$p_t^{ij}$  is the proposed tariff for component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  determined in accordance with Schedule 2 Part A where the **revised tariff schedule** is not applied

$\hat{p}_{t,ij}$  is the proposed tariff for component  $j$  or tariff  $i$  determined in accordance with Schedule 2 Part A where the **revised tariff schedule is applied** and excludes commission approved pass-throughs

$q_{t-2}^{ij}$  is the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that was sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$ , or, if an actual quantity is not available, either an estimate of the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that would have been sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$  or a forecast of the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that is expected to be sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$

- (iii) An increase in any scheduled price in Schedule 2 Part A, in addition to adjustments in accordance with Schedule 5, in any regulatory year must not exceed the weighted average of all scheduled price increases in that regulatory year by more than 3% in real terms
- (iv) If the commission has not made a determination in respect of the prices to apply in the **next regulatory period** on or before 30 June 2023, PPM  $_t$  will be set equal to zero and prices in Schedule 2 Part A will be adjusted in accordance with the formula in clause 2.3(c)(i) for **regulatory years** commencing on or after 1 July 2023 until the date on which this determination is amended or revoked by a later determination.



**(c) Price cap formula**

- (i) Subject to Schedule 2 Part B and Schedule 5, each price for the **prescribed services** referred to in clause 2.3(a)(ii) will be adjusted in accordance with the following formula with effect from the beginning of each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period**:

$$p_t = p_{t-1} \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t)$$

where:

$p_t$  is the price component for **regulatory year** 't'

$p_{t-1}$  is the price component for **regulatory year** 't-1'

$\frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}}$  for the particular **regulatory year** is:  
the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the March quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant **regulatory year**

divided by

the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the March quarter immediately preceding the March quarter referred to above

$PPM_t$  is the prescribed price movement for the price component for **regulatory year** t determined in accordance with Schedule 2 Part B.

- (ii) If the commission has not made a determination in respect of the prices to apply in the **next regulatory period** on or before 30 June 2028,  $PPM_t$  will be set to zero for the purpose of adjusting prices in accordance with the formula in clause 2.3(c)(i) and formulas in Schedule 5 for **regulatory years** commencing on or after 1 July 2028 until the date on which this Determination is amended or is revoked by a later determination.

**(d) Adjustment procedure**

- (i) At least 30 **business days** prior to the commencement of each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period**, **South East Water** must submit its proposed prices for the **prescribed services** referred to in clause 2.3(a) to apply in that subsequent **regulatory year** (the **revised scheduled prices**) to the commission for approval, together with sufficient information to enable the commission to assess whether the proposed prices comply with this Determination.
- (ii) The commission will approve the **revised scheduled prices** if it considers that they have been calculated in accordance with the formula set out in clause 2.3(b)(i) and 2.3(c)(i).
- (iii) The commission will be deemed to have approved the **revised scheduled prices** if it has not provided notice under clause 2.3(d)(iv) to **South East Water** within 20 **business days** from the date of its receipt of the **revised scheduled prices**.
- (iv) If the commission does not approve the **revised scheduled prices**, the commission:
  - (A) will provide notice to **South East Water** (including a statement of its reasons);
  - (B) may request **South East Water** to provide any additional information specified by the commission;
  - (C) will take any additional information provided by **South East Water** into account; and
  - (D) will determine the **revised scheduled prices**.

## **2.4 Price changes during a billing period**

**(a) Application of this clause**

This clause 2.4 applies where **South East Water** issues an invoice in respect of a billing period during which a change to any price for a **prescribed service** comes into effect in accordance with this Determination.

**(b) Method of charging**

**South East Water** must not charge the prices determined in accordance with this Determination in respect of any part of a billing period prior to the effective date of the change but may charge for **prescribed services** in respect of the periods before and after the effective date of the change at the prices applicable for each of those periods on a pro-rata basis.

## 2.5 Reporting requirements

- (a) **South East Water** must make available to the commission all information reasonably requested by the commission from time to time for the purpose of enabling it to confirm that **South East Water** is complying with this Determination.
- (b) Without limiting clause 2.5(a), if, during the **regulatory period**, **South East Water** enters into a contract for **prescribed services** which is renewed, renegotiated or entered into during the **regulatory period (new contract)** which relates to the provision of a **prescribed service** to which the pricing principles in Schedule 4 relate, **South East Water** must, on request by the commission, provide the commission with a notice specifying:
  - (i) details of the **new contract**; and
  - (ii) information which demonstrates the way in which the prices in the **new contract** reflect the relevant pricing principles.
- (c) Without limiting clause 2.5(a), if **South East Water** proposes to stop providing a **prescribed service** or refuses to provide a **prescribed service** to a customer, or potential customer, during the **regulatory period**, it must:
  - (i) in the case of a proposal to stop providing a **prescribed service**, provide a notice to the commission stating the nature of the **prescribed service** which it proposes to stop providing and the reason why it proposes to stop providing the **prescribed service**. This notice must be provided at least 30 **business days** prior to the date upon which **South East Water** proposes to stop providing the **prescribed service**; and
  - (ii) in the case of a refusal to provide a **prescribed service** to a customer, or potential customer, **South East Water** must provide a notice to the commission within 5 **business days** of the refusal, stating the nature of the **prescribed service** and the reason for the refusal.

### 3. Amendment of Schedule 2 – change to tariff basket form of price control

(a) Amendment

- (i) **South East Water** may apply to the commission in accordance with this clause 3, clause 6 and Schedule 5 for the amendment of the prescribed price movements and/or price components included in Schedule 2 for the following **regulatory year** (the **next regulatory year**) and all subsequent **regulatory years** remaining in the **regulatory period** (the **revised tariff schedule**).
- (ii) The average price movement for the **next regulatory year** and for each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** determined in accordance with the **revised tariff schedule** must not exceed the weighted average price movement that would otherwise have applied under this Determination as calculated in accordance with the following formula

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t-1,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}} \geq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{p}_{t,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p_{t-1,ij} * q_{t-2,ij}}, i = 1,2, \dots n \text{ and } j = 1,2, \dots, m$$

where **South East Water** has  $n$  tariff categories, which each have up to  $m$  tariff components, and where, for each **regulatory year**  $t$  for which the calculation is undertaken:

$p_{t-1}^{ij}$  is the tariff charged in **regulatory year**  $t-1$  for component  $j$  of tariff  $i$

$p_t^{ij}$  is the proposed tariff for component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  determined in accordance with Schedule 2 where the **revised tariff schedule** is not applied

$\hat{p}_{t,ij}$  is the proposed tariff for component  $j$  or tariff  $i$  determined in accordance with Schedule 2 Part A where the **revised tariff schedule is applied** and excludes commission approved pass-throughs

$q_{t-2}^{ij}$  is the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that was sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$ , or, if an actual quantity is not available, either an estimate of the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that would have been sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$  or a forecast of the quantity of component  $j$  of tariff  $i$  that is expected to be sold in **regulatory year**  $t-2$

