

South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** and its successors and assigns in respect of the business carried on by **South Gippsland 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)(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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water***, extend or reduce the time by which, or the period within which, ***South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** has entered into a contract which relates to the provision of **prescribed services** prior to 1 July 2023 (a **relevant contract**), **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 and Schedule 5, the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 will be adjusted in each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period** in accordance with the formulas in clause 2.3(b)(i) and Schedule 5, and the procedure in clause 2.3(c), and will apply to the **prescribed services** to which the scheduled prices in Schedule 2 relate in that **regulatory year**.

(b) Formula

- (i) Subject to Schedule 2 and Schedule 5, each price for the **prescribed services** referred to in clause 2.3(a) 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.

- (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(b)(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.

(c) Adjustment procedure

- (i) At least 30 **business days** prior to the commencement of each subsequent **regulatory year** in the **regulatory period**, **South Gippsland 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).
- (iii) The commission will be deemed to have approved the **revised scheduled prices** if it has not provided notice under clause 2.3(c)(iv) to **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** (including a statement of its reasons);
 - (B) may request **South Gippsland Water** to provide any additional information specified by the commission;
 - (C) will take any additional information provided by **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** is complying with this Determination.
- (b) Without limiting clause 2.5(a), if, during the **regulatory period**, **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** may apply to the commission in accordance with this clause 3 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 Gippsland 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 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** within 40 **business days** from the date of its receipt of **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** makes an application under clause 4.1(a), **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 1989* (Vic), 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 Gippsland Water's control;
- (ii) were or should have been known by **South Gippsland Water** at the time the Determination was made;
- (iii) could reasonably have been foreseen by **South Gippsland Water**;
- (iv) should be or should have been planned for or managed by **South Gippsland Water**; and/or
- (v) reflect inefficient expenditure by **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water*** to provide any additional information specified by the commission in connection with an ***uncertain events application***. ***South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 of on which notice of its making is published in the Government Gazette or any later date 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** is obliged, in any proposal for an annual adjustment to prices made to the commission under clause 2.3, to propose an adjustment mechanism for storage operator and bulk water service prices to applicable prices 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(c) will apply to the proposals made by **South Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water means South Gippsland Region Water Corporation (trading as South Gippsland Water (ABN 40 349 066 713).

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 ‘ Σ ’ 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, wastewater, and trade waste charges are rounded down to 4 decimal places. All other charges are rounded down to 2 decimal places.

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1.1 Water access fees (per annum)					
Access fee – Developed	382.13	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Undeveloped	382.13	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Agreements	343.95	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Concessional	306.52	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.2 Water usage charges (per kL)					
Volumetric fee – [major industrial customer]	2.9024	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Volumetric fee – All Others	2.3942	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Unmetered Fee					
Based on 15kL per bill at the new volume fee	98.52	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.3 Sewerage access fees (per annum)					
Residential and non-residential (cistern and trade waste not applicable)					
Access fee – Developed	593.05	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Undeveloped	335.54	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.4 Cistern access and disposal fees (per annum)					
Non-residential with multiple cisterns					
1 – 2 Cisterns	201.92	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
3 – 5 Cisterns	531.20	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
6 – 10 Cisterns	1028.65	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
11 – 15 Cisterns	1647.11	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
16 – 20 Cisterns	2746.42	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Continued next page

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1.4 Cistern access and disposal fees (per annum) (continued)					
Non-residential with multiple cisterns (continued)					
21 – 26 Cisterns	3930.88	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
27 – 35 Cisterns	4818.11	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
36 – Greater Cisterns	5505.47	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Cistern volume disposal charge					
Volume Charge (per kL)	2.4037	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.5 Minor trade waste fees					
Non-residential with trade waste parameters (standard terms and conditions)					
Application fees (per application)					
Category 1	153.84	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Category 2	245.43	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Category 3	449.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Minor trade waste access fees (per annum)					
Access fee – Category 1	819.64	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Category 2	1088.78	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Access fee – Category 3	1350.68	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Minor trade waste disposal charge (per kL)					
Volumetric fee – All Others	1.1486	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Quality fees (per kg)					
BOD	0.8484	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
SS	0.8005	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Nitrogen	3.5845	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Phosphorous	20.4225	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Other fees					
Treatment violation fee	368.10	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Asset protection fee	1795.70	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Additional sampling (per sample) at cost recovery	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost

