

Unregulated river water prices

2025-2026



Contents

Unregulated river management prices	3
Floodplain harvesting licence charges - with ALL compliant storage/s.....	5
Floodplain harvesting licence charges - with ONE or MORE non-compliant storage/s	6
Metering service charges.....	10
Telemetry and LID download/validation charge	12
Application fees for water access licences, dealings and approvals	13
Unregulated water sharing plans	17
Special licence categories	18



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.

Unregulated river management prices for Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) for 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026

Disclaimer: Due to the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) IPART determination delay, all WAMC fees will be pro-rated.

What does this mean for you as an unregulated water customer?

All WAMC annual charges stated below are for the pro-rated period of 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026, unless otherwise specified. WAMC pricing for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 are stated on our website.

Entitlement charges are billed per share and usage charges are billed per megalitre extracted or water taken.

Without meter – 1-PART TARIFF			With meter – 2-PART TARIFF	
Valley/River	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Border	WAMC charges	\$4.67	\$1.96	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.35	\$0.21	\$0.14
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$5.02	\$2.17	\$2.85
Far West	WAMC charges	\$6.26	\$3.86	\$2.40 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$1.32	\$1.06	\$0.26
	WAMC Border River Commission charges ³	\$1.31	\$1.05	\$0.26
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$8.89	\$5.97	\$2.92
Gwydir	WAMC charges	\$4.67	\$1.96	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.35	\$0.21	\$0.14
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$5.02	\$2.17	\$2.85
Hunter & Patterson	WAMC charges	\$4.90	\$1.74	\$3.16 [^]
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$4.90	\$1.74	\$3.16
Lachlan	WAMC charges	\$7.62	\$2.66	\$4.96 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.44	\$0.29	\$0.15
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$8.06	\$2.95	\$5.11

Without meter – 1-PART TARIFF			With meter – 2-PART TARIFF	
Valley/River	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Macquarie	WAMC charges	\$7.62	\$2.66	\$4.96 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.44	\$0.29	\$0.15
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$8.06	\$2.95	\$5.11
Murray	WAMC charges	\$9.43	\$2.23	\$7.20 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.51	\$0.22	\$0.29
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$9.94	\$2.45	\$7.49
Murrumbidgee	WAMC charges	\$12.69	\$3.91	\$8.78 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.39	\$0.20	\$0.19
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$13.08	\$4.11	\$8.97
Namoi	WAMC charges	\$4.67	\$1.96	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.35	\$0.21	\$0.14
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$5.02	\$2.17	\$2.85
North Coast	WAMC charges	\$13.61	\$6.06	\$7.55 [^]
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$13.61	\$6.06	\$7.55
Peel	WAMC charges	\$4.67	\$1.96	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	\$0.35	\$0.21	\$0.14
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$5.02	\$2.17	\$2.85
South Coast	WAMC charges	\$3.54	\$2.03	\$1.51 [^]
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$3.54	\$2.03	\$1.51

IPART has set new floodplain harvesting charges. WAMC's proposed new floodplain harvesting charge is intended to enable recovery of costs from issuing and managing floodplain harvesting licences. These costs, which relate to customer support and information technology platforms, are not covered by the existing water management activity codes. The new floodplain harvesting charge is in addition to water take charges that already apply to floodplain harvesting licences, including water management and any applicable Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission (BRC) charges. The charge is \$3.62 per ML of water take for licences with all complaint storages, and a floodplain harvesting water entitlement charge of \$1.09 per ML for licences with non-complaint storages as shown below.