**(b) Amendment procedure**

- (i) An application by **South East Water** under this clause 3 must be received by the commission at least 80 **business days** prior to the commencement of the **next regulatory year** and must be accompanied by the following information:
- (A)
- (1) a clearly articulated new tariff strategy in relation to the **revised tariff schedule** that is consistent with clause 11 of the **WIRO** (the **revised tariff strategy**); or
  - (2) an explanation of how the **revised tariff schedule** is consistent with the current tariff strategy for **South East Water** approved by the commission in connection with this Determination (**the current tariff strategy**);
- (B) a **revised tariff schedule** that specifies proposed prices for the **next regulatory year** and prescribed price movements for each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** that is consistent with the **revised tariff strategy** or the **current tariff strategy**, as the case may be, and complies with clause 3(a)(ii);
- (C) a statement setting out evidence demonstrating that **South East Water** has provided information to its customers explaining the **revised tariff schedule** and how it relates to the **revised tariff strategy** or the **current tariff strategy**, as the case may be, and has consulted effectively with its customers on the **revised tariff strategy** (if clause 3(b)(i)(A)(1) applies) and the **revised tariff schedule**;
- (D) a statement setting out the customer impacts resulting from the **revised tariff schedule** and actions proposed by **South East Water** to address these customer impacts; and
- (E) an explanation of the calculation of the relevant quantities " $q_{t-2}^{ij}$ ", including whether and why it is reasonable.
- (ii) The commission may approve the **revised tariff schedule** submitted by **South East Water** under this clause 3 if it is satisfied that:
- (A) the **revised tariff strategy** (if applicable) is consistent with clause 11 of the **WIRO**;
  - (B) the **revised tariff schedule** is consistent with the **revised tariff strategy** or the **current tariff strategy** for **South East Water**, as the case may be;
  - (C) the price movements calculated in accordance with the **revised tariff schedule** comply with clause 3(a)(ii);

- (D) **South East Water** has consulted effectively with its customers on the **revised tariff strategy** (if clause 3(b)(i)(A)(1) applies) and the **revised tariff schedule**;
  - (E) **South East Water** has effectively addressed customer impacts resulting from the **revised tariff schedule**;
  - (F) the basis for calculating the relevant quantities " $q_{t-2}^{ij}$ " is reasonable; and
  - (G) **South East Water** has provided all of the information required under clause 3(b)(i)(A)-(E).
- (iii) In determining whether it will approve the **revised tariff schedule**, the commission may request **South East Water** to provide any additional information specified by the commission and/or to resubmit any of the matters in clause 3(b)(i)(A)-(E).
  - (iv) The commission will be deemed to have not approved a **revised tariff schedule** if it has not provided notice to **South East Water** within 40 **business days** from the date of its receipt of **South East Water's** application under this clause 3.
  - (v) An approved **revised tariff schedule** will be taken to amend Schedule 2 to the extent of any inconsistency.

## 4. Uncertain or unforeseen events

### 4.1 General principles

- (a) **South East Water** may apply to the commission for the amendment of this Determination and/or the adjustment of the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 to reflect increased or decreased costs incurred by **South East Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **South East Water** as a result of events which were uncertain or unforeseen at the time this Determination was made (an **uncertain events application**).
- (b) Whether or not **South East Water** makes an application under clause 4.1(a), **South East Water** must promptly notify the commission upon becoming aware of an event which could form part or all of the basis of an application.
- (c) The commission may on its own initiative, and in its sole discretion, initiate its own process to amend this Determination and/or adjust the schedule of prices in Schedule 2 to reflect increased or decreased costs incurred by **South East Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **South East Water** as a result of events which were uncertain or unforeseen at the time this Determination was made. Such a process may only be initiated if the commission identifies an event or events which it, in its sole discretion, considers has had or may have a material impact on **South East Water's** operating and/or capital expenditure and/or revenue.
- (d) The commission may only adjust prices in response to an **uncertain events application**, or a process initiated by the commission under clause 4.1(c), where the commission is satisfied that such action is necessary or desirable to take account of events that were uncertain or unforeseen at the time of making this Determination and that such action takes into account the interests of customers. The commission may limit an adjustment to only some events or a single event.

### 4.2 Considerations by the commission

#### (a) Examples of uncertain or unforeseen events

Examples of potential uncertain or unforeseen events include, but are not limited to:

- (i) actual licence fees or contributions payable by **South East Water** during a **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** under section 51 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* (Vic), section 55 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic) and section 4H(2) of the **WI Act** which differ from the forecast licence fees or contributions set out in Annexure A for that **regulatory year**;
- (ii) changes in the timing or scope of expenditure by **South East Water** on major capital projects;

- (iii) instances where the commission is satisfied that there is a material difference between the forecast demand levels set out in Annexure A and actual demand levels for **South East Water** in one or more **regulatory years** during the **regulatory period**; or
- (iv) a change in or to any of the following:
  - (A) the **WI Act**, the **Water Act**, the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* (Vic), the *State Owned Enterprises Act 1992* (Vic) and the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (Vic) or relevant regulations or orders or other statutory instruments made under any of them;
  - (B) any licence issued pursuant to any of the Acts referred to in clause 4.2(a)(iv)(A);
  - (C) any tax imposed by or payable directly or indirectly to any government or public authority in the Commonwealth of Australia (including **GST**) but excluding:
    - (1) penalties and interest for late payment of any tax; and/or
    - (2) any tax that replaces any of the taxes referred to in (C), where tax includes any rate, duty, charge or other like or analogous impost.
  - (D) the **Statement of Obligations**; or
  - (E) the introduction or cessation of a statutory carbon price or tax or a national emissions trading scheme or other scheme relating to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**(b) Exclusions**

In considering an **uncertain events application** or a process initiated by the commission under clause 4.1(c), the commission will not take into account matters that:

- (i) are or should be within **South East Water's** control;
- (ii) were or should have been known by **South East Water** at the time the Determination was made;
- (iii) could reasonably have been foreseen by **South East Water**;
- (iv) should be or should have been planned for or managed by **South East Water**; and/or
- (v) reflect inefficient expenditure by **South East Water**.

**(c) Dispute resolution**

Any dispute as to whether a matter should be taken into account by the commission under this clause 4 will be determined by the commission in its absolute discretion.



## 4.3 Procedure

### (a) Application information for *South East Water*

- (i) An ***uncertain events application*** must be accompanied by a statement setting out:
  - (A) the details of each relevant uncertain or unforeseen event;
  - (B) the amount and timing of any increase or decrease in operating and/or capital expenditure associated with the relevant event during the ***regulatory period*** and/or the amount and timing of any increase or decrease in revenue associated with the relevant event during the ***regulatory period***;
  - (C) the basis for calculating the increase or decrease in operating and/or capital expenditure and/or revenue referred to in clause 4.3(a)(i)(B); and
  - (D) details of the proposed action to be taken by the commission under clause 4.3(b).
- (ii) The commission may request ***South East Water*** to provide any additional information specified by the commission in connection with an ***uncertain events application***. ***South East Water*** is obliged to provide the requested information.

### (b) Commission processes

- (i) The commission may in its sole discretion decide the steps, timing of and processes to be followed in relation to an ***uncertain events application*** or a process initiated by it under clause 4.1(c).
- (ii) The commission may in its sole discretion decide the nature and extent of stakeholder consultation it will undertake in relation to such an ***uncertain events application*** or process.
- (iii) The commission will advise ***South East Water*** of the matters in clause 4.3(b)(i) and clause 4.3(b)(ii) in writing and publish details of this on its website.
- (iv) In most cases, an amendment of this Determination and/or adjustment of the scheduled prices in Schedule 2, will be undertaken in accordance with the commission's standard consultation process for price determinations, including the issue of a draft decision and an invitation for interested parties to make submissions to the commission in relation to the draft decision, as set out in clause 16(a) and (b) of the ***WIRO***.

