



# Media Release

4 August 2020

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## EXPLAINING COUNCIL'S WATER BILLING CHARGES

With water and sewerage accounts now due and payable, Council is receiving a number of enquiries in relation to the increased 2020/2021 charges and provides this information to clarify and alleviate ratepayer concerns.

- For **residential properties**, currently for the first 450kL consumed, the charge is \$5.90 per kL. For consumption greater than 450kL, the charge is \$8.85 per kL.
- For **non-residential properties**, for the first 800kL consumed, the current charge is \$4.35 per kL. For consumption greater than 800kL, the charge is \$6.60 per kL.
- The reason for this increase in water consumption fees is a roll-on effect from last financial year's expected income for not being generated in the Water Fund, due to drought conditions. As a result of this, Council did not generate sufficient revenue to cover the costs of water supply. It should be noted that this pricing is returning income to pre-drought levels based on assumption of use at the time of preparing the budget.
- The water availability and the water consumption charges are raised in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines for water supply. Due to the unforeseen decrease in the 2019/20 financial year water usage, a significant increase in the consumption charge per kL was required to re-align with the Guidelines.
- These water consumption fees will be reviewed at the end of the first billing period in December 2020 when water meter reading data is collected. If water consumption based on this reading varies by 10% or more from the assumed consumption rate used in calculating water fees, the fees will be adjusted based on a formula adopted by Council and the revised pricing will be used when preparing invoices. It is anticipated that this will more than likely result in a downward adjustment to water fees.

**ENDS**