

# Your Water and Sewer Charges



**Water and sewer pricing, fees and charges are set annually following public consultation and formal adoption by Council in June each year. Water and sewer pricing and structure of charges is part of Council's Revenue Policy, and fees and charges for services form part of Council's Fees and Charges schedule. Both are available within Council's Operational Plan.**

**As a Local Water Utility, Council's pricing for water supply and sewerage services are in accordance with the NSW Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007 and comply with the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Pricing Principles for Local Water Authorities.**

## **WATER USAGE ACCOUNT**

Water usage accounts are issued four times each year to property owners that are connected to the Council water supply. These accounts not only provide the charges, but also give the property owner valuable information about the household's use of water.

## **WATER SERVICE ACCESS CHARGE**

The water access charge is a fixed annual base charge levied as part of the Rates Notice for the connection, or ability to connect, to the drinking water supply system. The size of the water meter installed on the property determines that base charge. Higher charges apply to properties with multiple or oversized water meter service connections.

The water service access charge applies to all properties and some adjacent to urban areas, which are within 225 metres of a water main, including vacant land that can feasibly connect to the water reticulation main without crossing private property.

## **WATER USAGE (LESS THAN 400KL)**

A water usage charge is applied to the amount, or volume, of water used by an individual customer. Usage charges are calculated for each kilolitre (1,000 litres) of water used and are based on the reading from the property's water meter.

This charge is tiered dependant on the volume used and is charged after the water is used. The first 400kL of water used is charged at a lower per kL rate. This is known as Tier 1.

## **WATER USAGE (GREATER THAN 400KL)**

When water usage reaches 400 kilolitres used, a higher per kL charge is applied. The rate is 1.5 times higher than the charge applied for up to 400kL. This is known as Tier 2.

When water usage reaches 800 kilolitres used, a higher per kL charge is applied which is 1.5 times higher than the charge applied for water between 401kL and 800kL. This is known as Tier 3.

Tier 1 corresponds to an amount of water sufficient for average household needs. Subsequent tiers are designed to provide a pricing mechanism to discourage excessive and unsustainable use of water.

The higher charges are based on a financial year (from 1 July to 30 June) and are charged per property, not per owner or tenant. This means if a property reaches 400 kilolitres in the first quarter and a new owner or tenant occupies the property for the remainder of the financial year, all water consumed will be charged at the higher rate.

The tariff usage resets at the start of the financial year.

## **SEWER ACCESS CHARGE**

The sewer service access charge is a fixed annual base charge levied as part of the Rates Notice for the connection, or ability to connect, to the sewer distribution system. All residential properties are levied a fixed sewer access charge.

The sewer service access charge applies to all properties located within 75 metres of a Council sewer main, including vacant land that can feasibly connect to the sewer main without crossing private property.