- (v) In some limited circumstances, the commission may amend this Determination and/or adjust the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 without or with only limited consultation. This will be the case where there is urgency that justifies the commission moving quickly, as set out in clause 16(c) of the **WIRO**. In these circumstances, the commission will provide its reasons for proceeding with the amendment without consultation (or with a modified consultation process).
- (vi) The commission may request **South East Water** to provide information to the commission required for any purposes of an uncertain events application or the process initiated by the commission under clause 4.1(c). **South East Water** is obliged to provide the requested information to the commission.

**(c) Action by the commission**

If the commission is satisfied of the matters set out in clause 4.1(d) in respect of an **uncertain events application** or a process initiated by the commission under clause 4.1(c), the commission may, in its absolute discretion:

- (i) amend this Determination or adjust the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 (and make any consequential adjustments to Annexure A) with effect from a date and in a manner decided by the commission (in respect of one or more events) at a time decided by the commission; or
- (ii) take the **uncertain events application** or any process initiated by the commission under clause 4.1(c) into account in making its determination in respect of the prices which **South East Water** may charge for **prescribed services** in the **next regulatory period**.

**(d) Effective date of amendment or adjustment**

A determination made by the commission under this clause 4 to amend this Determination takes effect from the date on which notice of its making is published in the Government Gazette or any later date of commencement as may be specified in the determination.

## 5. Material error or unintended consequences

**(a)** Where the commission is satisfied that in any material respect:

- (i) this Determination or any information relied upon in the making of this Determination contains an error, deficiency or miscalculation;
- (ii) any information on which this Determination was based was false or misleading in a material respect; or
- (iii) such amendment or adjustment is necessary or desirable to avoid an unintended consequence of this Determination,

the commission may decide to amend this Determination and/or adjust the scheduled prices in Schedule 2, provided that it is satisfied that such amendment and/or price adjustment takes into account the interests of customers.

**(b)** In most cases, an amendment will be undertaken in accordance with the commission's standard consultation process for price determinations, including the issue of a draft decision and an invitation for interested parties to make submissions to the commission in relation to the draft decision, as set out in clause 16(a) and (b) of the WIRO.

**(c)** In some limited circumstances, the commission may amend this Determination without further consultation, or with only limited consultation. This will be the case where an amendment is not sufficiently material to warrant a full consultation process, or where there is urgency that justifies the commission moving quickly, as set out in clause 16(c) of the WIRO. In these circumstances, the commission will provide its reasons for proceeding with the amendment without consultation (or with a modified consultation process).

**(d)** A determination made by the commission under this clause 5 to amend this Determination takes effect from the date on which notice of its making is published in the Government Gazette or any later date of commencement as may be specified in the determination.

## 6. Adjustment to Schedule 2 – pass through of changed prices for storage operator and bulk water services (Melbourne Water Corporation)

(a) Where the commission:

- (i) makes a price determination for storage operator and bulk water services (as defined in the **WIRO**) provided to **South East Water** by Melbourne Water Corporation for some or all of the **regulatory period**; and
- (ii) declares that such price determination provides for different prices to be charged to **South East Water** from those assumed by the commission in the making of this Determination,

the commission may decide to specify a price adjustment and/or a mechanism for making a price adjustment to scheduled prices in Schedule 2 to take into account the impact this has for the commission's assumptions made for storage operator and bulk water service prices in making this Determination, provided that it is satisfied that such amendment and/or price adjustment takes or will take into account the interests of customers.

- (b) If the commission exercises its discretion under clause 6(a), the commission will also specify the relevant regulatory year/s for which the price adjustment and/or a mechanism for making a price adjustment to prices specified in Schedule 2 for storage operator and bulk water service.
- (c) **South East Water** is obliged, in any proposal for an annual adjustment to prices made to the commission under clause 2.3, to propose an adjustment to storage operator and bulk water service prices specified in Schedule 2, that is consistent with the price adjustment and/or price adjustment mechanism specified by the commission under clause 2.3(a).
- (d) The adjustment procedure and outcomes of that procedure specified in clause 2.3(d) will apply to the proposals made by **South East Water** under clause 6(c).

# Schedule 1 – Definitions and interpretation

## A Definitions

**business day** means a day on which banks are open for general banking business in Melbourne, not being a Saturday or a Sunday.

**ESC Act** means the *Essential Services Commission Act 2001* (Vic).

**GST** has the meaning given in section 195-1 of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Tax Act 1999* (Cth).

**miscellaneous services** means services that are provided in direct connection with **prescribed services**, prices in respect of which are either included in Schedule 2 or determined in accordance with the relevant pricing principles in Schedule 4.

**NCC** means a new customer contribution levied by **South East Water** under section 268 of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic).

**next regulatory period** means the period commencing on 1 July 2028 and ending on a date specified by the commission.

**prescribed services** has the meaning given in the **WIRO** and includes **miscellaneous services**.

**RAB** means regulatory asset base.

**regulated entity** has the meaning given in the **WIRO**.

**regulatory period** means the period commencing on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2028.

**regulatory year** means each period of twelve months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June.

**South East Water** means South East Water Corporation (trading as South East Water (ABN 89 066 902 547)

**Statement of Obligations** means an applicable statement of obligations made under section 4I(2) of the *Water Industry Act 1994* (Vic).

**Water Act** means the *Water Act 1989* (Vic).

**WI Act** means the *Water Industry Act 1994* (Vic).

**WIRO** means the Water Industry Regulatory Order 2014 in force as at the date of this Determination.

## B Interpretation

Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation. The following rules apply unless the context requires otherwise.

- (a) The singular includes the plural, and the converse also applies.
- (b) If a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning.
- (c) A reference to a person includes a corporation, trust, partnership, unincorporated body or other entity, whether or not it comprises a separate legal entity.
- (d) A reference to a clause or schedule is a reference to a clause of or schedule to this document.
- (e) A reference to a determination, agreement or document (including a reference to this document) is to the agreement or document as amended, supplemented, novated or replaced, except to the extent prohibited by this document or that other agreement or document.
- (f) A reference to an Act, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them.
- (g) If a period of time is specified and commences on a given day or on a day of an act or event, the period of time is to be calculated inclusive of that day.
- (h) Any “notice” to be given or matter to be “notified” must be in writing.
- (i) The symbol ‘ $\Sigma$ ’ requires a summation to be performed over the range of variables specified in respect of the algebraic terms specified.
- (j) All data which is utilised in calculations made under this Determination will be utilised to the accuracy, in terms of the number of decimal places, to which it is given.
- (k) A fixed price, charge or fee determined in accordance with this Determination is to be rounded down and specified to two decimal places.
- (l) A volumetric price, charge or fee determined in accordance with this Determination is to be rounded down and specified to four decimal places.
- (m) When a calculation is required under this document:
  - (i) **regulatory year** ‘t’ is the **regulatory year** in respect of which the calculation is being made;
  - (ii) **regulatory year** ‘t-1’ is the **regulatory year** immediately preceding **regulatory year** ‘t’;
  - (iii) **regulatory year** ‘t-2’ is the **regulatory year** immediately preceding **regulatory year** ‘t-1’.

## Schedule 2 – Prices

This schedule should be read in conjunction with Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5. Variable water, sewerage, recycled water and trade waste charges are rounded down to 4 decimal places. All other charges are rounded down to 2 decimal places.

