

# Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** and its successors and assigns in respect of the business carried on by **Wannon 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 ***Wannon 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 ***Wannon Water***, extend or reduce the time by which, or the period within which, ***Wannon 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 5 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 ***Wannon 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

**Wannon 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 **Wannon 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**, **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** has entered into a contract which relates to the provision of **prescribed services** prior to 1 July 2023 (a **relevant contract**), **Wannon 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**

**Wannon 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**

**Wannon 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**, **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** (including a statement of its reasons);
  - (B) may request **Wannon Water** to provide any additional information specified by the commission;
  - (C) will take any additional information provided by **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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

**Wannon 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) **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** is complying with this Determination.
- (b) Without limiting clause 2.5(a), if, during the **regulatory period**, **Wannon 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, **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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, **Wannon 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) **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** under this clause 3 must be received by the commission at least 80 **business days** prior to the commencement of the **relevant 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 **Wannon 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 **relevant 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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) **Wannon 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) **Wannon 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) **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** within 40 **business days** from the date of its receipt of **Wannon 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) **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** makes an application under clause 4.1(a), **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** and/or increased or decreased revenue received by **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 Wannon Water's control;
- (ii) were or should have been known by **Wannon Water** at the time the Determination was made;
- (iii) could reasonably have been foreseen by **Wannon Water**;
- (iv) should be or should have been planned for or managed by **Wannon Water**; and/or
- (v) reflect inefficient expenditure by **Wannon 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 *Wannon 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 ***Wannon Water*** to provide any additional information specified by the commission in connection with an ***uncertain events application***. ***Wannon 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 ***Wannon 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 **Wannon 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). **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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.

# 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 **Wannon 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.

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

**Wannon Water** means Wannon Region Water Corporation (trading as Wannon Water (ABN 94 007 404 951)

**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.

Tariff and Price Component	Price	PPM	PPM	PPM	PPM
	(1 July 2023)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>WATER TARIFFS</b>					
<b>1.1 Urban Residential and Non-Residential, Rural Water Service and Fire Service Charges (per annum)</b>					
<b>Service Charge Group A - Portland, Heywood, Port Fairy, Allansford, Noorat/ Glenormiston, Camperdown, Carlisle, Carpendeit, Cobden, Koroit, Lismore/ Derrinallum, Mortlake, Purnim, Simpson, Terang, Warrnambool, Balmoral, Caramut, Cavendish, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Hamilton, Penshurst and Tarrington</b>					
0-20mm connection	185.24	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
21-25mm connection	276.11	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
26-32mm connection	743.07	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
33-40mm connection	1301.05	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
41-50mm connection	2044.73	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
51-80mm connection	2974.60	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
81-100mm connection	4301.39	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
101-150mm connection	6008.66	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
151+mm connection	7937.38	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
<b>Service Charge Group B - Peterborough, Port Campbell Timboon, Dartmoor, Casterton, Coleraine, Macarthur, Merino and Sandford</b>					
0-20mm connection	334.74	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
21-25mm connection	498.78	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
26-32mm connection	1341.22	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
33-40mm connection	2347.99	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
41-50mm connection	3689.83	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
51-80mm connection	5367.48	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%

