

Groundwater prices

2023-24



Find out more:

waterNSW.com.au/pricing

ipart.nsw.gov.au

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this booklet is based on WaterNSW knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2023) and should not be considered to be error free or to include all relevant information.

The prices in this booklet are for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) services for the 2023-24 financial year as determined by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

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Did you know?

WaterNSW's prices are set by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Find out more about the IPART determination at ipart.nsw.gov.au

Prices are also available on our website at waternsw.com.au/pricing



Read the notes sections throughout this booklet to find out more information about the prices.

Groundwater management prices

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

All charges apply from this date until otherwise specified. Entitlement charges are billed per share and usage charges are billed per megalitre extracted.

		1-Part Tariff	2-Part Tariff	
Valley/River	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Inland	WAMC charges	\$6.72	\$4.20	\$2.52
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges*	\$0.29	\$0.21	\$0.08
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$7.01	\$4.41	\$2.60
Murrumbidgee	WAMC charges	\$5.66	\$3.53	\$2.13
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges*	\$0.29	\$0.21	\$0.08
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$5.95	\$3.74	\$2.21
Coastal	WAMC charges	\$6.19	\$2.13	\$4.06
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$6.19	\$2.13	\$4.06

Inland/Border Rivers

The below charges are relevant for the four water sources listed within Inland/Border Rivers.

		1-Part Tariff	2-Part Tariff	
Water source	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Macintyre Alluvial Groundwater Source	WAMC charges	\$6.72	\$4.20	\$2.52
NSW Border Rivers Upstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges*	\$0.29	\$0.21	\$0.08
NSW Border Rivers Downstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source	WAMC Border River Commission charges**	\$0.48	\$0.34	\$0.15
Otteleys Creek Alluvial Groundwater Source	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$7.49	\$4.75	\$2.75



What's the difference between a 1-part and 2-part tariff?

- 1-part You are billed based on your full entitlement regardless of how much water you use.
- 2-part You are billed a lower entitlement rate plus a usage charge based on the actual water you use.
Please note: Inactive work/s are not eligible for a 2-part tariff.

Find out more at waternsw.com.au/tariffs

The estimated proportion of voluntary telemetry uptake submitted to IPART for FY24 is 0% - 25%, therefore the following charge applies.

ANNUAL SCHEME MANAGEMENT CHARGE***	
Proportion of voluntary telemetry uptake	Charge
0% - 25%	\$82.42
MINIMUM ANNUAL CHARGE^	
\$261.80	

Notes:

All prices are \$ per megalitre of entitlements and megalitre of usage for the fixed and variable charges.

Charges collected on behalf of WAMC.

These prices are determined by IPART for WAMC costs.

Charges are billed annually in arrears, payment terms for all invoices are 30 days from the date of issue. For more information on our billing terms and conditions, or if you are having difficulties paying your water bill, please refer to waterNSW.com.au/payments.

The **Murray-Darling Basin Authority Charges (MDBA) / Border River Commissions (BRC) WAMC pass-through charge** is a recovery of NSW Government contribution to MDBA and BRC (fixed and variable) for WAMC. IPART sets the charges to recover the NSW Government's contribution to funding the MDBA & BRC to undertake activities under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement and the agreement with the Border Rivers Commission at the amount set by IPART. IPART sets these government charges every four years via a public consultation process. It updates these government charges annually during this period to reflect changes in the consumer price index and changes in demand for WaterNSW's services. These charges will apply to all water users in NSW's sections of the Murray-Darling Basin and Border Rivers systems.

These charges will apply to MDBA WAMC customers and BRC WAMC customers as follows:

***MDBA customer** means a holder of a Water Licence that authorises the taking of water from:

- Groundwater from the – Inland and Murrumbidgee valleys.

****BRC customer** means a holder of a Water Licence that authorises the taking of water from:

- Groundwater from the – Macintyre Alluvial Groundwater Source, NSW Border Rivers Upstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source, NSW Border Rivers Downstream Keetah Bridge Alluvial Groundwater Source and Ottleys Creek Alluvial Groundwater Source.

^Please note the **minimum annual charge** applies in relation to the WAMC charges.

****The **Annual scheme management charge** is levied on all billable licences.

Despite anything in this letter, the maximum price for Monopoly Services under the WAMC and WaterNSW Rural Valley Bulk Water Determination in respect of an **Aboriginal Cultural Licence** is zero.