### Part A: Tariff basket services

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>1.1 Residential water tariff</b>					
Service charge (per annum)	85.93	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
<b>Usage (water and sewage) charge (per kL)</b>					
Block 1 (0 – 440 litres/day)	3.4928	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Block 2 (> 441litres/day)	4.4566	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
<b>Usage (water only) charge (per kL)</b>					
Block 1 (0 – 440 litres/day)	2.7883	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Block 2 (> 441litres/day)	3.5576	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
<b>1.2 Non-residential water tariff</b>					
Service charge (per annum)	85.93	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Usage charge (per kL)	3.5576	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
<b>1.3 Residential sewerage tariff</b>					
Sewer service charge (per annum)	377.48	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
<b>1.4 Non-residential sewerage tariff<sup>1</sup></b>					
Sewer service charge (per annum)	448.27	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Sewage disposal charge (per kL)	1.8332	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%

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Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>1.5 Residential reticulated recycled water</b>					
Usage charge (per kL)	2.2082	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.6 Trade waste charges</b>					
Volume (per kL)	1.0708	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
BOD (per kg)	1.0584	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SS (per kg)	0.5934	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TKN (per kg)	2.3255	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.7 Trade waste – agreement fees (Risk ranking)</b>					
Risk Rank 1	16422.17	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk Rank 2	8211.06	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk Rank 3	5473.97	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk Rank 4	2736.96	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk Rank 5	477.34	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.8 Other charges</b>					
Fire service – Fixed Tariff – All declared serviced properties	131.71	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Fire Service – Volumetric Tariff – Metered Customer Usage Charge (per kL)	3.4947	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bunyip Main Race – Maintained Private Extensions (per annum)	123.83	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Customers drawing non potable water from Bunyip and Tarago open channels (per kL)	1.7030	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%



## Part B: Price cap services

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>1.10 New customer contributions (Per lot charges)</b>					
<b>Casey corridor</b>					
Water	870.08	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Sewerage	1022.05	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Recycled Water	2308.46	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>Cardinia corridor</b>					
Water	870.08	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Sewerage	1787.26	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Recycled Water	2777.21	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>Other areas</b>					
Water	870.08	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Sewerage	870.08	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>Fisherman's Bend corridor</b>					
Integrated Water	2610.26	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>1.11 Trade waste – application fee</b>	62.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.12 Food waste</b>					
Hospitals and other institutions (per bed)	55.77	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>1.12 Miscellaneous fees and charges</b>					
Dry tapping - drinking water 20mm	475.57	0.0%	-15.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Dry tapping - drinking & recycled 20mm (installed in the same visit)	927.07	0.0%	-22.7%	0.0%	0.0%
20mm main to meter - short side*	2390.47	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20mm main to meter - long side*	3263.49	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
80mm-150mm wet tapping on mains ≤ 150mm	2405.52	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20mm digital meter (including installation)	225.19	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information statements all forms of lodgements (includes MW share)	29.64	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plumbing application fee	317.22	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Residential recycled water plumbing inspection fee	403.60	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewerage application fee	76.03	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Backlog Sewerage Tariff Fee <sup>a</sup>	2500.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Non-core miscellaneous services	At cost				

Note: Fees are forecast to commence from 2025-26. <sup>a</sup>This fee will be collected over 5 years (paid quarterly) from the time that customers are declared to be serviced.

As set out in clause 1.1(d) of this Determination, the role of the Commission in making this Determination is limited to determining the maximum prices that **South East Water** may charge for **prescribed services** during the **regulatory period**, or the manner in which such prices are to be calculated, determined or otherwise regulated.

It is the role of **South East Water** to set a tariff for **prescribed services** in accordance with the **Water Act** and to ensure the tariff complies with this Determination. The commission does not have a role in hearing disputes about individual billing issues that users may have.

## Schedule 3 – Application of prices

### 3.1 Water usage charges

- (a) It is the role of **South East Water** to apply a water usage charge in accordance with the **Water Act**.
- (b) A water usage charge shall be calculated by reference to the volume, expressed in kilolitres, or part thereof, of water supplied during a meter-reading period.

### 3.2 Residential property

For the purpose of Schedule 2, a 'residential property' means:

- a property used or intended to be used primarily as a residence or residences;
- in the case of vacant land, land zoned for residential purposes;

but does not include a property used or intended to be used as:

- a guest house, motel, hotel or caravan park;
- a farming enterprise; or
- a residence attached to a shop or professional suites.

### 3.3 Non-residential property

For the purpose of Schedule 2, a non-residential property is a property which is not a residential property.

### 3.4 Dwellings and units/flats

A 'dwelling' means: a house, flat or unit used for residential purposes, or a vacant lot on which a residence is being erected, but not a 'movable unit' (granny flat) provided by the Director of Housing under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1983, caravan or similar temporary accommodation.

'unit/flat' (definition as contained in section 2 of Valuation of Land Act 1960) means:

- (a) A unit on a registered plan of strata subdivision subject to Schedule 2 to the Subdivision Act 1988; and
- (b) A stratum estate within the meaning of Transfer of Land Act 1958; and
- (c) A building or part of a building in the exclusive occupation of a person who is entitled to occupation by virtue of being a shareholder in a company which owns the building or a tenant of such a shareholder; and
- (d) A residential unit in respect of which a residence right in a retirement village under the Retirement Villages Act 1986 is in force.

### 3.5 Block tariff charges

A block tariff is applicable for residential customers with different price increments occurring up to 440L/day and greater than 440L/day. Where multiple dwellings are supplied from a single meter, the blocks are multiplied by the number of dwellings. For example, the steps for a 2 dwelling residential property would be up to 880L/day and greater than 880L/day.

### 3.6 Private Extension Fees

**South East Water** may, as a term of any agreement with the owner of a property for the supply of water from its works made under section 124(7) of the Water Act, require that owner to pay:

- (a) an annual private extension supply fee equivalent to the Service charge (per annum); and
- (b) a private extension usage fee equivalent to the Usage charge (per kL),

specified in item 1.1 of Schedule 2.

### 3.7 Sewage disposal charges

- (a) Where **South East Water** applies a sewage disposal charge it must be in accordance with the **Water Act**.
- (b) A sewage disposal charge shall be calculated by reference to the volume, expressed in kilolitres, or part thereof, of sewage discharged or estimated to have been discharged during a billing period.
- (c) Except as provided for in the next three paragraphs, the volume of sewage discharged to the sewerage system during a billing period shall be calculated according to a formula specified below.
- (d) If **South East Water** is satisfied that the use of the formula is likely to systematically and substantially overestimate or underestimate the volume of sewage discharged, **South East Water** may use another formula or method for estimating the volume.
- (e) **South East Water** may apply 'property specific' sewage disposal charge factors to customers that are served by a third pipe recycled water supply, or any other form of alternative water supply (e.g. rainwater tanks). In those circumstances, **South East Water** would undertake a 'water balance' of potable water consumed as against expected discharges to sewer.
- (f) A customer may seek a customised discharge factor using consumption history to determine the assumed percentage of water discharged to the sewer annually. The formula used to calculate the volume of sewage may differ from that otherwise applied with the standard discharge factor replaced by a customised discharge factor.

### 3.8 Backlog sewerage surcharge tariff fee

Where **South East Water** applies a backlog sewerage charge, it must be in accordance with the **Water Act**.

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), **South East Water** may impose a backlog sewerage tariff fee pursuant to section 259(1)(a) of the **Water Act**, as specified in Schedule 2 on the owner of any property that:
  - (i) has been identified in a sewerage management plan as requiring the provision of sewerage services to resolve problems relating to wastewater management on that property; and
  - (ii) has been declared to be a serviced property for the purposes of sewerage by **South East Water**, under section 144(1)(b) of the **Water Act**.
- (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the owner of any property in respect of which:
  - (ii) a brought-forward backlog sewerage tariff fee referred to in paragraph (c), has previously been paid.
- (c) If **South East Water**, on the application of a property owner, agrees to bring forward a backlog sewerage connection to a date earlier than that which might otherwise apply, **South East Water** may impose on the relevant owner a brought-forward backlog sewerage tariff fee pursuant to section 259(1)(a) of the **Water Act**, calculated in the manner set out in Schedule 4 clause 4.3, as if a reference in that clause to a "new customer contribution" were a reference to a "brought-forward backlog sewerage tariff fee".