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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>WATER TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>1.1 Urban Residential and Non-Residential, Rural Water Service and Fire Service Charges (per annum) (continued)</b>					
81-100mm connection	7761.31	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
101-150mm connection	10841.65	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
151+mm connection	15125.47	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
<b>Service Charge - Darlington</b>					
Darlington Service Charge	185.24	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-1.2%
<b>1.2 Urban Residential Water Usage Charges (per kL)</b>					
<b>Usage Charge Group A - Portland, Heywood, Port Fairy, Allansford, Noorat/ Glenormiston, Camperdown, Carlisle, Carpendeit, Cobden, Koroit, Lismore/ Derrinallum, Mortlake, Purnim, Simpson, Terang, Warrnambool, Balmoral, Caramut, Cavendish, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Hamilton, Penshurst and Tarrington</b>					
User Charge Block 1 (0-438 litres/day)	1.5952	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
User Charge Block 2 (439-822 litres/day)	2.4433	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
User Charge Block 3 (822+ litres/day)	3.6653	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Usage Charge Group B - Peterborough, Port Campbell, Timboon, Dartmoor, Casterton, Coleraine, Macarthur, Merino and Sandford</b>					
User Charge Block 1 (0-438 litres/day)	1.0345	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
User Charge Block 2 (439-822 litres/day)	1.8841	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
User Charge Block 3 (822+ litres/day)	2.8263	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Usage Charge - Darlington</b>					
Darlington Usage all usage (per kL)	0.6936	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>WATER TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>1.3 Urban Non-Residential and Rural Water Usage Charges (per kL)</b>					
<b>Usage Charge Group A - Portland, Heywood, Port Fairy, Allansford, Noorat/ Glenormiston, Camperdown, Carlisle, Carpendeit, Cobden, Koroit, Lismore/ Derrinallum, Mortlake, Purnim, Simpson, Terang, Warrnambool, Balmoral, Caramut, Cavendish, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Hamilton, Penshurst and Tarrington</b>					
Potable Water (per kL)	2.4433	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Non-Potable Water (per kL)	1.5952	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Usage Charge Group B - Peterborough, Port Campbell, Timboon, Dartmoor, Casterton, Coleraine, Macarthur, Merino and Sandford</b>					
Potable Water (per kL)	1.8842	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Non-Potable Water (per kL)	1.0345	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Usage Charge - Darlington</b>					
Darlington Usage all usage (per kL)	0.6936	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.4 Rural Water Usage Charge</b>					
Rural Water Usage Surcharge	2.1404	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.5 Residential Un-Connected Service Charge (per annum)</b>					
Service Charge – All Groups	187.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>1.6 Un-Metered Service Charge (per annum) – All Groups</b>					
Service Charge – All Groups	1606.82	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>SEWERAGE TARIFFS</b>					
<b>2.1 Residential and Non-Residential Sewerage Tariff Connected service (per annum)</b>					
Service Charge	781.36	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
<b>2.2 Residential and Non-Residential Sewerage Tariff Un-Connected service (per annum)</b>					
Service Charge	234.36	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%

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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>SEWERAGE TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>3.1 Trade Waste Volume and Load Charges</b>					
<b>Major Trade Waste Volume Charges</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	0.7638	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
BOD (\$/kg)	1.7550	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Suspended Solids (\$/kg)	0.3186	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Ammonia (\$/kg)	1.8385	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Minor Trade Waste Volume Charges &amp; Non-Residential Sewage Volume Charges</b>					
<b>Group 1 - Warrnambool, Allansford and Koroit</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	1.6419	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Group 2 - Hamilton</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	1.6415	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Group 3 - Portland</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	1.7574	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Group 4 - Port Fairy</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	1.9770	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Group 5 - Camperdown, Casterton, Cobden, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Heywood, Mortlake, Peterborough, Port Campbell, Simpson, Terang and Timboon</b>					
Volume (\$/kL)	1.9301	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>4.1 Customer Contributions</b>					
<b>Warrnambool Growth Areas</b>					
Water (per lot)	5565.13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer (per lot)	1059.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>North Dennington Growth Areas</b>					
Water (per lot)	2365.18	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer (per lot)	1059.51	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>SEWERAGE TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>4.1 Customer Contributions (continued)</b>					
<b>Warrnambool Roof Water Harvesting Area</b>					
Water (per lot)	2654.14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer (per lot)	1059.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>All other areas</b>					
Water (per lot)	1059.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer (per lot)	1059.51	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>5.1 Miscellaneous fees and charges</b>					
Water tapping fee (including fire service connections)					
- 20mm connection	322.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 25mm connection	364.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 32mm connection	477.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 40mm connection	543.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 50mm connection	750.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 80mm connection	2490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 100mm connection	2490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 150mm connection	2490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Water main / sewer main link up	375.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Water meter</b>					
- 20mm connection	142.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 25mm connection	221.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 32mm connection	497.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 40mm connection	579.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 50mm connection	3490.00	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>SEWERAGE TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>5.1 Miscellaneous fees and charges (continued)</b>					
<b>Water meter (continued)</b>					
- 80mm connection	3490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 100mm connection	3490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 150mm connection	3490.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Water disconnection fee	284.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Sewer cut in</b>					
- 150mm mains and below	840.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 225mm mains and above	980.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Sewer connection application</b>					
- Residential	127.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Residential < one business day	257.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Non-residential	173.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Metered Hydrant</b>					
- 25mm hydrant, per day	4.40	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 65mm hydrant, per day	8.70	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Deposit	2070.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Late fee per month	284.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Minimum hire charge	42.30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- Usage (\$/kL)	2.4434	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

