

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into SA Water Pricing Reform

29 August 2013



ESCOSA has commenced an Inquiry into possible reforms to the pricing of SA Water's drinking water and sewerage services. The Inquiry was referred to ESCOSA by the Treasurer.

ESCOSA CEO Paul Kerin said "In conducting this Water Pricing Reform Inquiry, ESCOSA will investigate all pricing reform options that could serve the long-term interests of consumers by promoting economic efficiency and/or water security."

"The Inquiry will consider a range of pricing matters such as the structure of drinking water tariffs (including the balance between usage charges and supply charges), the impact of state-wide pricing and alternative approaches for sewerage pricing".

"ESCOSA will also consider who should be billed for services (property occupants or property owners), whether the 'rating on abuttal' pricing practice should continue, metering issues and how the distributional impacts of price reform can be managed."

Paul Kerin advised that "ESCOSA would like to hear the views of all members of the community and community groups on these issues."

ESCOSA has today commenced public consultation on the Inquiry by releasing a series of Issues Papers. It has also established an online consumer portal on its website where consumers can provide their comments in a quick and easy manner.

Submissions on the Issues Papers released today must be made by 8 November 2013.

ESCOSA will release a Draft Report for further consultation by June 2014 and a Final Report by December 2014. The Treasurer will consider all recommendations made by ESCOSA. Recommendations accepted by the Treasurer will, if possible, be implemented in ESCOSA's subsequent Price Determination for SA Water which will apply from 1 July 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The Water Pricing Reform Inquiry Issues Papers can be accessed at www.escosa.sa.gov.au or by calling 08 8463 4444.

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