### 3.9 Sewage disposal charge formula – residential

South East Water will not apply a specified sewage disposal charge for residential customers.

### 3.10 Sewage disposal charge formula – non-residential

For non-residential customers, the formula is:

**Trade waste customers:**

$$\text{Sewage Disposal Charge} = \text{Price} \times (\text{Metered volume} - \text{Process volume} - \text{Trade waste volume}) \times 0.9$$

**Other customers:**

$$\text{Sewage Disposal Charge} = \text{Price} \times \text{Metered volume} \times \text{Discharge factor}$$

Note: In circumstances where a customer is supplied with recycled water that is discharged to sewer, metered volume includes both potable and recycled water.

Note: The calculation of the sewage disposal charge is subject to clauses 3.7 (c)-(f).

In the absence of meters to measure waste streams, the discharged volume is derived via estimation. For trade waste customers, this involves a detailed water audit, including whether there are any seasonal relationships with water use and sewage disposal. For non-trade waste customers, an alternative (more customer specific) factor is assigned. This factor essentially addresses the 'process' volume, for example watering ovals etc, and is primarily based on the industry in which the customer operates. See the following table for details:

per cent	Discharge factors
0	Farms, Fountain, Nature strip, Planter box, Round-a-bout, Vacant Land
10	Football oval, Golf course, Plant Nursery, Quarry, Racing tracks, Recreation reserve
25	Cemetery, Construction site, Bowling green, Tennis Club
50	Ambulance, Bus/tram depot, Car sales, Caravan Park, Caravan/Boat parking lot, Child care centre, Fire Brigade, Kennels, Kindergartens, Machinery storage, School, SES, Yacht club
75	Swimming centre
90	Laundrette, Library, Petrol station, Police station/courthouse, Post office, Printing works, Professional offices - , Public toilet block, Railway station, Reception centre, Repair workshop, Restaurant, RSL or other non-sporting club, Shopfront printing works, Shopping centre, Silo/Grain storage or flour mill , Single shop, Storage depot for gas or fuel, Supermarket, Telephone exchange, Tip, Travel agency
90	All other non-residential customers

### 3.11 Assignment of trade waste risk rank

Trade waste risk rank is calculated as:

$$RR = L * (V + H + A)$$

Where:

#### L = Location

is the location of the discharge in relation to the treatment plant.

If discharging to Eastern Treatment Plant or Western Treatment Plant and >5 km L = 1

If discharging to Eastern Treatment Plant or Western Treatment Plant and <5 km L = 1.2

If discharging to Somers, Boneo, Mt Martha or Pakenham Treatment Plants L = 1.2

If discharging to Other Local Treatment Plants L = 1.5

#### V = Volume

is the maximum daily discharge volume from recorded volumes . Volumes for new customers are supplied by the customer and verified during the application assessment stage.

Average daily volume (kL)	V
< 5	1
≥ 5 and < 25	10
≥ 25 and < 50	20
≥ 50 and < 75	30
≥ 75 and < 100	40
≥ 100 and < 500	50
≥ 500 and < 1000	75
≥ 1000 and < 2000	100
≥ 2000	150

## H = History

is the compliance history taken over the last two years.

New work/change of occupier, H=0

Customers with non-compliance in the past two years for a parameter breach for an environmental concern will be assigned a History weight of 10

Customers with non-compliance in the past two years for a parameter breach for an Occupation Health & Safety concern will be assigned a History weight of 20

## A = Activity

every customer has a list of activities assigned to its business. It is the activity with the highest value that is used i.e. activity and value with highest risk. The following are examples that can be expanded upon during discussions with new applicants:

Activity	A
Food preparation	1
Dry cleaning	30
Abattoir	100
Liquid waste disposal	120

Based on the calculation of **RR**, the risk rank is assigned as per the table below.

The risk rank determines:

- the inspection and sampling frequency
- the agreement terms and conditions
- requirements for customer self-monitoring
- requirements for a risk profile plan
- requirements for a waste management plan.

RR Calculation total	Risk rank	Inspection frequency
> 151	1 (Extreme)	Monthly
121 – 150	2 (High)	Bimonthly
91 – 120	3 (Medium)	Quarterly
51 – 90	4 (Low)	Half Yearly
< 50	5 (Minimal)	Annually or as required



### 3.12 Trade waste volumetric and quality charges

In addition to the Trade Waste Agreement charges, customers whose trade waste exceeds any one of the following parameters will be charged the trade waste volumetric and quality charges included in Schedule 2:

- Volume greater than 1,000 kL per year; or
- Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) greater than 600mg/L; or
- Suspended Solids (SS) greater than 600mg/L.

### 3.13 Miscellaneous fees and charges

The following table sets out the definitions of the miscellaneous charges contained in Schedule 2.

Miscellaneous service	Definition
<b>Water service connections</b>	
<b>Dry tapping - drinking water 20mm</b>	Water Service connections (Tappings, Tee Insertions) The connection points (tapping saddles) required to connect water service pipes to water mains were not installed in residential subdivisions constructed prior to 1992, and have never been installed in mains serving non-residential subdivisions.
<b>Dry tapping - drinking &amp; recycled 20mm (installed in the same visit)</b>	Therefore whenever an owner of a property requires to connect to a water supply main where connection points do not exist, a tapping saddle needs to be bolted on to the main and the main tapped, or in some instances a tee inserted. Connections can only be carried out by <b>South East Water's</b> contractors and a fee applies.
<b>20mm main to meter - short side</b>	This fee covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• administration costs of staff who determine that a connection can be installed in the main, arrange the connection date and time with the customer (or their plumber) and <b>South East Water's</b> contractor, and update the records indicating the type and size of connection, and</li> </ul>
<b>20mm main to meter - long side</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contractor's fees, which cover the contractor's labour, materials, travelling and other costs.</li> </ul>
<b>80mm-150mm wet tapping on mains ≤ 150mm</b>	The customer or their plumber is responsible for the excavation, backfilling, site reinstatement and traffic management costs.

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## Miscellaneous Definition service

### Water service connections (continued)

<b>20mm digital meter (including installation)</b>	<p>Properties connecting to the water supply system are required to pay for the provision of a digital meter(s) to be supplied and installed by <b>South East Water</b> at the property.</p> <p>Fee covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provision of information on metering policy covering the size and type required for the customers property (i.e. whether 'remote read' meter is required, location of meters within unit developments, sizing to achieve required flow rates, etc.)</li><li>• the supply of the meter, and its delivery to a <b>South East Water</b> approved contractor,</li><li>• its installation by the contractor, or the supervision of its installation by the contractor, and</li><li>• the creation or updating of the customer's record to indicate the size, type serial number and location of the meter has been installed at the customers property, whether it is part of a meter network within the development, and its inclusion of the meter reading data base.</li></ul>
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### Information Statements

<b>Information statements all forms of lodgements (includes MW share)</b>	<p>The fee needs to be lodged to obtain an Information Statement that shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Drainage charge levied on the property during the current financial year and the amount outstanding,</li><li>• the Parks charge levied on the property during the current financial year and the amount currently outstanding,</li><li>• details of any Encumbrances placed by <b>South East Water</b> on the property,</li><li>• details of Encumbrances placed by Melbourne Water on the property.</li><li>• The fee covers:</li><li>• the cost issuing the statement and the cost of an update of the amount outstanding if such an update is requested within 6 months of the issue date of the statement;</li><li>• Melbourne Water's costs of providing encumbrance information for inclusion on the statement.</li></ul>
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**Miscellaneous Definition  
service**

**Inspection and application fees**

**Plumbing  
application  
fee**

The fee covers the costs of reviewing the Notice of Assessment for the connection of water and sewerage services to a property.

