

Wednesday, 11 May 2011

NEW WATER PRICES FOR 2011-12

The average South Australian water bill will increase by about \$3.64 per week from July 1 under new water prices announced today by the State Government.

Water prices will increase on average by 26.3 per cent which includes an increase to the fixed household quarterly supply charge of \$23.05 per quarter.

Concessions will also be increased with the Government providing \$22 million over the next four years to concession holders to soften the impact of the new water prices.

Minister for Water Paul Caica said the State Government is investing heavily in projects to diversify the State's water supply and the price rise will go towards paying for this critical water security plan.

"While South Australia is currently in a much better position given improved rainfall, it is inevitable we will once again be in drought," he said.

"The investments in water security by the Labor Government have put the State in a better position to handle these challenges in future.

"Increases to water prices contribute to South Australia's largest water projects including the Adelaide Desalination Plant and the North South Interconnection System Project. At the end of July we will start to see desalinated drinking water being delivered to Adelaide's southern residents and construction work on the eastern pipeline as part of NSISP is underway."

Sewerage charges will rise on average by 5.5 per cent for metropolitan customers and 6 per cent for country customers.

"Increases in sewerage prices reflect works to improve wastewater treatment processes, infrastructure and wastewater reuse projects such as the Southern Urban Reuse Project and upgrades of the Christies Beach and Aldinga wastewater treatment plants," Mr Caica said.

"These works help ensure we meet environmental targets and can capitalise on reusing water which would have otherwise been discharged to sea."

Treasurer Jack Snelling said the State Government had carefully reviewed pricing forecasts and while a similar increase is expected in 2012-13, it was no longer considered necessary in 2013-14.

Concessions which assist pensioners, Veteran Gold Card holders and Commonwealth Low Income Health Care Card holders will also increase.

"Concessions for 2011-12 will increase to 25 per cent of the total annual water supply bill. Sewerage concessions will also increase by 5 per cent," Mr Snelling said.

“We appreciate that the increase in water bills impacts all South Australians, especially those with concessions or those who are under financial hardship.

“SA Water has a Customer Assist Program that can help customers who have difficulty paying their water bills and anyone with concerns should contact SA Water on **1300 650 950.**”

Mr Caica said the State Government’s *Water for Good* plan foreshadowed a plan to appoint ESCOSA as the independent regulator of the South Australian water industry.

“The State Government is working through public submissions on the draft Water Industry Bill and ESCOSA’s first price determination is expected to be for the period of 1 July, 2013,” he said.

WATER PRICING FACTS

- South Australian 2011-12 water prices will increase by 26.3 per cent (including inflation) on average starting on 1 July, 2011.
- Sewerage charges will increase on average by 5.5 per cent for metropolitan customers and 6 per cent for country customers.
- The **NEW** prices for the 2011-12 financial year are:
 - Quarterly water supply charge of \$58.65
 - \$1.93/kL for water use from 0-30 kL per quarter
 - \$2.75/kL for water use from 30-130 kL per quarter
 - \$2.98/kL for water use above 130kL
- The average metropolitan household used about 190 kilolitres (190,000 litres) of water in 2009-10. Based on this, householders would pay \$164.68 per quarter in 2011-12 for water supply – an increase of about \$47 per quarter compared with an increase of \$21 in 2010-11.
- Concessions to assist pensioners and Commonwealth Low Income Health Care Card holders will increase in 2011-12:
 - Water concession as a total percentage of the total annual water bill will increase from 20 per cent to 25 per cent
 - Minimum concessions for owner occupier will increase from \$100 to \$125
 - Maximum concessions for owner occupiers will increase from \$210 to \$235
 - Sewerage concession will increase by \$5 to \$105.

RESIDENTIAL WATER BILL COMPARISONS - QUARTERLY

Quarterly use (single dwellings)	Quarterly water use charges 2010-11	Quarterly supply charge 2010-11	Total quarterly water bill 2010-11	Quarterly water use charges 2011-12	Quarterly supply charge 2011-12	Total quarterly water bill 2011-12	Difference per quarter	Difference per week
15 kL	\$19.20	\$35.60	\$54.80	\$28.95	\$58.65	\$87.60	\$32.80	\$2.52
30 kL	\$38.40	\$35.60	\$74.00	\$57.90	\$58.65	\$116.55	\$42.55	\$3.27
47.5 kL	\$81.80	\$35.60	\$117.40	\$106.03	\$58.65	\$164.68	\$47.28	\$3.64
60 kL	\$112.80	\$35.60	\$148.40	\$140.40	\$58.65	\$199.05	\$50.65	\$3.90
130 kL	\$286.40	\$35.60	\$322.00	\$332.90	\$58.65	\$391.55	\$69.55	\$5.35
175 kL	\$420.50	\$35.60	\$456.10	\$467.00	\$58.65	\$525.65	\$69.55	\$5.35
250 kL	\$644.00	\$35.60	\$679.60	\$690.50	\$58.65	\$749.15	\$69.55	\$5.35

Average quarterly metropolitan consumption during 2008-09 and 2009-10 was around 47.5kL