Continued next page

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1.5 Minor trade waste fees					
Non-residential with trade waste parameters (standard terms and conditions) (continued)					
Exceedance fees (per kg)					
Oil & Grease	0.1277	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Sodium	0.1277	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
TOS	0.9149	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.6 Backflow (SGW Supplied)					
20mm	406.91	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
25mm	448.21	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
32mm	536.23	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
40mm	560.20	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
50mm	691.35	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
80mm	1140.20	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
100mm	1456.68	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
150mm	1507.30	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Backflow Application Fee	331.37	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
1.7 Fire Service Fees					
Inspection Fee	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
20mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
25mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
32mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
40mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
50mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
80mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
100mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
150mm	92.29	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Reseal Fee	299.03	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Additional Meter	25.72	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Continued next page

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1.8 New customer contributions					
Water (all customers)					
All lot sizes	2694.35	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer (all customers)					
All lot sizes	2694.35	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pressure sewer systems (negotiated fee in addition to standard fee) e.g. Poowong Loch, Nyora and Alberton					
Infrastructure charge - cost recovery per connection	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost
1.9 Miscellaneous fees and charges					
Property information statements	67.09	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Special meter readings	51.57	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
As constructed charge	84.15	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tapping fee (20mm)	463.76	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) Fee (standard)	260.37	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer cut-in	830.87	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Standpipe water sales					
Registered users	7.7646	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Non-registered users	10.3530	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Septic tank waste receival (kL)	32.48	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Non-Core Miscellaneous Services	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost	At cost

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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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 access fees and water usage charges

It is the role of **South Gippsland Water** to ensure that its fixed water service charges (water access fees) and water usage charges are authorised under the **Water Act** and applied in accordance with this **Act** and this determination.

3.2 Sewerage access fees (residential and non-residential customers)

It is the role of **South Gippsland Water** to ensure that its fixed sewerage service charges (sewerage access fees) are authorised under the **Water Act** and applied in accordance with this **Act** and this determination.

Residential sewerage customers are not subject to any cistern or trade waste charges. Non-residential customers may instead pay a cistern access and volume fee and/or a trade waste access fee as described below.

3.3 Cistern access fees (non-residential customers)

Cistern access fees are applied to relevant non-residential customers considered to dispose large volumes of waste (as identified by multiple cisterns). Some of these customers may also discharge trade waste in which case they can be charged both a cistern access fee and a trade waste access fee (where their waste impacts on both volume and trade waste parameters). In these rare circumstances, only the volumetric cistern waste charges would be applied.

Cistern customers are not also subject to the sewerage access fee.

3.4 Cistern volumetric charge (non-residential customers)

Cistern volumetric charges are applied to relevant non-residential customers considered to dispose large volumes of waste (as identified by multiple cisterns). The volumetric charge is levied as a percentage of metered water use. The percentage varies based on the activity of the non-residential customer as follows:

Percentage	Activity
80 per cent	Business, Community Services, Education, Religious, Dwelling
55 per cent	Tourism, Hospitals
30 per cent	Sporting

3.5 Minor trade waste fees

Minor trade waste fees are distinguished from major trade waste customers by application of standard terms and conditions contained within the minor trade waste agreement. Trade waste access fees, volumetric, quality, and other trade waste charges are applied to non-residential customers based on trade waste parameters contained within the disposed waste. Some customers can be charged both a cistern access fee and a trade waste access fee (where their waste impacts on both cistern and trade waste loadings), however, in these rare circumstances, only the volumetric cistern waste charges would be applied.

Trade waste customers are not also subject to the sewerage access fee.

3.6 Miscellaneous fees and charges

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

Miscellaneous service	Definition
Property information statements (per application)	Fee imposed for providing a certificate issued in accordance with Section 158 of the Water Act 1989.
Special meter readings (per application)	Fee imposed for providing a certificate which indicates water usage charges up to a specified date. Generally provided, on application, for property sales.
As constructed charge	Fee charged to cover administration costs for time spent on processing new developer funded applications.
Water tapping fee	Fee imposed for meter and labour associated with providing a tapping to the water main.
Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) fee (per application)	Fee imposed for providing sewer plans and processing applications to connect or modify plumbing.
Sewer cut in fee	Fee imposed for meter and labour associated with providing a tapping to the sewer main.
Standpipe water sales	Fee imposed for the sale of water via a metered standpipe.
Septic tank waste receipt (per kL)	Fee imposed on septic tank waste carters, for the disposing of sewage and/or other acceptable waste.

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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Water** or pursuant to other government policies that apply to **South Gippsland 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.