**Residential  
recycled  
water  
plumbing  
inspection fee**

**South East Water** requires verification that its 'Conditions of Connection' are complied with.

The verification includes compliance with EPA Health Environment Management Plans prior to connection to connection of Class A Recycled water customers and other water supply conditions provided under section 145 of the Water Act 1989. This verification minimises the risk of cross connections to the potable water supply.

**Sewerage  
application  
fee**

The fee covers the costs of verifying that the services being applied for are available and the capacity exists to service the property, and issuing of consent to connect to our network.

## Schedule 4 – Pricing principles

### 4.1 Recycled water pricing principles

Recycled water prices should be set so as to:

- have regard to the price of any substitutes and customers' willingness to pay;
- cover the full cost of providing the service (with the exception of services related to specified obligations or maintaining balance of supply and demand); and
- include a variable component.

Where **South East Water** does not propose to fully recover the costs associated with recycled water, it must demonstrate to the commission that:

- it has assessed the costs and benefits of pursuing the recycled water project;
- it has clearly identified the basis on which any revenue shortfall is to be recovered; and
- if the revenue shortfall is to be recovered from non-recycled water customers, either the project is required under the Statement of Obligations which applies to **South East Water** or pursuant to other government policies that apply to **South East Water** or there has been consultation with the affected customers about their willingness to pay for the benefits of increased recycling.

### 4.2 Pricing principles where scheduled prices do not apply

Where the prices set out in Schedule 2 do not apply because the nature of the service provided to a particular customer (including, in the case of trade waste customers, the volume or load of waste treated) is unique, prices must be set as follows:

- variable prices (including, in the case of trade waste customers, load-based charges) should reflect the long run marginal cost of providing services (including, in the case of trade waste customers, trade waste transfer, treatment and disposal);
- the total revenue received from each customer should be greater than the cost that would be avoided from ceasing to serve that customer, and (subject to meeting avoidable cost) less than the stand alone cost of providing the service to the customer in the most efficient manner;
- the methodology used to allocate common and fixed costs to that customer should be clearly articulated and be consistent with any guidance provided by the commission;
- prices should reflect reasonable assumptions regarding the customer's demand for services (including, in the case of trade waste customers, the volume and strength of trade waste anticipated to be produced by that customer);

- depreciation rates and rates of return used to determine prices should be consistent with those adopted by the commission for the purposes of making this Determination;
- customers should be provided with full details of the manner in which prices have been calculated and any new, renewed or renegotiated contractual agreements with customers should indicate that the prices to apply are subject to any Determination made by the commission;
- where applying these principles results in significant changes to prices or tariff structures, arrangements for phasing in the changes may be considered and any transitional arrangements should be clearly articulated.

### 4.3 Pricing principles for NCC

#### Core pricing principles

**NCC**, including standard or negotiated **NCC**, will be calculated by applying the following core **NCC** pricing principles.

Subject to clause 11 of the WIRO, Standard and negotiated **NCC** will:

- have regard to the incremental infrastructure and associated costs in one or more of the statutory cost categories attributable to a given connection;
- have regard to the incremental future revenues that will be earned from customers at that connection;
- be greater than the avoidable cost of that connection and less than the standalone cost of that connection.

Notes:

1. Given that **NCC** are to be based on the net incremental cost of connection (ie incremental costs net of incremental benefits), in this context, the costs referred to in the efficient pricing bound are the net costs, specifically the avoidable net cost of connection and standalone net cost of connection.
2. Where the connection arrangement requires assets to be gifted, the value of gifted assets will be excluded for the purpose of calculating net costs.
3. Incremental costs may include financing costs associated with constructing an asset sooner than planned.

#### NCC application

**NCC** are applied on a per lot basis and may be levied on any connection of a new customer that is separately titled or is, or can be, individually metered.

## Incremental financing costs

Incremental financing costs (IFC) should be calculated using this formula:

$$\text{IFC} = \left(1 - \left[\frac{1}{(1+r)^n}\right]\right) \times \text{cost of capital being provided sooner than planned}$$

where:

r estimated pre-tax regulatory rate of return

n the number of years the asset is required sooner than planned.

## Gifted Assets

**South East Water** can require developers to provide and gift to **South East Water** specified assets as a condition of connection, provided that **South East Water**:

- makes clear to potential developers which assets a developer will be responsible for providing and gifting, and which will be provided by **South East Water**;
- confirms that negotiation of any non-standard connection and associated charges will be undertaken in accordance with **South East Water's** published negotiating framework; and
- the value of gifted assets will be excluded for the purposes of calculating net costs.

## Backlog sewerage scheme

If a customer requires connection under the backlog sewerage scheme sooner than scheduled, then **South East Water** may charge an amount to recover any incremental financing costs incurred by it. This amount is to be calculated consistent with the pricing principles in Section 4.3.

## 4.4 Pricing principles for *miscellaneous services* not included in Schedule 2

Prices for **miscellaneous services** must be set according to actual cost calculated on the basis of the aggregate of:

- direct third party or contractor invoice cost;
- direct marginal internal costs, including labour, materials and transport costs; and
- a fair contribution to overheads.

For bank dishonour, debt collection and legal fees, the third party costs must be charged directly to the customer with no contribution for internal costs or a contribution to overheads.

## 4.5 Guidelines

**South East Water** must comply with any guidelines issued by the commission from time to time which relate to the setting of prices for **prescribed services** to which Schedule 4 relates.

## Schedule 5 – Adjustment to Schedule 2 – changes in costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

If in any **regulatory year** Condition A and/or Condition B apply (per Schedule 5B below), the formula set out in clause 2.3(b) is not applicable to the extent it relates to the prices listed in Schedule 5A. The prices in Schedule 5A are specified under items 1.1 to 1.4 of Schedule 2.

Instead, the prices in Schedule 5A will be adjusted in accordance with the formulas (as applicable) provided in Schedule 5B, with effect from the beginning of each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period**.

**South East Water** must comply with any guidance issued by the commission from time to time which relate to the setting of prices for **prescribed services** to which Schedule 2 and 4 relates.

### Schedule 5A – Adjustment to prices

Tariffs	Condition A (Annual cost of debt update)	Condition B (Melbourne Water bulk water cost change)	Condition C (Melbourne Water bulk sewerage cost change)	Condition D (Melbourne Water desalination water order)
1.1 Residential water service charge	X	X		
1.1 Residential water variable charge				X
1.2 Non-residential water service charge	X	X		
1.2 Non-residential water variable charge				X
1.3 Residential sewerage service charge	X	X		
1.4 Non-residential sewerage service charge	X	X		

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

## Schedule 5B – Prices

### Condition A – Annual cost of debt update

Condition A will apply when the trailing average cost of debt in any **regulatory year** 't' changes in that year. The adjustment is calculated as per formula 4 below.

The difference in the forecast and actual regulatory rate of return in any **regulatory year** 't' is multiplied by the average of the **RAB** to determine the change in **South East Water's** total expected return. The **RAB** is set out in Table 5 of Annexure A.

