

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Commission updates Icon Water's regulated water and sewerage services prices for 2021–22

Today the ACT's economic regulator released the annual update of the maximum prices that Icon Water can charge for its regulated water and sewerage services from 1 July 2021.

In 2021–22, the average residential customer consuming 200kL per annum will see their actual combined water and sewerage bill increase by \$0.45 per week (an increase of 2%). Last year, Icon Water was allowed to raise prices by up to 1.52%, but it decided to freeze water prices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, Icon Water has indicated that it will 'unfreeze' water prices, meaning that the actual increase in the combined bill of 2% is the combined effect of this year's maximum price change of 0.4% and the maximum price change for last year. Actual price impacts are shown in table 2.

"Icon Water's decision to freeze prices last year meant that it would forgo the additional revenue it was entitled to earn under last year's price reset. This year's 2% increase will bring prices back to the normal trajectory of the maximum price level that it is allowed to charge. However, Icon Water cannot recover the forgone revenue", Senior Commissioner Joe Dimasi said.

For non-residential customers, bill changes will range from increases of up to \$7.64 per week, to decreases of up to \$26.12 per week, depending on water consumption and the number of flushable fixtures installed. Table 3 shows that a mid-level non-residential customer consuming 5,000kL per annum with 50 flushable fixtures installed will see their bill decrease by \$8.33 per week, or \$433 per annum (a decrease of 0.9%).

"The slight increase in residential customer bills versus the decrease in non-residential customer bills is because sewerage charges make up a greater portion of non-residential bills because non-residential customers typically have more flushable fixtures. So, the decreases in sewerage charges from last year affect non-residential bills more than residential bills."

The Precinct Charge that developers pay to Icon Water to fund infrastructure upgrades will increase to \$1,200 per equivalent population, up from \$1,100 in 2020–21. The increase reflects higher forecast capital expenditure by Icon Water.

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## Contact

To contact the Commission, please visit [www.icrc.act.gov.au](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au).

For media enquiries, please contact:

Karen Godfrey  
 Tel: 02 6205 0799  
 Email: [icrc@act.gov.au](mailto:icrc@act.gov.au)

## Attachment

**Table 1. Maximum water and sewerage prices and changes, 2020–21 to 2021–22 (current \$)**

	2020–21	2021–22	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Water Supply Charge (\$/year)	160	180	20.00	12.5
Water Tier 1 (0–200kL/a) (\$/kL)	2.48	2.48	0.00	0.0
Water Tier 2 (200kL/a+) (\$/kL)	4.98	4.99	0.01	0.2
Sewerage Supply Charge (\$/year)	521.13	506.30	-14.83	-2.8
Sewerage Flushable Fixture Charge: Non-residential Customers (\$/year)	509.66	495.16	-14.50	-2.8

**Table 2. Actual water and sewerage prices and changes, 2020–21 to 2021–22 (current \$)**

	2020–21	2021–22	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Water Supply Charge (\$/year)	146.21	180	33.79	23.1
Water Tier 1 (0–200kL/a) (\$/kL)	2.46	2.48	0.02	0.8
Water Tier 2 (200kL/a+) (\$/kL)	4.94	4.99	0.05	1.0
Sewerage Supply Charge (\$/year)	521.13	506.30	-14.83	-2.8
Sewerage Flushable Fixture Charge: Non-residential Customers (\$/year)	509.66	495.16	-14.50	-2.8

**Table 3. Change in annual combined water and sewerage services bill for non-residential customers from 2020–21 to 2021–22 (current \$) based on actual prices**

Annual water consumption (kL)	Number of fixtures (#)	Annual 2020-21 combined bill (\$)	Annual 2021-22 combined bill (\$)	Change in combined bill (\$)	Change in combined bill (%)
1,000	10	9,189	9,136	-53	-0.6
	50	29,575	28,942	-633	-2.1
	100	55,058	53,700	-1,358	-2.5
2,000	10	14,129	14,126	-3	0.0
	50	34,515	33,932	-583	-1.7
	100	59,998	58,690	-1,308	-2.2
5,000	10	28,949	29,096	147	0.5
	50	49,335	48,902	-433	-0.9
	100	74,818	73,660	-1,158	-1.5
10,000	10	53,649	54,046	397	0.7
	50	74,035	73,852	-183	-0.2
	100	99,518	98,610	-908	-0.9