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

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

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 Gippsland 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 Melbourne Water bulk water services and annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

If in any **regulatory year** Condition A and/or Condition B and/or Condition C 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 1.5 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 Gippsland 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 headworks cost change)	Condition C (Melbourne Water bulk water transfer cost change)
1.1 Water access fees	X		
1.2 Water usage charges		X	X
1.3 Sewerage access fees	X		
1.4 Cistern access and disposal fees	X		
1.5 Minor trade waste access fees	X		

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 Gippsland 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.

In **regulatory years** where South Gippsland Water's revenue forecast is below the revenue requirement approved by the commission in connection with this Determination, if the annual cost of debt update results in a negative adjustment to South Gippsland Water's revenue, it will not be passed through.

Formula 1: Determining the nominal cost of debt

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

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

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

π^{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.

Note 1: If inflation (measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index – all groups) falls below 2.5 per cent in 2026-27, we will update the inflation factor (π^{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 regulatory year 't' rounded to two decimal places, i.e. 4.347% is rounded to 4.35%
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CoE_t^{real}	Is the real cost of equity which is equal to 4.1% for 2023-24 to 2027-28
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Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with Melbourne Water bulk water services and annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

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 regulatory year 't'
RRR_t^{det}	Is the determination real post-tax 'vanilla' regulatory rate of return in regulatory year 't'
$RAB_{opening,t}^{det}$	Is the determination opening RAB in regulatory year 't'
$RAB_{closing,t}^{det}$	Is the determination closing RAB in regulatory year '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 regulatory year
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.
α_t^j	Is the price for tariff j at regulatory year 't' before the cost of debt adjustment where: <div style="text-align: center;"> $\alpha_t^j = p_{t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j)$ </div>
p_{t-1}^j	Is the price for tariff j in regulatory year 't-1'
$q_{j,t}^{det}$	Is the determination quantity for tariff j in regulatory year '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

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with Melbourne Water bulk water services and annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

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.

Formula 5: Schedule 5A tariffs

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

$p_t^{j,COD}$	Is the price for tariff j at regulatory year 't' that accounts for the cost of debt adjustment. The cost of debt adjustment will apply to the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A, specified under items 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 and to 1.5 of Schedule 2, to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply.
p_{t-1}^j	Is the price for tariff j in regulatory year '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 regulatory year
PPM_t^j	Is the prescribed price movement for the price component of tariff j in regulatory year 't' as per the determination
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.

Condition B – Melbourne Water bulk water headworks cost change

Condition B will apply when **Melbourne Water's** bulk water headworks 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 7 and apply to the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A.

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with Melbourne Water bulk water services and annual updates to the trailing average cost of debt

Condition C – Melbourne Water bulk water transfer cost change

Condition C will apply when **Melbourne Water’s** bulk water transfer costs in any **regulatory year ‘t’** differ from forecast in that year if there is a transfer of water from **Melbourne Water’s** system. The changes in costs will be calculated in accordance with formula 8 and apply to the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A.

Formula 6: Water usage charge

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

$p_{WU,t}^j$	Is the water usage charge for tariff j at regulatory year ‘t’ that accounts for changes in Melbourne Water bulk water headworks and transfer costs (for example, from changes in Melbourne Water’s cost of debt)
$p_{WU,t-1}^j$	Is the water usage charge for tariff j in regulatory year ‘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 regulatory year
PPM_t^j	Is the prescribed price movement for the price component of tariff j in regulatory year ‘t’ as per the determination
BWH_t^j	Is the bulk water headworks price adjustment applied to South Gippsland Water’s water usage tariff j in regulatory year ‘t’ to account for changes in Melbourne Water’s Greater Yarra System – Thomson River bulk water headworks costs and Victorian desalination plant contract cost changes as outlined in formula 7
BWT_t^j	Is the bulk water transfer price adjustment applied to South Gippsland Water’s water usage tariff j in regulatory year ‘t’ to account for changes in Melbourne Water’s bulk water transfer costs outlined in formula 8

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Formula 7: Bulk water headworks price adjustment

$$BWH_{WU,t}^j = PT_{WU,t}^{BWH} \times \frac{\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det}}{\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})} \times \frac{1}{q_{WU,t}^{j,det}}$$

$BWH_{WU,t}^j$	Is the price adjustment to the water usage charge for tariff j ($p_{WU,t}^j$) from changes to Melbourne Water's bulk water headworks costs ($PT_{WU,t}^{BWH}$) as a proportion of the total water service revenue $\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})$.
$PT_{WU,t}^{BWH}$	Is the total amount of expenditure to be passed through (either positive or negative) in regulatory year 't' on the water usage charges to account for changes in Melbourne Water's bulk headworks costs.
$\alpha_{WU,t}^j$	Is the water usage charge for tariff j in regulatory year 't' before the bulk water headworks cost adjustment where: $\alpha_{WU,t}^j = p_{WU,t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j)$
$q_{WU,t}^{j,det}$	Is the determination quantity for tariff j in regulatory year 't'
$\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})$	Is the sum of all revenue received across water usage charges in regulatory year 't'

