

# Response to draft decision

## 2023 Water Price Review

Westernport Water is pleased to accept the Essential Services Commission's fast-tracked draft decision of 20 December 2022.

I would like to thank the Commission for its guidance and support throughout the price review process to prioritise customer value and influence.

I would also like to recognise the investment of time from our customers to participate in record numbers to shape Westernport Water's submission.

Regarding specific aspects of the draft determination, Westernport Water responds as follows:

- Our outcomes framework has been updated to reflect feedback from the Commission and was provided on 7 March 2023.
- The Commission wrote to Westernport Water on 23 February 2023 to confirm that no additional information was expected on our proposed new customer contributions.
- Our closing regulatory asset base has been updated to reflect changes arising for the regulatory accounts review for 2021-22.
- Westernport Water has considered its depreciation lives at the request of the Commission. As stated by the Commission in its draft decision, our proposed asset lives within the submission are the result of a comprehensive review that resulted in more accurate asset data. Improved granularity of asset data has provided a stronger link between our asset base and the period during which customers will receive benefit. While customers asked to prioritise affordability, they also stated that it should not be at the expense of performance. Our approach to depreciation lives will assist us to continue delivering the service levels that our customers expect.

If the Commission requires any further information, please email Gareth Kennedy (General Manager, Corporate and Customer) at [REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Dona Tantirimudalige  
Managing Director