Floodplain harvesting licence charges - with ALL compliant storage/s

Without meter – 1-PART TARIFF			With meter – 2-PART TARIFF	
Valley/River	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Far West	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.40 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.26
	WAMC Border River Commission charges ³	NA	NA	\$0.26
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	NA	NA	\$3.62
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.54
Gwydir	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.14
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	NA	NA	\$3.62
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.47
Namoi	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.14
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	NA	NA	\$3.62
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.47

Floodplain harvesting licence charges - with ONE or MORE non-compliant storage/s

Without meter - 1-PART TARIFF			With meter - 2-PART TARIFF	
Valley/River	Details	Entitlement charge (A)	Entitlement charge (B)	Usage (C)
Far West	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.40 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.26
	WAMC Border River Commission charges ³	NA	NA	\$0.26
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	\$1.09	\$1.09	NA
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$1.09	\$1.09	\$2.92
Gwydir	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.14
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	\$1.09	\$1.09	NA
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$1.09	\$1.09	\$2.85
Namoi	WAMC charges	NA	NA	\$2.71 [^]
	WAMC Murray-Darling Basin Authority charges ²	NA	NA	\$0.14
	WAMC floodplain harvesting - additional charges*	\$1.09	\$1.09	NA
	Total charges collected by WaterNSW	\$1.09	\$1.09	\$2.85
Scheme management charge⁵				
\$113.58				
Minimum annual charge⁴				
\$295.66				

Notes for unregulated river management prices

- 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.
- WaterNSW licences in South Coast unregulated rivers attract an additional entitlement charge of **\$0.88** per ML.
- Hunter Water licences in Hunter unregulated rivers attract an additional entitlement charge of **\$1.50** per ML.
- 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 [Accounts and billing](#).

- WAMC charges are determined by IPART under the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (IPART Act) and the WAMC determination.
- The maximum prices in the IPART Determinations do not include GST. For the avoidance of doubt, where GST is lawfully applied to the maximum prices set out in the IPART determinations, the resulting GST inclusive price is consistent with the determination and in this event, WaterNSW would levy additional price component for GST consistent with the determination during the financial year.
- All WAMC 1 Oct 2025 to 30 June 2026 Annual Charges will be pro-rated in accordance with clause 31.6(2) of Part 8 of the 2025 WAMC Determination. These WAMC Annual Charges include:
 - Minimum annual charge
 - WAMC entitlement charges
 - The additional water entitlement charge for Regulated Rivers for a floodplain harvesting access licence customer who has one or more storages one or more of which are non-complaint storages
 - The additional water entitlement charge for Unregulated Rivers for a floodplain harvesting access licence customer who has one or more storages one or more of which are non-complaint storages
 - Additional entitlement charge for WaterNSW in Unregulated South Coast
 - Additional entitlement charge for Hunter Water in Unregulated Hunter Valley
 - Meter service charges
 - Water take reading/Assessment charge
 - Scheme management charge
 - Government-owned meter service charge
 - Telemetry service charge
 - LID download/validation charge
 - MDBA entitlement charges
 - BRC entitlement charge

Clause 31.6(2) of Part 8 states that in respect of any period after the Commencement Date that is less than a full year, the annual charges in this determination will be pro-rated for that period, based on the proportion that the number of days in that period bears to the number of days in the year.

Note: For example, if this WAMC determination commences on 1 October 2025 the annual charges in this determination will be pro-rated based on the number of days in the period from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026 as a proportion of the total number of days in the financial year from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The annual charges for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, will be determined under the 2021 WAMC Determination and pro-rated in accordance with that determination.

(3) Different annual charges apply to Government-Owned Meters and Privately-Owned Meters. Where a person switches from a Government-Owned Meter to a Privately Owned Meter (or vice versa), the annual charges will be pro-rated based on the proportion of days in the year that the person had a:

- (a) Government-Owned Meter installed; and
- (b) Privately-Owned Meter installed.

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:

- 2 **MDBA customer** means a holder of a Water Licence that authorises the taking of water from:
 - 1. Unregulated Rivers in the – Border, Gwydir, Namoi, Peel, Lachlan, Macquarie, Far West, Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys
- 3 **BRC customer** means a holder of a Water Licence that authorises the taking of water from:
 - 1. Unregulated Rivers in the – Far West valley
- 4 Please note the **Minimum annual charge** applies in relation to the WAMC charges.
- 5 **The Scheme management charge** is levied on all billable licences including floodplain harvesting licences.