WAMC charges are determined by IPART under the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (IPART Act) and the WAMC determination.

Metering service charges

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The metering service charge (MSC) is calculated and invoiced annually in arrears. You will receive a separate WaterNSW invoice for your metering charges as they are calculated based on your work approval while your entitlement/usage charge is based on your water access licence.

Call our Customer Service Centre on [1300 662 077](tel:1300662077), if you have a concern regarding the accuracy of the meter. If you elect to have your meter tested, a deposit of **\$1,990.41** is payable and payment is required prior to testing. If the meter is found to be inaccurate, your deposit will be refunded in full. However, if the meter is found to be within accuracy standards then the total meter accuracy testing charge will be invoiced.

Note, the meter laboratory verification charge at request of customer is **\$7,873.91** and **\$5,261.94** for meter in-situ validation charge – where a meter is relocated or disturbed. The meter reset fee after suspension of maintenance for a year or more is **\$291.72** plus cost of parts.

Annual government-owned meter service charges – non-urban metering reform

The below table represents the government-owned MSC **once a government-owned meter becomes compliant** under the NSW Government's non-urban metering reform. The list of rollout dates is available at waternsw.com.au/metering

Type of charge	Annual charge per meter
Operating costs (non channel meter)	\$1,011.21
Operating costs (channel meter)	\$7,094.30
Capital costs	\$0
Exit fee	\$0

Non-telemetered privately-owned meters

Water take reading/assessment charge	Charge
Annual charge	\$235.53

Telemetered or agency read government-owned meters

The below table represents **current government-owned MSC**. Once a government-owned meter becomes compliant under the NSW Government's non-urban metering reform, the annual government-owned MSC comes into effect based on the compliance date associated with the meter.

Meter size	Annual charge per meter
50-300 mm	\$584.97
350-700 mm	\$607.83
750-1000 mm	\$660.78

Non-telemetered government-owned meters with customer recording and reporting

The below table represents **current government-owned MSC**. Once a government-owned meter becomes compliant under the NSW Government's non-urban metering reform, the annual government-owned MSC comes into effect based on the compliance date associated with the meter.

Meter size	Annual charge per meter
50-300 mm	\$458.90
350-700 mm	\$476.83
750-1000 mm	\$518.38

Telemetry and non-telemetry service charge

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The telemetry and non-telemetry service charge applies to both government-owned and privately-owned meters.

The NSW Government will provide a rebate of \$975 to all privately-owned meters when a working telemetry device is installed. This will offset the telemetry service charge until the rebate is exhausted.

The estimated proportion of voluntary telemetry uptake submitted to IPART for FY24 is 0% - 25%, therefore the following charge applies.

Proportion of voluntary telemetry uptake	Annual telemetry service charge per meter	Annual non-telemetry service charge per meter
0% - 25%	\$254.80	\$254.80



Did you know?

If you install telemetry on your local intelligence device (LID), your **annual telemetry service charge listed above** will be automatically credited on your WaterNSW bill each year until you reach the **total rebate amount of \$975** – just over four years.

The rebate is not available to water users with a government-owned meter.

For more information on metering and the telemetry rebate, visit waternsw.com.au/metering

Notes:

Metering charges are calculated annually in arrears.

The MSC will be triggered as follows:

- 1) New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a government-owned meter, the later of:
 - a) the day the meter becomes compliant with the metering requirements; and