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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>SEWERAGE TARIFFS (continued)</b>					
<b>5.1 Miscellaneous fees and charges (continued)</b>					
<b>Remote read water meter</b>					
- 20mm	304.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
- 25mm	410.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Standpipe charge (per customer)	928.77	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sewer disconnection application	167.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information statement	89.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information statement < one business day	173.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Meter Reading Fee	52.00	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>6.1 Fire Service Charges</b>					
0-20mm connection	59.61	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
21-25mm connection	88.78	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
26-32mm connection	238.60	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
33-40mm connection	417.69	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
41-50mm connection	656.35	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
51-80mm connection	954.78	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
81-100mm connection	1380.53	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
101-150mm connection	4136.87	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
151+mm connection	5468.88	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon 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 Trade waste volume discharge factors

Code	Property Type Description	Sewerage Volume Discharge Factor
AB	Abattoir/Knackery	95.00%
CW	Car/Truck Wash	95.00%
DY	Depot/Yards	95.00%
FP	Funeral Parlour	95.00%
HA	Hall	95.00%
HO	Hospital/Nursing Home	95.00%
HT	Hotel/Motel/Accommodation	95.00%
IC	Indoor Sports Centre	95.00%
LD	Laundry/Laundromat/Dry Cleaner	95.00%
ME	Mechanical Business	95.00%
MP	Milk Processing	95.00%
OS	Office/Retail Outlet	95.00%
PC	Public Conveniences	95.00%
PH	Printing/Photography processing	95.00%
RE	Restaurants/Cafes	95.00%
RFO	Retail/Wholesale food outlet/processing	95.00%
SA	Salon (Beauty, Hair etc)	95.00%
SGF	Sporting/Recreation Grounds WITH function rooms	95.00%
SU	Surgery	95.00%
TS	Manufacturing & Trade Services	95.00%
BD	Business & Dwelling	80.00%
CB	Concrete Batching Plant	80.00%
CH	Church	80.00%

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Code	Property Type Description	Sewerage Volume Discharge Factor
ES	Emergency Services	80.00%
KG	Kindergarten/Day Care	80.00%
CP	Caravan Park/Camping Grounds	50.00%
HB	Hobby Farm	50.00%
SC	School	50.00%
SW	Swimming Pool	50.00%
WS	Water Sport Facilities	50.00%
CE	Cemetery	25.00%
CG	Commercial Gardens	25.00%
IW	Ice Works	25.00%
PO	Port Area	25.00%
SG	Sporting/Recreation Grounds (without function rooms)	25.00%
AC	Holiday Accommodation (Private)	0.00%
BC	Body Corporate	0.00%
BR	Boat Ramp	0.00%
DA	Dairy	0.00%
DW	Dwelling	0.00%
FA	Farm (not Dairy)	0.00%
HOR	Hobby Farm	0.00%
MH	Metered Hydrant Filling Point	0.00%
MS	Median Strip	0.00%
OTR	Other - Rural	0.00%
PG	Parks, Gardens & Reserves	0.00%
PS	Pump Station/Treatment Plant	0.00%
RB	Roundabout	0.00%
SP	Standpipe	0.00%
SPR	Stand Pipe (Rural)	0.00%

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Code	Property Type Description	Sewerage Volume Discharge Factor
UFA	Unit/Flat/Apartment	0.00%
VL	Vacant Land	0.00%

### 3.2 Inclining block tariffs

Where multiple customers are being serviced by a single meter, the consumption tiers will be applied on a pro-rata basis.