The trailing average cost of debt adjustment will be apportioned across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A.

### Formula 1: Determining the nominal cost of debt

$$CoD_t^{nominal} = \sum_{i=t-10}^{t-1} \frac{CoD_i^{nominal}}{10}$$

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$CoD_t^{nominal}$	Is equal to the simple average of the 10 years up to (but not inclusive of) <b>regulatory year</b> 't' of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The historical nominal cost of debt series outlined in Table 1 of Annexure A</li></ul> and <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- RBA Table F3 – Non-financial corporate BBB-rated bonds – Yield – 10-year target tenor [Series ID FNFYBBB10M]</li></ul> from 1 April to 31 March before the start of <b>regulatory year</b> 't' (e.g. 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 in relation to 2023-24)
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### Formula 2: Determining the real cost of debt

$$CoD_t^{real} = \frac{(1 + CoD_t^{nominal})}{(1 + \pi^{det})} - 1$$

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$\pi^{det}$	Is the inflation factor which is equal to 3.5% for all regulatory years (unless updated in accordance with Note 1 below, in which case it is equal to the updated amount set by the commission)
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Formula 2 outlines the process for converting the trailing average cost of debt from nominal to real using the Fisher equation.

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt



Note 1: If inflation (measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index – all groups) falls to 2.5 per cent (or below) in 2026-27, we will update the inflation factor ( $\pi^{det}$ ) using a five year averaging period; the updated inflation factor will be used for any necessary adjustment of the Scheduled prices in Schedule 2.

### Formula 3: Determining the real regulatory rate of return

$$RRR_t^{real} = 0.4 \times CoE_t^{real} + 0.6 \times CoD_t^{real}$$

$RRR_t^{real}$	Is the post-tax ‘vanilla’ regulatory rate of return in real terms for <b>regulatory year ‘t’</b> rounded to two decimal places, i.e. 4.347% is rounded to 4.35%
$CoE_t^{real}$	Is the real cost of equity which is equal to 4.1 % for 2023-24 to 2027-28

### Formula 4: Trailing average cost of debt adjustment

$$CDA_t^j = (RRR_t^{act} - RRR_t^{det}) \times \left( \frac{RAB_{opening,t}^{det} + RAB_{closing,t}^{det}}{2} \right) \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{base}} \times \frac{\alpha_t^j \times q_{j,t}^{det}}{\sum_{j=1,n}^{t=t} (\alpha_t^j \times q_{j,t}^{det})} \times \frac{1}{q_{j,t}^{det}}$$

$CDA_t^j$	Is the trailing average cost of debt adjustment applied proportionally to tariff j, based on tariff j’s relative share of total revenues. Total revenues refer to the sum of all revenue received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply
$RRR_t^{act}$	Is the actual calculated real post tax ‘vanilla’ regulatory rate of return in <b>regulatory year ‘t’</b>
$RRR_t^{det}$	Is the determination real post tax ‘vanilla’ regulatory rate of return in <b>regulatory year ‘t’</b>
$RAB_{opening,t}^{det}$	Is the determination opening <b>RAB</b> in <b>regulatory year ‘t’</b>
$RAB_{closing,t}^{det}$	Is the determination closing <b>RAB</b> in <b>regulatory year ‘t’</b>
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>
$CPI_{base}$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter in year 2023 equal to 132.6.

Continued next page

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

#### Formula 4: Trailing average cost of debt adjustment (continued)

$\alpha_t^j$	Is the price for tariff j at <b>regulatory year</b> 't' before the cost of debt adjustment where:
$\alpha_t^j = p_{t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j)$	
$p_{t-1}^j$	Is the price for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't-1'
$q_{j,t}^{det}$	Is the determination quantity for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't'
$\sum_{j=1,n}^{t=t} (\alpha_t^j \times q_{j,t}^{det})$	Is the sum of all revenue received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply
$PPM_t^j$	Is the prescribed price movement for the price component of tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as per the determination

Formula 4 outlines the process for calculating the adjustment to prices outlined in Schedule 5A to reflect the new cost of debt. This is done in two steps. The first step is to calculate the change in the revenue requirement by multiplying the adjustment to the rate of return, to reflect the updated cost of debt, by the average regulatory asset base.

The second step is to apply the change in the revenue requirement proportionally to tariff j, based on tariff j's relative share of total revenues. Total revenues are defined as the sum of all revenues received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply.

#### Condition B – Bulk water costs adjustment

Condition B will apply when **Melbourne Water's** bulk water costs in any **regulatory year** 't' differ from forecast in that year. The changes in costs will be calculated in accordance with formula 6 and apply to the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A.

## Formula 5: Schedule 5A tariffs

$$p_{WS,t}^j = p_{t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j) + BWA_{t,j}^{WS} + CDA_t^j$$

$p_{WS,t}^{j,COD}$	Is the water service charge for tariff j at <b>regulatory year</b> 't' that accounts for the changes in <b>South East Water's</b> trailing average cost of debt and <b>Melbourne Water's</b> bulk water costs.
$p_{t-1}^j$	Is the water service charge for or tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't-1'
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.06 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>
$PPM_t^j$	The prescribed price movement for the price component for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as per the determination
$BWA_{t,j}^{WS}$	Is the bulk water cost adjustment applied to <b>South East Water's</b> water service tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' to account for changes in <b>Melbourne Water's</b> trailing average cost of debt and desalination contract cost outlined in formula 6.
$CDA_t^j$	Is the trailing average cost of debt adjustment applied proportionally to tariff j, based on tariff j's relative share of total revenues as outlined in formula 4. Total revenues refer to the sum of all revenue received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply.

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

## Formula 6: Melbourne Water Bulk water cost adjustment

$$BWA_{t,j}^{WS} = \frac{A_t^{HF}}{\sum_{j=1}^n (p_{WS,t-1}^{j,det} \times Q_t^{WS,j}) \times (1 + PPM_t^{j,WS}) \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}}}$$

$BWA_{t,j}^{WS}$	<p>Is the adjustment factor applied to <b>South East Water's</b> water service tariffs to account for changes in Melbourne Water's bulk water costs (from changes in Melbourne Water's trailing average cost of debt and desalination contract cost changes).</p> <p>The adjustment (<math>A_t^{HF}</math>) is divided by the total water service tariff revenue to apply the change proportionally to water service tariff j.</p>
$A_t^{HF}$	Is the approved adjustment to <b>South East Water's</b> total bulk water costs from changes in Melbourne Water's trailing average cost of debt and desalination contract cost changes in <b>regulatory year 't'</b>
$p_{WS,t-1}^j$	Is the price for residential and non-residential potable water service tariffs j in <b>regulatory year 't-1'</b>
$Q_t^{WS,j}$	Is the determination quantity for each water service tariff j in <b>regulatory year 't'</b>
$PPM_t^{j,WS}$	Is the prescribed price movement for the water service charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year 't'</b> as per the determination
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

## Formula 7: Sewerage service tariff adjustment

$$p_{SS,t}^j = p_{SS,t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j) \times (1 + BSA_{t,j}^{SS}) \times (1 + CODA_t^j)$$

$p_{SS,t}^j$	The sewerage service charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as a result of changes in <b>South East Water's</b> trailing average cost of debt and Melbourne Water's bulk sewerage costs.
$p_{SS,t-1}^j$	Is the sewerage service charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't-1'
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>
$PPM_t^j$	The prescribed price movement for the price component for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as per the determination.
$BSA_{t,j}^{SS}$	Is the adjustment factor applied to <b>South East Water's</b> sewerage service tariff j in regulatory year t to account for changes in Melbourne Water's trailing average cost of debt as outlined in formula 8
$CODA_t^j$	Is the trailing average cost of debt adjustment applied proportionally to tariff j, based on tariff j's relative share of total revenues. Total revenues refer to the sum of all revenue received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply.