Nil price for Aboriginal Cultural Licences

Despite anything on this webpage, 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. An **Aboriginal Cultural Licence** means any of the following categories of access licence referred to in schedule 3 of the Water Management Regulation:

- (a) regulated river (high security) Aboriginal cultural licence;
- (b) unregulated river Aboriginal cultural licence; and
- (c) aquifer Aboriginal cultural licence.
- (d) regulated river (high security) Aboriginal community development licence;
- (e) regulated river (general security) Aboriginal community development licence;
- (f) unregulated river Aboriginal community development licence; and
- (g) aquifer Aboriginal community development licence.

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

The reasons are:

1. Section 11 of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (IPART Act) gives the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (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. WAMC is listed in Schedule 1 of the IPART Act.
3. The WAMC charges recover the costs of water management and planning activities and services which are declared as government monopoly services under clause 3 of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (Water Services) Order 2004*. These involve:
 - (1) the making available of water;
 - (2) the making available of the Corporation's water supply facilities; or
 - (3) 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 2000* (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:
 - (1) 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
 - (2) the Corporation under the *Water Act 1912* (Water Act) (in other areas of NSW).

In addition, WAMC charges recover the costs of the supply of services for which fees and charges are payable under Chapter 3 of the Water Management Act. In practice, charges for such water resource management activities are made as charges under licences, permits, approvals or authorities granted by:

1. 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
2. the Corporation under the Water Act (in other areas of NSW).

The activity costs associated with the WAMC charges are described in the IPART Final Decision, IPART Draft Decision and accompanying reports.

They include: Surface water quantity monitoring, Surface water data management and reporting, Surface water quality monitoring, Surface water algal monitoring, Surface water ecological condition monitoring, Groundwater quantity monitoring, Groundwater quality monitoring, Groundwater data management and reporting, Water take data collection, Water take data management and reporting, Surface water modelling, Groundwater modelling, Water resource accounting, Systems operation and water availability management, Blue-green algae management, Environmental water management, Water plan performance assessment and evaluation, Water plan development, Floodplain management plan, Drainage management plan development, Regional planning and management strategies, Development of water planning and regulatory framework, Cross border and national commitments, Water management works, Regulation systems management, Consents management and licence conversion, Compliance management, Water consents overhead, Water consents transactions, Customer management, Business governance and support, Billing management.

These services are currently delivered by NSW DCCEEW, NRAR and WaterNSW on behalf of WAMC. For more information, please refer to the [IPART website](#).

The maximum annual price that WAMC may charge for the Monopoly Services provided in respect of a water licence, which applies only for WAMC charges, is the sum of:

- (a) the higher of:
 - (1) the minimum annual charge; and
 - (2) where the licence holder has a meter: the sum of the following (2-part tariff):
 - (A) an entitlement charge calculated in accordance with the WAMC determination; and
 - (B) the usage charge[^] calculated in accordance with the WAMC determination;
 - (3) where the licence holder does not have a meter: the entitlement charge (1-part tariff) calculated in accordance with the WAMC determination; and
 - (4) where the Licence Holder does not have a Meter and does not have a mechanism for extracting water: the entitlement charge calculated in accordance with clause 3, as though the Licence Holder had a Meter; and
- (b) for an MDBA customer, the applicable MDBA entitlement charge and MDBA usage charge for the relevant water source and relevant year; and
- (c) for a BRC customer, the applicable BRC entitlement charge and BRC usage charge for the relevant water source and relevant year.

