

2015 PRICE DETERMINATION INVESTIGATION – REGULATED WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES IN TASMANIA

FINAL REPORT



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Pictures (L to R): Bracknell Elevated Reservoir, Riverside Waste Water Treatment Plant (chlorine mixing chamber) and Conara Reservoir.

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ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
Asset Renewal Annuity (ARA)	Annualised calculation of the future asset renewal and replacement program.
Cap	A limit placed on annual price increases to manage the impact on customers (also referred to as a price constraint).
Capex	Capital expenditure ie investment in assets.
Category 1, Category 2A, Category 2B and Category 2C trade waste customers	Trade waste customers assessed as having low grade or low to medium volumes of trade waste. Prices paid by Category 1, Category 2A, Category 2B and Category 2C trade waste customers are regulated.
Category 3 and Category 4 trade waste customers	Trade waste customers, other than Category 1, Category 2A, Category 2B and Category 2C trade waste customers, who produce trade waste assessed as being higher risk with respect to impact on the sewerage network. Prices paid by Category 3 and Category 4 trade waste customers are not regulated.
Connection charge	A cost-based charge for connecting a particular customer to TasWater's water or sewerage infrastructure.
Connection point	As defined in the Industry Act, the point where the customer's pipes connect to the water or sewerage infrastructure or such other point as may be prescribed in Regulations.
Contributed assets	Include developer charges and government grants but exclude equity contributions from the owners of the regulated entity.
CGS	Commonwealth Government Securities.
CPI	Consumer Price Index.

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Customer	<p>As defined in the Industry Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an owner or, owner and occupier, of a property that is connected to a regulated entity's water or sewerage infrastructure (including strata title lot owners); or ▪ an occupier of a property that is connected to a regulated entity's water or sewerage infrastructure who is liable for water and sewerage charges; or ▪ an owner or occupier of a property that is not connected to a regulated entity's water or sewerage infrastructure but where a regulated service is available and a regulated entity imposes a service charge for that service; or ▪ an occupier of a property that is connected to a regulated entity's water infrastructure or sewerage infrastructure and is liable for service charges.
Customer Service Code	<i>Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Industry Customer Service Code.</i>
Customer Service Regulations	<i>Water and Sewerage Industry (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 2009.</i>
Data Collection Template	Data submitted by TasWater with its proposed Price and Service Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Price and Service Plan Guideline.
Delegate for Dam Safety	Delegate for Dam Safety Regulation (Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).
Developer charges	Includes headworks charges, assets gifted by developers and cash payments made by developers to the regulated entity for the construction of new reticulation works.
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services.
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment.
DSIP	Dam Safety Improvement Program.
DSMP	Dam Safety Management Plan.
DORC	Depreciated Optimised Replacement Cost.
DWQMP	Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.
Economic Regulator	The Tasmanian Economic Regulator as appointed under the <i>Economic Regulator Act 2009</i> .
EPA	Environment Protection Authority.
ERA	Economic Regulation Authority.

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Equivalent Tenement (ET)	A measure of the demand that a development will place on infrastructure in terms of water consumption and sewage discharge, compared to a standard residential allotment. An ET is also the basis for calculating fixed sewerage target tariffs.
Existing assets	All assets transferred to a regulated entity before 1 July 2011 under section 41 of the <i>Water and Sewerage Corporations Act 2008</i> .
First regulatory period	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2015.
Fixed charge	A recurrent charge for the provision of a regulated service to a customer but not including a variable charge.
Full cost recovery	A revenue limit that results in a regulated entity recovering all of the costs associated with providing a regulated service.
GSL	Guaranteed Service Level.
Headworks assets	Water or sewerage infrastructure, excluding reticulation assets and private plumbing eg dams, reservoirs, water treatment plants, sewerage treatment plants, pump stations, water and sewerage trunk mains.
Headworks charges	A form of developer charge levied as a contribution towards the cost of existing or proposed headworks assets used to service developments.
Industry Act	<i>Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008</i> .
Industry regulators	Parties, other than the Economic Regulator, that have responsibility for regulating aspects of the Tasmanian water and sewerage industry (for example, the Delegate for Dam Safety, the Director of Public Health and the Director EPA).
Kilolitre (kL)	A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 1 000 litres.
kPa	A metric measure of pressure.
Limited water quality customer	A customer receiving water from a supply which has a permanent boil water alert in place or a customer receiving water from a supply that the regulated entity has declared to be not of drinking water quality.