## Formula 8: Price adjustment to account for changes in Melbourne Water’s bulk sewerage costs

$$BSA_{t,j}^{SS} = \frac{A_t^{BS}}{\sum_{j=1}^n (p_{SS,t-1}^j \times Q_t^{SS,j}) \times (1 + PPM_t^{j,SS}) \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}}}$$

$BSA_{t,j}^{SS}$	<p>Is the adjustment factor applied to <b>South East Water’s</b> sewerage service tariff j to account for changes in Melbourne Water’s trailing average cost of debt.</p> <p>Is the adjustment factor applied to <b>South East Water’s</b> sewerage service tariffs to account for changes in Melbourne Water’s bulk sewerage costs (from changes in Melbourne Water’s trailing average cost of debt).</p> <p>The adjustment (<math>A_t^{BS}</math>) is divided by the total sewerage service tariff revenue to apply the change proportionally to sewerage service tariff j.</p>
$A_t^{BS}$	Is the approved adjustment to <b>South East Water’s</b> total bulk sewerage costs from changes in Melbourne Water’s trailing average cost of debt
$p_{SS,t-1}^j$	Is the price for residential and non-residential sewerage service tariffs j in <b>regulatory year</b> ‘t-1’
$Q_t^{SS,j}$	Is the determination quantity for each sewerage service tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> ‘t’
$PPM_t^{j,SS}$	Is the prescribed price movement for the sewerage service charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> ‘t’ as per the determination
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

## Formula 9: Water variable tariff adjustment

$$p_{WV,t}^j = p_{WV,t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j) \times (1 + DWO_t^j)$$

$p_{WV,t}^j$	The water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as a result of costs associated with a desalination plant water order.
$p_{WV,t-1}^j$	Is the water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't-1'
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>
$PPM_t^j$	The prescribed price movement for the price component for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as per the determination.
$DWO_t^j$	Is the desalinated water order cost adjustment applied to water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as outlined in formula 10

## Formula 10: Desalination water order cost adjustment

$$DWO_t^j = \frac{BDWOC_t^{act} - BDWOC_t^{det} \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{base}}}{\sum_{j=1}^n (p_{WV,t-1}^j \times Q_t^{WV,j}) \times (1 + PPM_t^{j,WV}) \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}}}$$

$DWO_t^j$	Is the desalinated water order cost adjustment applied to the water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't'
$CPI_t$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter immediately preceding the start of the relevant <b>regulatory year</b>
$CPI_{base}$	Is the Consumer Price Index: All Groups Index for the Eight Capital Cities as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (6401.0 - Table 8) for the March Quarter in year 2023 equal to 132.6
$PPM_t^{j,WV}$	Is the prescribed price movement for the water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't' as per the determination
$p_{WV,t-1}^j$	The water variable charge for tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't-1'
$Q_t^{WV,j}$	Is the determination quantity for each water variable tariff j in <b>regulatory year</b> 't'
$BDWOC_t$	Is the bulk desalinated water order costs incurred by <b>South East Water</b> in <b>regulatory year</b> 't'

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt



**The Common Seal of the  
Essential Services  
Commission** was affixed to  
this Determination with the  
authority of the commission.

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Date: 26 June, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Symons".

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**Kate Symons**  
**Chairperson**

# Annexure A

**Table 1 Historical cost of debt (nominal)**

Per cent

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cost of debt	7.05%	5.36%	5.27%	4.91%	4.53%	4.61%	3.31%	3.05%	3.75%	6.76%

**Table 2 Forecast real regulatory rate of return**

Per cent

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Regulatory rate of return	2.43%	2.41%	2.49%	2.58%	2.69%

**Table 3 Benchmark revenue requirement**

\$m 2022-23

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Operating expenditure	703.5	706.5	709.3	706.4	704.2
Return on assets	100.9	104.8	114.4	124.9	136.5
Regulatory depreciation	118.3	108.1	104.1	110.2	121.4
Tax allowance	15.1	12.0	10.6	13.0	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>937.8</b>	<b>931.6</b>	<b>938.3</b>	<b>954.5</b>	<b>975.8</b>

**Table 4 Closing regulatory asset base**

\$m 2022-23

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Opening RAB at 1 July	3,688.8	3,722.2	3,748.3	3,877.0	3,969.8
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	168.6	227.8	281.9	253.5	188.0
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	48.4	45.0	35.9	33.6	32.5
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	2.3	90.7	42.2	42.6	30.6
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	84.5	66.1	75.1	84.6	93.6
<b>Closing RAB at 30 June</b>	<b>3,722.2</b>	<b>3,748.3</b>	<b>3,877.0</b>	<b>3,969.8</b>	<b>4,001.1</b>

**Table 5 Forecast regulatory asset base**  
\$m 2022-23

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Opening RAB at 1 July	4,001.1	4,071.7	4,231.7	4,467.8	4,718.3	4,960.7
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	219.6	326.0	380.8	393.0	400.5	397.3
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	12.3	12.5	-	-	-	-
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	33.0	33.2	34.7	36.5	45.9	48.0
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	101.8	118.3	108.1	104.1	110.2	121.4
<b>Closing RAB at 30 June</b>	<b>4,071.7</b>	<b>4,231.7</b>	<b>4,467.8</b>	<b>4,718.3</b>	<b>4,960.7</b>	<b>5,186.7</b>

**Table 6 Approved licence fee and environmental contribution assumptions**  
\$m 2022-23

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Essential Services Commission licence fee	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Department of Health licence fee	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Environment Protection Authority licence fee	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Environmental contribution	42.0	40.6	39.2	37.9	36.6

**Table 7 Bulk water purchases**  
\$m 2022-23

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Bulk water purchases	493.0	495.9	499.4	499.5	499.5

**Table 8 Demand forecast**

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
<b>Water assessments (no.)</b>					
Residential	769,971	778,879	787,787	800,819	813,852
Non-residential	62,521	62,970	63,417	64,068	64,715
Total	832,491	841,849	851,204	864,887	878,567
<b>Sewerage assessments (no.)</b>					
Residential	749,897	758,805	767,713	780,745	793,778
Non-residential	57,571	58,020	58,467	59,118	59,765
Total	807,467	816,825	826,180	839,863	853,543
<b>Billable water consumption (ML)</b>					
Residential	110,826	111,385	111,982	113,193	114,411
Non-residential	33,198	33,968	34,633	34,849	35,024
Total	144,024	145,353	146,615	148,042	149,435

**Table 9 Major capital projects**

Project	Expected start date	Expected completion date
Digital Metering – New Connections and Exchanges	2023-24	2028-29
Hanna Street Capacity Upgrade – Stage 2	2022-23	2027-28
South East Regional Biofactory – Stage 1	2022-23	2032-33
Mount Martha Water Recycling Plant Augmentation	2023-24	2027-28
Westernport Irrigation Scheme – Stage 1	2022-23	2025-26
Longwarry Water Recycling Plant Upgrade	2022-23	2027-28
Fishermans Bend Water Recycling Plant and Sewer Connection	2022-23	2029-30
Dingley Recycled Water Scheme	2022-23	2028-29
Ballarto Road East Pump Station and Rising Main	2025-26	2028-29
Lang Lang Water Recycling Plant	2022-23	2026-27