The maximum annual price that may be charged for the Monopoly Services provided in respect of a Supplementary water access licence, supplementary Aboriginal environmental water access licence (Unregulated River), Unregulated River (Special Additional High Flow) Access Licence or a Floodplain Harvesting Access Licence that authorises the taking of water from an Unregulated River is the sum of:

- (a) the higher of:
 - (i) the minimum annual charge; and
 - (ii) the water take charge[^] calculated in accordance with the WAMC determination;
- (b) for a Floodplain Harvesting Access Licence Customer who has one or more storages:
 - (i) all of which are Compliant Storages, the additional water take charge set out in the pricing schedule (Floodplain Harvesting Licences) for the relevant river valley and the relevant year multiplied by the Licence Holder's water take for that year;
 - (ii) one or more of which are Non-compliant Storages, the additional entitlement charge set out in the pricing schedule (Floodplain Harvesting Licences) for the relevant river valley and the relevant year.
- (c) for an MDBA Customer, the applicable MDBA water take charge for the relevant water source and relevant year; and
- (d) for a BRC Customer, the applicable BRC water take charge for the relevant water source and relevant year.

(3) The maximum annual price that may be charged for the Monopoly Services provided in respect of an Unregulated River (Regulated Supply) Access Licence, Unregulated River (Regulated Supply – Local Water Utility) Access Licence or a Major Utility (Grahamstown) Access Licence that authorises the taking of water from an Unregulated River is the minimum annual charge for the relevant year

Note: for “Low Risk Water Users”, the licence holders entitlement holding is used to calculate the usage charge[^]. A ‘low risk water user’ is defined as a user of works exempted by any of the following provisions of the Water Management Regulation: (a) Schedule 7, Part 2 clauses 6, 7 or 8; or (b) Schedule 7, Part 3 clause 11, and in relation to which relevant and reliable metering information is not reasonably available to WAMC.

The fee for service charges (consent transaction charges, water take assessment charge, meter service and other charges and the new metering charge (government-owned meter service charge, scheme management charge, telemetry non/telemetry charge/LID, and ancillary charges) are levied in addition to the fixed and variable charges (and the MAC) contained in this webpage are not used to calculate the MAC threshold.

Metering service charges

1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026

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 **\$2,110.65** 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 **\$8,349.56** and **\$5,579.81** 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 **\$309.35** 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 are available waterNSW.com.au/metering

Type of charge	Annual charge per meter
Operating costs (non channel meter)	\$1,015.56
Operating costs (channel meter)	\$7,522.86

Non-telemetered privately-owned meters

Water take reading/assessment charge	Charge
Annual charge	\$249.75

The water take reading/assessment charge applies to privately-owned meters (i.e. Installed user meter or approved meter equivalent) for each user meter or approved meter equivalent. The water take reading/assessment charge ceases to apply on the new private meter charge trigger day as defined in the WAMC determination.

Telemetered 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	\$620.31
350-700 mm	\$644.55
750-1000 mm	\$700.69

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	\$486.63
350-700 mm	\$505.64
750-1000 mm	\$549.69

Notes for metering service charges

Metering charges are calculated annually in arrears.

The MSC will be triggered as follows:

- New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a government-owned meter, the later of:
 - the day the meter becomes compliant with the metering requirements; and
 - 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.
- There will be a pro rata between the existing and new MSC as follow:
 - for a 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
 - 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, will be charged the telemetry and non-telemetry charges.
- 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:
 - 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:
 - government-owned meter as against the number of days in the financial year; and
 - privately-owned meter as against the number of days in the financial year.
- 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 meter s are telemetry). The telemetry/non-telemetry charges apply as follows:
 - for a government-owned meter installed in respect of a licence holder, on and from the New Government Meter Charge Trigger Day, the:
 - meter service charge in the government-owned table will cease to apply in respect of that government-owned meter; and
 - charges in the annual government-owned table will instead apply in respect of that government-owned meter.
 - 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:
 - reading / assessment charge will cease to apply in respect of that privately-owned meter; and
 - the annual telemetry and non-telemetry charges will instead apply in respect of that privately-owned meter.
- The trigger for these new charges are as follows:
 - new Government Meter Charge Trigger Day means, in respect of a government-owned meter, the later of:
 - the day the meter becomes compliant with the metering requirements; and
 - 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.
 - 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.