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Limited water supply customer	<p>A customer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ connected to a water main that periodically does not contain water under positive pressure; or ▪ with a connection designed to provide low or intermittent flow, such as where the customer has been required to install, operation and maintain an individual tank or pump; or ▪ connected to a non-reticulation water main that is subject to significant pressure variations due to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a pumped supply where the low pressure is below 50 kPa and the high pressure is above 500 kPa; or ○ an inlet supply to a trunk reservoir such that when the reservoir inlet valve is open the pressure is below 50 kPa; or ▪ receiving a supply that the regulated entity determines to be inadequate.
Minister	Minister for Primary Industries and Water.
Motor home dump point	A facility intended to receive the discharge of waste water from any holding tank or similar device installed in a recreational vehicle.
New assets	All assets purchased or constructed by a regulated entity since 1 July 2009.
Nominal dollars	The actual price of an item during a specific year ie nominal dollars are not adjusted for the effects of inflation.
NPR	National Performance Reporting.
NPV	Net Present Value.
NWI	National Water Initiative.
Opex	Operating and maintenance expenditure ie the cost of operating and maintaining the water and sewerage systems and associated administrative costs (also referred to as OM).
Owner's representative	A representative from each of Tasmania's 29 councils who, together, comprise TasWater's Owners' Representatives' Group. The Group's functions, duties and responsibilities are outlined in TasWater's Constitution and in the Shareholders' Letter of Expectations.
Portable metered standpipes	A portable water hydrant which allows a customer to connect and draw water at authorised points throughout a regulated entity's network.
Previous regulated entities	Collectively the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation (Northern Region) Pty Ltd trading as Ben Lomond Water, the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation (North Western Region) Pty Ltd trading as Cradle Mountain Water and the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation (Southern Region) Pty Ltd trading as Southern Water.

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Price and Service Plan	A regulated entity's price and service plan approved by the Economic Regulator under section 65 of the Industry Act.
Price constraints	A limit placed on annual price increases to manage the impact on customers (also referred to as caps).
Price Determination	A determination made by the Economic Regulator under section 66 of the Industry Act. A determination sets out, for a regulatory period, the maximum prices a regulated entity can charge for its regulated services.
Price Determination Investigation	An investigation conducted to gather information required by the Economic Regulator before making a Price Determination in respect of a regulated service.
Pricing principles	The principles set out in sections 68 and 68AA of the Industry Act and in the Pricing Regulations.
Pricing Regulations	<i>Water and Sewerage Industry (Pricing and Related Matters) Regulations 2011.</i>
Pricing zones	An area of land where a single price schedule applies.
Proposed Price and Service Plan	A price and service plan submitted by a regulated entity under section 65 of the Industry Act.
PSP Guideline	The Price and Service Plan Guideline published by the Economic Regulator in November 2013.
RAB	Value of a regulated entities' regulated asset base.
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia.
Real dollars	Nominal figures which have been adjusted for the effects of inflation (CPI).
Regulated assets	Assets used to provide regulated services.
Regulated entity	A person holding a licence under the Industry Act [currently, the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd trading as TasWater].
Regulated services	Services or activities for which a licence is required under section 30 of the Industry Act.
Regulatory period	A period covered by a Price Determination.
Reticulation assets	Water or sewerage infrastructure that are not headworks assets or private plumbing.
Returns to owners	Dividends, income tax equivalents and guarantee fees paid to owner councils by a regulated entity.
Reuse water	Water discharged from a sewage treatment plant that is reused for purposes such as irrigation.
Ring fencing	The separation of a regulated entity's accounts for the purpose of economic regulation, including splitting between regulated and unregulated components.
RV	Recreational Vehicle.
Second regulatory period	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018.

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Section 61 contract	A contract between a regulated entity and a customer in accordance with section 61 of the Industry Act, related to the provision of regulated services but not subject to the prices and terms in the Price Determination.
Service introduction charges	A charge on a property to recover the cost of installing, altering or utilising a regulated entity's assets so that it can provide a regulated service to that property (excludes a connection charge, fixed charge or a developer charge).
SRMC	Short Run Marginal Cost.
STED Customers	Septic Tank Effluent Disposal customers.
STEDs	Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Schemes.
Target tariff	Cost reflective tariffs for each regulated service.
Tariffs	Prices charged by a regulated entity for the provision of regulated services made up of fixed charges, variable charges and miscellaneous fees and charges.
TDWQG	Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
Third party capital contributions	Third party capital contributions include developer charges, service introduction charges and government grants.
Trade waste	As defined in the Industry Act, trade waste is liquid waste generated other than in the course of domestic activities and includes liquid waste generated by any trade, industrial, commercial, educational, medical, dental, veterinary, agricultural, horticultural, scientific research or experimental activities.
Trade waste agreement	A legally binding agreement between a customer and a regulated entity allowing the customer to discharge trade waste into the sewerage system.
Transition period	The period from 1 July 2012 to 1 July 2020 (prescribed in Regulation 32 of the Pricing Regulations.)
Transitional Service Standards	Approved customer service standards applying in each year of the transition period. The approved standards represent a transition to the service standard targets set out in the Customer Service Code.
Unregulated assets	Assets used to provide unregulated services.
Unregulated services	Services that are not subject to regulation including water for irrigation, reuse water and stormwater services via a combined sewerage stormwater system.
Variable charge	A charge based on the volume of water delivered to, or sewage removed, as measured by a meter, from, the property to which the charge relates.
Water Directorate	A NSW based association providing technical advice to councils in NSW in relation to water and sewerage issues and publisher of the <i>Section 64 Determinations of Equivalent Tenements Guidelines (January 2005)</i> .

Term	Meaning within the context of this report
Water and Sewerage Corporation Act	<i>Water and Sewerage Corporation Act 2012.</i>
WACC	Weighted average cost of capital.
WSAA	Water Services Association of Australia.
WSAA Guideline	Water Services Association of Australia – <i>Australian Sewerage Quality Management Guideline 2012.</i>
WWMP	Wastewater Management Plan.
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant.