

Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) and Non-Drinking Water Services 2025/26 Pricing Policy Statement

1. PURPOSE

This Pricing Policy Statement sets out how Council has determined its costs and developed prices for its regulated Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) and Non-Drinking Water retail services.

2. BACKGROUND

Economic regulation of retailers of water and sewage services in South Australia was introduced via the Water Industry Act 2012 (SA) to provide mechanisms for the transparent setting of prices within the water industry and to facilitate pricing structures that reflect the true value of services provided by participants in this industry.

The Water Industry Act 2012 (SA) requires the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) to adopt or apply the National Water Initiative (NWI) pricing principles when making a price determination for retail services. The NWI principles relate to cost recovery, pricing and transparency for water services.

All licensed entities are required to issue a Pricing Policy Statement that demonstrates how the National Water Initiative (NWI) pricing principles have been applied in determining the costs and developing prices for its regulated water retail service.

The full cost of the service equates to a 'whole of life' approach to determine costs and includes:

- Operating and maintenance costs
- Capital renewal and upgrade
- Cost of capital
- Cost of risk

The following codes, principles and legislation shall be utilised by Council to determine pricing principles for CWMS services and non-drinking water it is licensed to provide:

- Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999
- SA Water's Excluded & Recycled Water Retail Service – Price Determination (1 July 2024)
- National Water Initiative Pricing Principles
- Costing Principles for Local Government (Local Government Association, 2013)
- CWMS Accounting Principles – The cost and pricing of CWMS (April 2025)
- Code for Establishing and Applying Property Units as a Factor for the Imposition of Annual Service Charges for CWMS (Local Government Association 2013)

3. DESCRIPTION OF REGULATED RETAIL SERVICES

CWMS

Council owns, operates and manages CWMS in the township of Robe. The CWMS provides for the collection, management and treatment of sewage wastewater generated in the township.

To fund the provision of this service Council imposes an annual service charge to recover the cost to council of establishing, operating, maintaining, improving and replacing infrastructure (taking into account depreciation of any assets and including future capital works). Council utilises differential pricing for vacant properties provided with a CWMS connection, applying a reduction in the annual service charge.

The CWMS connection fee represents a contribution by the owner, for any new additional CWMS connections, of their share of the capital cost of the scheme (i.e. new allotment and CWMS connections created by a land division process).

Non – Drinking Water

Council supplies non-drinking water (recycled wastewater) to certain community and Council-owned assets (including reserves, sporting fields, parks and gardens) at no direct charge.

This recycled wastewater is treated and managed in accordance with Council's approved Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan and relevant environmental and public health requirements.

This supply supports community wellbeing, recreational amenity and public open space outcomes. The costs associated with this non-charged water use are treated as a community service and are funded through Council's general revenue.

Council considers this approach consistent with National Water Initiative pricing principles, noting that the subsidy is transparent and applied for clearly identified community benefit.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

This Pricing Policy Statement will be available for inspection at the Council offices listed below during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's internet site: www.robe.sa.gov.au

Royal Circus, Robe SA 5276

Copies will be provided to interested parties upon request. Email council@robe.sa.gov.au

Any grievances in relation to this Pricing Policy Statement or its application should be forwarded in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Council.

5. 2025/26 PRICING SCHEDULE – CWMS

Non-drinking water supplied to Council and community assets is provided at no charge and is therefore not included in the pricing schedule.

Fee	Unit of Measure	2025/26	2024/25
CWMS Annual Service Charge - Occupied	Per property	\$672	\$656
CWMS Annual Service Charge - Unoccupied	Per property	\$540	\$528
CWMS and Sewer Contribution – New connections	Per allotment	\$4,380	\$4,277