

Quarterly billing

Case studies – examples only

Low water user per annum

Mr and Mrs Green live in a townhouse where their annual water use is only about 80 kilolitres (kL, 1 kL equals 1000 litres) per year. They use more water in the warmer months for their outdoor pot plants.

The Greens receive their water bills in July, October, January and April.

Under the old system based on a 'consumption year' and six monthly meter reading, only the October and April bills included water usage charges. If we apply 2009-10 prices to demonstrate, their water use charges would have been \$34.40, \$65.40, \$34.40 and \$81.00 – a total of \$215.20 for the year.

Under quarterly billing, they will still receive their bills in July, October, January and April.

However, all four bills will now include the water usage charges for the preceding quarter. Using 2009-10 prices these bills would be \$48.60, \$45.50, \$53.80 and \$61.60 – a total of \$209.50.

Not only are the Greens getting more timely information, their water bills are more uniform across the year.

120kL per annum

Terry Purple and Simon Orange have a detached house with a traditional garden; they also have a rainwater tank plumbed into the house and also use rainwater for their vegetable garden. Their water use is about 120 kL per year and they use more water in summer when there is less regular rainfall to replenish their rainwater tank.

Under the old system based on a 'consumption year' and six monthly meter reading, they received their water bills in September, December, March and June, with water usage charges appearing on their September and March accounts.

Using 2009-10 prices to demonstrate, the following table illustrates how their bills differ between the old system and the new quarterly billing arrangements:

	Old system	Quarterly billing
September	\$81.00	\$51.10
December	\$34.40	\$63.50
March	\$104.20	\$86.10
June	\$34.40	\$63.50
Total	\$254.00	\$264.20

Further information

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200 kL per annum

The Brown family occupy a modern courtyard home with a rainwater tank. They receive their water bills in July, October, January and April. Under the old system based on consumption years and six monthly meter reading, only the July and January bills have water usage charges.

Using 2009-10 prices to demonstrate, the following table illustrates how their bills differ between the old system and the new quarterly billing arrangements:

	Old system	Quarterly billing
July	\$150.80	\$83.30
October	\$34.40	\$62.20
January	\$184.80	\$101.10
April	\$34.40	\$138.70
	\$404.40	\$385.30

Under quarterly billing, the Brown's water bills are spread more evenly over the year, although the bills would be somewhat higher in January and April reflecting higher water use over the warmer months. Family budgeting is still much easier, however, because their bills have been more consistent in the total due.

Higher water use per annum

Trevor and June Pink have a moderately sized home and, while their property is not especially large, they have a custom-built shade house of which they are particularly proud.

The Pinks are billed for water in September, December, March and June. Under the old system based on consumption years and six monthly meter reading, their water usage charges appear on their December and June accounts which are especially high.

Under quarterly billing, the alternating high and low accounts have been eliminated. However, the Pinks are now receiving more regular feedback on the quantity of water they use and its cost.

This is illustrated in the following table, using 2009-10 prices for comparison purposes:

	Old system	Quarterly billing
September	\$34.40	\$148.40
December	\$316.20	\$251.50
March	\$34.40	\$369.00
June	\$621.00	\$251.50
	\$1,006.00	\$1,020.40

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