### 3.3 Miscellaneous fees and charges

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

Miscellaneous service	Definition
<b>Water tapping fee, including fire services (per tapping)</b>	This charge provides for the attendance of <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the site to complete an under pressure water tapping of the water main. The excavation is to be prepared by the customer's plumber to the standards specified by <b>Wannon Water</b> to ensure safe access by <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the water main. The charge includes the provision of a tapping band, ferrule and ferrule bend (where required). The same charge applies for fire service tapplings.
<b>Water meter - 20mm</b>	This charge provides for a standard water meter in perpetuity. It does not include back flow prevention devices. Larger diameter meters of 50mm and greater will be an electronic type meter at the discretion of <b>Wannon Water</b> . The fitting of the water meter is the responsibility of the customer's plumber. The meter will be issued on site.
<b>Water disconnection - all sizes</b>	This charge applies where a water service is no longer required and the tapping is to be decommissioned. The charge provides for the attendance of <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the site to decommission the water service. The excavation is to be prepared by the customer's plumber to the standards specified by <b>Wannon Water</b> to ensure safe access by <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the water main. The charge includes all materials and fittings.

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Miscellaneous service	Definition
<b>Sewer cut in 150mm and below</b>	The sewer cut in charge provides for the attendance of <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the site to complete a cut into a sewerage main for the purposes of making a new connection. The excavation is to be prepared by the customer's plumber to the standards specified by <b>Wannon Water</b> to ensure safe access by <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel. Included in the charge is the provision of a fitting on the sewer main which enables the customer's plumber to connect the property drain to.
<b>Sewer connection application residential</b>	The sewer connection application charge provides for processing of an application for a sewer connection or alteration. To cater for emergency situations, plumbers are able to request that a residential application be processed in less than one business day. Once the application has been approved a Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) number will be issued.
<b>Sewer disconnection application - all sizes</b>	Where a sewerage connection is no longer required, the connection point needs to be decommissioned. The charge provides for the attendance of <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel to the site to seal the connection point. The excavation is to be prepared by the customer's plumber to the standards specified by <b>Wannon Water</b> to ensure safe access by <b>Wannon Water</b> personnel. The charge includes all materials and is for a single connection, multiple disconnections receive multiple charges.
<b>Information statement request</b>	<b>Wannon Water</b> is required by law to prepare and issue information statements where requested. The charge includes undertaking a special meter reading and provision of an asset location plan where required. The asset location plan includes details on the location of <b>Wannon Water's</b> water and sewerage assets. It does not include details on the locations of the customer's internal water or sewerage assets.
<b>Meter reading fee (applies to both tenant and special readings)</b>	<b>Wannon Water</b> is required in a number of circumstances to attend a property to undertake a special read of the water meter to establish the water use at a specific point in time. Requests are typically made by customers who believe the most recent regular meter reading is incorrect. The fee is waived where it is shown that <b>Wannon Water</b> has recorded an incorrect meter reading. This charge applies in all circumstances except where a tenant commences a new tenancy at a property. In this case the fee is charged to the property owner. The fee reflects <b>Wannon Water's</b> time to attend the site and record a meter reading.



## 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 **Wannon 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 **Wannon Water** or pursuant to other government policies that apply to **Wannon 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

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

- makes clear to potential developers which assets a developer will be responsible for providing and gifting, and which will be provided by **Wannon Water**;
- confirms that negotiation of any non-standard connection and associated charges will be undertaken in accordance with **Wannon 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

**Wannon 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 applies (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 1.6, 2.1 and 2.2 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**.

**Wannon 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)
1.1 Urban Residential and Non-Residential, Rural Water Service and Fire Service Charges	X
1.2 Urban Residential Water Usage Charges	X
1.3 Urban Non-Residential and Rural Water Usages Charges	X
1.4 Rural Water Usage Surcharge	X
1.5 Residential Un-Connected Service Charge	X
1.6 Un-Metered Service Charge	X

Continued next page

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

Tariffs	Condition A (Annual cost of debt update)
2.1 Residential and Non-Residential Sewerage Tariff Connected Service	X
2.2 Residential and Non-Residential Sewerage Tariff Un-Connected Service	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 **Wannon 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.

The cost of debt adjustment mechanism is designed to ensure that Wannon Water's forecast revenue does not exceed their required revenue in a given period.

When determining whether the cost of debt adjustment is passed through prices, the following principles apply.