Telemetry and LID download/validation charge

1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026

Disclaimer: Annual telemetry service and LID download/validation charges stated below are for the pro-rated period of 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026, unless otherwise specified. WAMC pricing for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 telemetry & non-telemetry charges are stated in the above section of this webpage.

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

Annual telemetry service charge per meter
\$255.22

The LID download/validation charge is a replacement of the non-telemetry charge that previously applied for those customers with complaint works but their metering equipment does not need telemetry. This charge would apply to all users with mandatory telemetry reporting requirements which are unable to transmit data due to telemetry blackspots or equipment issues. The charge is intended to cover costs for site visits to manually download usage data or validate meter information.

LID download/validation charge per meter
\$617.40

NSW Government telemetry rebate

***Please note this rebate will not be applied where a local intelligence device (LID) has not been installed or ordered by 30 June 2024.**

The NSW Government will provide a rebate of **\$975.00 to all privately-owned meters when a working telemetry device is installed**. This will offset the telemetry service charge until the rebate is exhausted.

This rebate will only apply where you have installed or ordered your local intelligence device (LID) prior to 01 July 2024. 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 \$975.00 – 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

Application fees for water access licences, dealings and approvals

1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026

Type of application	Fee
New and surrender water access licences	
Zero share	\$887.05
Controlled allocation	\$863.43
Specific purpose – no groundwater assessment required	\$898.82
Specific purpose – groundwater assessment required	\$4,391.41
Surrender water access licence – non-complex - Zero share - SPAL's S&D	\$382.00
Surrender water access licence – complex - WAL attached to a dam - WAL for dewatering	\$522.34
Water access licence dealings	
High risk fees apply to these unregulated applications unless they are listed as low risk: - Exit dealing (s74) 71P(a) Subdivide a water access licence where there is a change to add a nominated work (bundled with a 71W) 71P(b) Consolidate water access licences where the nominated works on each WAL are different or adding an additional work (bundled with a 71W) 71W to nominate any works including miscellaneous works 71W to nominate an interstate work on a NSW licence 71Q permanently assign share to another licence (permanent trade of water) 71QA assignment of IDEC 71O conversion of licence to new category 71R amendment of a licence for a share component to a new water source or management area 71S amendment of an extraction component around times, rates, circumstance etc of a licence	\$2,947.68

Type of application	Fee
Low risk fees apply to these transactions only: 71Q Assign share components between water access licences where the receiving water access licence has no nominated works 71Q Assign share components between water access licences where the receiving water access licence nominates ground water works with a bore extraction limit 71W Remove a nominated work on a water access licence ONLY 71P(a) Subdivide a water access licence ONLY with no change in the nominated work or removing of work only 71P(b) Consolidate water access licences ONLY with no change in the nominated works or removal of work	\$1,335.72
High risk fees apply to these applications unless they are listed as low risk with Groundwater assessment: - Subdivide (s71P (a)) a water access licence where there is a change to the nominated work - Consolidate (s71p(b)) water access licences where there is a change in nominated works 71W to nominate any works including miscellaneous works 71W to nominate an interstate work on a NSW licence 71Q permanently assign share to another licence (permanent trade of water) 71O conversion of licence to new category 71R amendment of a licence for a share component to a new water source or management area 71S amendment of an extraction component around times, rates, circumstance etc of a licence	\$6,440.27
Water Allocation Assignments - Unregulated rivers - 71T, 71V Please note: application fee(s) for water trade will NOT be refunded if an allocation assignment application is unsuccessful, withdrawn or incomplete.	\$64.12
Approvals	
Combined approvals - high risk: Combined approvals (works & use)	\$6,582.46
New or amended work and/or use approvals - Use approval only - Water supply work approval only - pumps, channels, dams, storages, floodplain harvesting (FPH) amendments - Increase pump/work size, add additional work Note - does not include combined approval	\$5,489.44
Combined approvals - low risk Application has current GTA's for Works only provided through IDAS process	\$3,579.12
New or amended approvals - low risk: Application has current GTA's for Works only provided through IDAS process	\$2,981.38