- b) if there is a date specified in clause 230 of the Water Management Regulation from which a temporary exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition would cease to have effect in respect of the meter, that date.
- 2) There will be a pro rata between the existing and new MSC as follows
- a) for a:
- i) government-owned meter installed in respect of a licence holder, on and from the New Government Meter charge Trigger Day, the charges set out in the current government-owned table will cease to apply and the charges in the annual meter service charges table and the telemetry and non-telemetry service charge table will instead apply; and
 - ii) privately-owned meter installed in respect of a licence holder, on and from the New Private Meter Charge Trigger Day, unless the meter is not subject to the metering requirements, will be charged the telemetry and non-telemetry charges.
- 3) If customers move from government-owned meter to privately-owned meter, the government meter charges and privately-owned meter charges will be pro rated as follows:
- a) different annual charges apply to government-owned meters and privately-owned meters. Where a licence holder switches from a government-owned meter to a privately-owned meter (or vice versa), the annual charges that will be applicable will be pro-rated based on the proportion of days in the financial year that the licence holder used a:
- i) government-owned meter as against the number of days in the financial year; and
 - ii) privately-owned meter as against the number of days in the financial year.
- 4) The telemetry and non-telemetry charges apply based on overall voluntary telemetry uptake to both privately-owned meters and government-owned meters (the telemetry service charge will apply to government-owned meters, if all government-owned meters are telemetry) The telemetry/non-telemetry charges apply as follows:
- a) for a government-owned meter installed in respect of a licence holder, on and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day, the:
 - i) meter service charge in the government-owned table will cease to apply in respect of that government-owned meter; and
 - ii) charges in the annual government-owned table will instead apply in respect of that government-owned meter.
 - b) for a privately-owned meter installed in respect of a licence holder, on and from the New Private Meter Charge Trigger Day, unless the meter is not subject to the metering requirements, the:
 - i) reading / assessment charge will cease to apply in respect of that privately-owned meter; and
 - ii) the annual telemetry and non-telemetry charges will instead apply in respect of that privately-owned meter.
- 5) The trigger for these new charges are as follows:
- a) new Government Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a government-owned meter, the later of:
 - i) the day the meter becomes compliant with the metering requirements; and
 - ii) if there is a date specified in clause 230 of the Water Management Regulation from which a temporary exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition would cease to have effect in respect of the meter, that date.
 - b) new Private Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a privately-owned meter, the date specified in clause 230 of the Water Management Regulation from which a temporary exemption from the mandatory metering equipment condition would cease to have effect in respect of the meter.

Application fees for water access licences, dealings and approvals

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Type of application	Fee
New water access licences	
Zero share	\$805.92
Controlled allocation	\$784.07
Specific purpose – groundwater assessment required	\$3,681.77
Specific purpose – no groundwater assessment required	\$817.75
Water access licence dealings	
Dealings – unregulated and groundwater (except low risk and administrative) - groundwater assessment required	\$5,589.27
Dealings – unregulated and groundwater (except low risk and administrative) - groundwater assessment not required	\$2,725.26
Dealings – unregulated and groundwater with low risk	\$1,234.92
Dealings – unregulated and groundwater admin	\$545.49
Water Allocation Assignments	\$56.87
Approvals	
New or amended works and/or use approvals (All unless specified below as low risk, basic landholder rights or administrative) – groundwater assessments required	\$7,925.04
New or amended works and/or use approvals (All unless specified below as low risk, basic landholder rights or administrative) – groundwater assessments not required	\$5,061.02

Type of application	Fee
New or amended works and/or use approvals low risk – groundwater assessments required	\$5,606.22
New or amended works and/or use approvals low risk – groundwater assessments not required	\$2,742.21
New basic landholder right bore – groundwater assessment required	\$1,166.90
New basic landholder right bore – groundwater assessment not required	\$1,004.93
Amended approval administrative – groundwater assessments required	\$3,467.52
Amended approval administrative – groundwater assessments not required	\$603.50
Extension of approval – lodged before expiry date	\$580.47
Extension of approval – lodged after expiry date	\$1,072.82

Notes:

These fees are determined by IPART.

WaterNSW collects the groundwater assessment fee on behalf of the Department of Planning and Environment - Water (DPE - Water). DPE - Water hydrogeologists are responsible for undertaking the groundwater assessment, when required.

WaterNSW charges fees to cover the assessment and processing costs of applications for access licences, water supply work approvals, water use approvals and access licence dealings lodged under the *Water Management Act 2000* (Water Management Act).

These fees will increase annually, based on changes in the consumer price index. Fees are exempt from GST.

A 'new' work approval means any work proposed which is not currently listed on a water approval or is replacing an existing work which is listed on a water approval.

Consent transactions in relation to Monopoly Services provided by WAMC.

Consent transactions in relation to drillers licences, floodwork approvals, and solicitor enquiries and special meter reads are not disclosed, as they have not been regulated by IPART and are deemed to be unregulated services.

Impact and rules-based assessments:

Applications generally require a detailed impact assessment. This includes case by case investigation to consider potential local impacts and determine whether those impacts require refusal or consent, or consent subject to conditions.