1. If the cost of debt adjustment amount is positive, then this adjustment is fully passed through to prices.
2. If the cost of debt adjustment amount is negative and after adjustment the required revenue amount remains higher than determination revenue for that period, then the cost of debt adjustment is not passed through prices. The adjusted revenue requirement will then equal the determination revenue requirement plus the cost of debt adjustment in that period.
3. If the cost of debt adjustment amount is negative and after adjustment the required revenue amount is lower than determination revenue for that period, the cost of debt adjustment will be passed through prices to the extent that the adjusted revenue requirement equals determination revenue in that particular year.

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

### 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.

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 ( $\pi^{det}$ ) 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

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

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$RRR_t^{real}$	Is the post-tax 'vanilla' regulatory rate of return in real terms for <b>regulatory year</b> 't' 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

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Schedule 5 – Adjustment for costs associated with 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 <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.
$\alpha_t^j$	Is the price for tariff j at <b>regulatory year 't'</b> 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 't-1'</b>
$q_{j,t}^{det}$	Is the determination quantity for tariff j in <b>regulatory year 't'</b>
$\sum_{j=1,n}^{t=t} (\alpha_t^j \times q_{j,t}^{det})$	Is the sum of all revenue received across the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A to which the cost of debt adjustment will apply

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

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

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 <b>regulatory year</b> 't' that accounts for the cost of debt adjustment. The cost of debt adjustment will apply to the tariffs listed in Schedule 5A
$p_{t-1}^j$	Is the price 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
$CDA_t^j$	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.



**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 be "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	48.2	50.3	50.8	51.4	51.2
Return on assets	10.3	11.0	11.6	12.1	12.6
Regulatory depreciation	11.6	12.4	13.5	14.4	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>78.5</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	359.0	370.5	386.0	392.6	399.7
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	23.1	28.9	28.4	23.9	16.7
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	0.0	0.9	6.6	2.5	0.1
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	0.4	0.8	2.5	1.2	1.6
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.5
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	10.6	11.1	11.7	12.5	13.8
<b>Closing RAB at 30 June</b>	<b>370.5</b>	<b>386.0</b>	<b>392.6</b>	<b>399.7</b>	<b>400.4</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	400.4	399.6	447.4	464.7	466.7	467.8
<i>Plus</i> Gross capital expenditure	14.9	61.5	31.8	17.5	17.6	14.7
<i>Less</i> Government contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Less</i> Customer contributions	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
<i>Less</i> Proceeds from disposals	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
<i>Less</i> Regulatory depreciation	14.3	11.6	12.4	13.5	14.4	14.8
<b>Closing RAB at 30 June</b>	<b>399.6</b>	<b>447.4</b>	<b>464.7</b>	<b>466.7</b>	<b>467.8</b>	<b>465.6</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	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Department of Health licence fee	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environment Protection Authority licence fee	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Environmental contribution	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7

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

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Bulk water purchases	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

**Table 8 Demand forecast**

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
<b>Water assessments (no.)</b>					
Residential	38,441	38,728	39,017	39,307	39,600
Non-residential	6,690	6,739	6,788	6,839	6,889
Total	45,131	45,467	45,805	46,146	46,489
<b>Sewerage assessments (no.)</b>					
Residential	34,857	35,115	35,375	35,636	35,901
Non-residential	3,863	3,893	3,923	3,954	3,984
Total	38,720	39,008	39,298	39,590	39,885
<b>Billable water consumption (ML)</b>					
Residential	5,573	5,616	5,659	5,703	5,746
Non-residential	6,250	6,280	6,309	6,338	6,368
Total	11,823	11,896	11,968	12,041	12,114

Table 9 Major capital projects

Project	Expected start date	Expected completion date
Warrnambool Sewage and Treatment Plant Upgrade	2022-23	2024-25
Great Tasting Water Project	2023-24	2028-29
Warrnambool Sewage Treatment Plant UV Disinfection IDEA Tanks	2022-23	2026-27
Warrnambool Effluent Management Investigation	2022-23	2027-28
CX Plus – Billing and Customer Relationship Management System	2022-23	2023-24
Hopkins Point Road Water Supply Upgrade	2022-23	2025-26
Conversion of Citect to Clear Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)	2023-24	2027-28
Camperdown Water Treatment Plant UV System	2025-26	2026-27
Data Centre – Servers, Storage and Back-Up	2023-24	2027-28
Camperdown Industrial Water Reclamation Plant Lagoon No. 2 ANCOLD related Dam Safety Work	2024-25	2026-27