

2020-21 water and sewerage prices



What are the 2020–21 water and sewerage prices?

Icon Water owns and operates the water and sewerage assets and business in the ACT. While the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) has approved an overall price increase from 1 July 2020, Icon Water has decided not to increase standard water consumption charges for 12 months due to COVID-19, and to maintain the 2019–20 combined water and sewerage supply charge. This means that most customers will continue to pay the 2019–20 Tier 1 and Tier 2 consumption charges and a combined water and sewerage supply charge at 2019–20 levels. Some other charges and fees have changed in line with inflation.

What does my Icon Water bill pay for?

Icon Water provides essential water and sewerage services that support the growth and prosperity of the Canberra region. Our core infrastructure and services include providing a secure water supply, high quality drinking water and environmentally sustainable water treatment.

Your bill helps Icon Water operate and maintain assets worth over \$2.6 billion, comprising the ACT's network of dams, water and sewage treatment plants, reservoirs, pumping stations, mains and more. It also helps us plan and build for the future, ensuring we can support the region with essential water and sewerage services.

For example, throughout 2020–21 Icon Water expects to spend more than \$11.2 million upgrading the tertiary filters and disinfection system at Canberra's primary sewage treatment plant. This will make sure sewage is cleaned and treated to stringent standards before it's released back into the environment.

We will also spend more than \$17.5 million replacing water and sewer mains which have reached the end of their life. Using a targeted program to identify the most at-risk pipes, we can minimise the likelihood of bursts, blockages and overflows which are disruptive for our customers and expensive to fix.

We support the growing Capital region, and supply high quality bulk water supplies to Queanbeyan community.

Importantly, we respect our role in protecting the environment. We have Australia's largest inland sewage treatment plant, treating to the highest standard so that environmental flows can be returned to the Murrumbidgee River system.

How are prices calculated?

The ACT has a two tier tariff structure for water consumption, and a water and a sewerage supply charge, shown below.

The ICRC regulates Icon Water's water and sewerage prices and made its latest five-year price direction for the 2018-23 period on 1 May 2018. During the pricing period, the ICRC makes adjustments in annual determinations, which take into consideration inflation and market factors.

The ICRC's Price Direction has allowed for measured and gradual rebalancing of tariffs, which will improve affordability while continuing to promote water conservation.

Sewerage supply charge

\$521^{.13}
per year

Water supply charge

\$146^{.21} + Consumption
per year

Consumption price structure:

Tier 1	1 kL to 50 kL (consumption per quarter)	\$2^{.46}/kL
Tier 2	over 50 kL (consumption per quarter)	\$4^{.94}/kL

A typical Canberra household uses 200 kL of water per year.

What are the Government charges that affect water and sewerage prices?

The Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) is a charge on those licensed to take water and is set by the ACT Government. The WAC is currently set at around 60 cents per kilolitre, which is charged to recover catchment management costs and environmental costs associated with water extraction. If you have further questions about the WAC, please contact the ACT Government Treasury.

The Utilities Network Facilities Tax (UNFT) is an ACT Government charge on owners of utility network facilities, including electricity, water, sewerage, gas and telecommunications. As at March 2020, the UNFT is set at \$1,265 per kilometre of infrastructure. More information can be found at revenue.act.gov.au

Will the price of miscellaneous services increase?

Under the ICRC's Price Direction 2018-23, miscellaneous fees and charges have increased in line with inflation (1.8%) rounded to the nearest dollar.

What adjustments to charges can we expect next year?

The ICRC's Price Direction 2018-23 reflects the costs of providing clean, safe drinking water and reliable sewerage services to the ACT over this five year period.

Following the price reduction in 2018-19, the ICRC has determined that water and sewerage prices will change in line with inflation over the following four years.

What input did customers have in determining Icon Water charges?

Icon Water's engagement program *Talking Icon Water* invited our community to provide feedback on the long-term delivery of water and sewerage services for the ACT and surrounding regions.

This program aligned to our efforts to strengthen relationships with our community and our customers and continue to be a valued partner in the community. Visit Talking Icon Water for more information on how we engage with the Canberra community and seek important feedback and views on the delivery of water and sewerage services for our community.

What is the Utilities Concession?

The ACT Government is responsible for the Utilities Concessions Scheme. The Utilities Concession covers all utilities, including water and energy. From 1 July 2019, the Utilities Concession is \$700, with payment applied to customers' electricity bills (not water bills).

For more information about the Utilities Concession go to the ACT Government website or call Access Canberra 13 22 81.

Who can I contact?

Water and sewerage services

Talk to us on 02 6248 3111 or talktous@iconwater.com.au

Water and sewerage pricing

Contact the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission on 6205 0799 or icrc@act.gov.au

Utilities Concession

Contact the Treasury and Economic Development Directorate on 13 22 81

How can I reduce my bill?

We should all try to use water sustainably and avoid wasting water.

There are some basic habits you can adopt in and around your home that will not only help the environment but also potentially reduce your water bill.

Go to iconwater.com.au/watersaving for tips and tricks to reduce your usage.

It is good practice to regularly read your water meter to assist in identifying any changes in usage before receiving your quarterly account. For more information visit our iconwater.com.au/meter

Icon Water also provides flexible payment options to our community with the Staying Connected program.