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Formula 8: Bulk water transfer price adjustment

$$BWT_{WU,t}^j = PT_{WU,t}^{BWT} \times \frac{\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det}}{\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})} \times \frac{1}{q_{WU,t}^{j,det}}$$

$BWT_{WU,t}^j$	Is the price adjustment to the water usage charge for tariff j ($p_{WU,t}^j$) from changes to Melbourne Water's bulk water transfer costs ($PT_{WU,t}^{BWT}$) as a proportion of the total water service revenue $\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})$.
$PT_{WU,t}^{BWT}$	Is the total amount of expenditure to be passed through (either positive or negative) in regulatory year 't' on the water usage charges as a result of changes in Melbourne Water's bulk water transfer costs (due to a transfer of water from Melbourne Water's system)
$\alpha_{WU,t}^j$	Is the water usage charge for tariff j in regulatory year 't' before the bulk water transfer cost adjustment where: $\alpha_{WU,t}^j = p_{WU,t-1}^j \times \frac{CPI_t}{CPI_{t-1}} \times (1 + PPM_t^j)$
$q_{WU,t}^{j,det}$	Is the determination quantity for tariff j in regulatory year 't'
$\sum_j^n (\alpha_{WU,t}^j \times q_{WU,t}^{j,det})$	Is the sum of all revenue received across water usage charges in regulatory year 't'

Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with Melbourne Water bulk water services and 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.



Date: 26 June, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

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	24.8	25.8	25.8	26.1	26.0
Return on assets	5.7	6.3	7.0	7.5	8.0
Regulatory depreciation	6.3	7.1	7.9	9.0	10.2
Adjustments from last period	-	-	-	-	-
Non-prescribed revenue offset of revenue requirement	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Tax allowance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	36.6	38.9	40.5	42.4	43.9

Table 4 Closing regulatory asset base
\$m 2022-23

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Opening RAB at 1 July	162.2	173.5	175.8	189.1	203.6
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	36.5	16.4	20.0	21.9	16.3
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	19.5	7.8	-	-	-
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.2
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	4.8	4.5	4.8	5.3	5.7
Closing RAB at 30 June	173.5	175.8	189.1	203.6	211.9

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	211.9	219.5	247.0	276.1	286.8	295.2
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	15.8	37.1	39.4	21.8	19.8	18.2
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	2.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.0	2.0
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	6.1	6.3	7.1	7.9	9.0	10.2
Closing RAB at 30 June	219.5	247.0	276.1	286.8	295.2	300.9

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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Department of Health licence fee	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environment Protection Authority licence fee	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Environmental contribution	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2

Table 7 Bulk water purchases
\$m 2022-23

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Bulk water purchases	0.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5

Table 8 Demand forecast

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Water assessments (no.)					
Residential	20,112	20,500	20,896	21,236	21,582
Non-residential	3,382	3,393	3,404	3,417	3,430
Total	23,494	23,893	24,300	24,653	25,012
Sewerage assessments (no.)					
Residential	19,913	20,254	20,601	20,899	21,202
Non-residential	1,020	1,035	1,051	1,067	1,084
Total	20,933	21,289	21,652	21,966	22,286
Billable water consumption (ML)					
Residential	2,434	2,480	2,528	2,570	2,611
Non-residential	2,501	2,503	2,504	2,504	2,507
Total	4,935	4,983	5,032	5,074	5,118

Table 9 Major capital projects

Project	Expected start date	Expected completion date
Wonthaggi Sewerage System Capacity Upgrades	2023-24	2027-28
Wonthaggi Wastewater Treatment Plant Augmentation (Upgrade and Baxters Beach Outfall)	2023-24	2027-28
Lance Creek Clear Water Storage Upgrade	2023-24	2025-26
Poowong, Loch and Nyora Water System Augmentation	2023-24	2027-28
Venus Bay Outfall Upgrade and Renewal	2021-22	2025-26
Foster Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	2023-24	2025-26
Leongatha Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	2023-24	2026-27
Inverloch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	2026-27	2027-28
Toora Water Treatment Plant Upgrade (Pressure Filter Renewal)	2023-24	2026-27
Leongatha Water Supply Augmentation	2023-24	2027-28