Type of application	Fee
Administrative amendment – No groundwater assessment required - Remove land (lot/DP) or work(s) - Consolidate approvals no change to the existing works or use area - Subdivide an approval no change to the existing works or use area - Reduce pump size	\$652.75
Specialised assessment fee Additional assessment required by a consultant; these could be for noise assessment, water quality, ecohydrologist assessment, flood study for works on a floodplain	\$1,559.63
Change of application fee (after assessment commenced) Changes to the application or adds locations/works after assessment has commenced	\$1,024.41
Surrender approval – non complex - Pumps - Use approval - Non constructed works – bores/flood work/dams	\$123.17
Surrender approval – complex - Combined approvals - Constructed dams/flood works/floodplain harvesting/bores	\$273.44
Extension pre-expiry fee	\$627.85
Extension post expiry fee – less than 60 days from expiry date	\$627.85
Extension post expiry fee – more than 60 days from expiry date	\$1,160.39

Extension fees are charged to recover WaterNSW costs. The difference in the fee for applications to extend an approval after the expiry date is to cover the additional administrative and assessment costs as WaterNSW may need to reassess the application to ensure that it meets the relevant legislation. The late application fee has been reviewed and determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, approval holders are responsible for ensuring their approvals are valid and up to date. The approval holder is responsible for applying to extend the approval prior to its expiry.

Notes for application fees

These fees are determined by IPART.

* This fee is currently waived due to recent amendments to the non-urban metering regulation.

WaterNSW collects the groundwater assessment fee on behalf of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW). NSW DCCEEW 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:
 - (1) the making available of water;
 - (2) the making available of the Corporation's water supply facilities; or
 - (3) 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:
 - (1) 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
 - (2) 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.

Unregulated water sharing plans

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

Water sharing plans are determined by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) and are subject to change. The plans listed are current at the time of publication.

Valley/River	Water Sharing Plans
Border	NSW Border Rivers Unregulated River Water Sources 2012
Far West	Barwon–Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2012 Intersecting Streams Unregulated River Water Sources 2011 North Western Unregulated and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2011 Lower Murray–Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2011 (<i>Dependant on location</i>)
Greater Metropolitan	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources 2023
Gwydir	Gwydir Unregulated River Water Sources 2012
Hunter	Central Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 (<i>Dependant on location</i>)
Lachlan	Lachlan Unregulated River Water Sources 2012
Macquarie	Macquarie–Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2012 Castlereagh Unregulated River Water Sources 2011
Murray	Murray Unregulated River Water Sources 2011 Lower Murray–Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2011 (<i>Dependant on location</i>)
Murrumbidgee	Murrumbidgee Unregulated River Water Sources 2012
Namoi or Peel (dependant on water source)	Namoi and Peel Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2012
North Coast	Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Richmond River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 Bellinger River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2020 Clarence River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Coffs Harbour Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 Hastings Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2019 Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022 (<i>Dependant on location</i>) Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Nambucca Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016
South Coast	Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 Clyde River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Deua River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Snowy Genoa Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016 Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 Tuross River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2016

Special licence categories

WAMC charges only

Licence category	Tariff category
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
Major utility (Grahamstown)(unregulated river)	Minimum charge only
Major utility (Barnard)(regulated 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
Floodplain harvesting (regulated river)	Refer to floodplain harvesting pricing
Floodplain harvesting (unregulated river)	Refer to floodplain harvesting pricing

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). MDBA/BRC usage charges are applied additionally & irrespective of whether the minimum annual charges applies.



Are your details up to date?

To notify you of any changes that may impact your water availability and water quality, we need your up-to-date contact details.

It's easy to update them online at [waternsw.com.au/managedetails](https://www.waternsw.com.au/managedetails)

Find out more:

waternsw.com.au/pricing

ipart.nsw.gov.au

Published: October 2025

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Disclaimer

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The prices in this booklet are for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) services as of 1 October 2025 as determined by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

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