Depending on the type of transaction, impact assessment can include identifying and addressing impacts on adjoining pumps or bores, Aboriginal heritage sites, native vegetation, threatened species, wetlands, land degradation, salinity, soil compaction, geomorphic instability, hydrology, water logging, acidity, contamination and water quality, in addition to consideration and resolution of any lodged objections. In some cases where significant risks are identified, WaterNSW may require the applicant to commission third-party experts to determine the extent of those risks and how they might be mitigated.

Applications determined by IPART which are identified as 'low risk' are processed with a rules-based assessment which does not require the above detailed impact assessment.

Lower fees are charged for transactions which are identified as 'low risk'.

WAMC charges are determined by IPART under the IPART Act and the WAMC determination. The reasons are:

1. Section 11 of the IPART Act gives IPART a standing reference to conduct investigations and make reports to the Minister administering the IPART Act on the determination of the pricing for a government monopoly service supplied by a government agency specified in Schedule 1 of the IPART Act.
2. The Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (Corporation) is listed in Schedule 1 of the IPART Act.
3. The services which are declared as government monopoly services under clause 3 of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (Water Services) Order 2004* are services supplied by the Corporation which involve:
 - (a) the making available of water;
 - (b) the making available of the Corporation's water supply facilities; or
 - (c) the supplying of water, whether by means of the Corporation's water supply facilities or otherwise, (together, the Monopoly Services).
4. Under section 4(6) of the IPART Act, the Corporation is taken to be the supplier of the services for which fees and charges are payable under Chapter 3 of the Water Management Act.
5. In practice, charges for such water resource management activities are made as charges under licences, permits, approvals or authorities granted by:
 - (a) the Minister under Chapter 3 of the Water Management Act (in areas of NSW in which proclamations under sections 55A and 88A of the Water Management Act are in force); and
 - (b) the Corporation under the Water Act (in other areas of NSW).
6. Accordingly, in determining maximum prices for the Monopoly Services, IPART has determined maximum prices payable for these services under various licences, permits, approvals or authorities granted under the Water Management Act and the Water Act.

Groundwater water sharing plans

The table below defines the water sharing plans relevant to each valley or river.

Valley/River	Water Sharing Plans
Coastal	<p>Bega and Brogo Rivers Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011</p> <p>Bellinger River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2020</p> <p>Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources 2009</p> <p>Coffs Harbour Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009</p> <p>Clarence River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Clyde River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Deua River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Sources 2011</p> <p>Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009</p> <p>Hastings Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2019</p> <p>Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009</p> <p>Murrumbidgee Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2010</p> <p>Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Nambucca Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>North Coast Coastal Sands Groundwater Sources 2016</p> <p>North Coast Fractured and Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2016</p> <p>Richmond River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023</p> <p>South Coast Groundwater Sources 2016</p> <p>Snowy Genoa Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016</p> <p>Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023</p> <p>Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022</p>

Valley/River	Water Sharing Plans
Inland	Darling Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 Gwydir Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 Lachlan Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 Macquarie-Castlereagh Groundwater Sources 2020 Murray Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 Namoi Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 North Western Unregulated and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2011 NSW Border Rivers Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020 NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources 2020 NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Groundwater Sources 2020 NSW Murray Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources 2020 NSW Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2020
Murrumbidgee	Murrumbidgee Alluvial Groundwater Sources 2020



Water sharing plans are determined by the Department of Planning & Environment - Water (DPE - Water) and are subject to change. The plans listed are current at the time of publication.

Special licence categories

Licence category	Tariff category
Floodplain harvesting (regulated river)	Water take charge only
Major utility (Barnard) (regulated river)	Minimum charge only
Supplementary water (regulated river)	Water take charge only
Supplementary water environmental access (regulated river)	Water take charge only
Supplementary water (Lowbidgee) (regulated river)	Water take charge only
Floodplain harvesting (unregulated river)	Water take charge only
Major utility (Grahamstown) (unregulated river)	Minimum charge only
Supplementary Aboriginal environmental water access (unregulated river)	Water take charge only
Unregulated river (regulated supply)	Minimum charge only
Unregulated river (regulated supply – local water utility)	Minimum charge only
Unregulated river (special additional high flow)	Water take charge only
Salinity and water table management (groundwater)	Minimum charge only

IPART has made the decision to maintain the above special licence categories and tariff structures for WAMC charges. Only the usage charge is levied on supplementary licence holders (with exception of Lowbidgee supplementary licences where WaterNSW levy a fixed charge under the Rural Valley Determination).



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