



Nursery & Garden Industry
South Australia

13.03.2013

Essential Services Commission of South Australia
GPO Box 2605
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. Determination of SA Water's Drinking Water & Sewerage Revenue 2013/14 - 2015/16

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the consultation being conducted by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) for the development of the first revenue determination for SA Water for the period 2013/14 to 2015/16.

Introduction

The Nursery and Garden Industry of South Australia (NGISA) is the peak industry organisation for amenity horticulture in SA. It represents the interests of retail garden centres, production nurseries, landscapers, irrigation installers, allied factories, manufacturing agencies and training providers in an industry worth \$600 million p/a and employs over 4000 people. The NGISA, in partnership with state and territory peak bodies is part of the national Nursery & Garden Industry (NGIA) that is responsible for overseeing the national development of the Australian nursery industry.

In conjunction with SA Water, The Department of Water, The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), Department of Education (TAFESA) we have been assisting South Australian businesses and consumers, particularly since 2002, to introduce more efficient watering practices, to be aware of the environment and understand the impact of climate change.

1. We supported the introduction water restrictions during the drought as a commonsense decision in conserving water and since 2003 have made savings of 22% in water usage.
2. We believed the investment in building the desalinisation plant was essential in reducing the reliance on the Murray River and helping to guarantee the supply of affordable water for all South Australians.
3. The drought had a disastrous effect on the nursery industry and the home gardener with many gardens, nature strips parklands etc, either dying through lack of water or barely existing. The damage caused by the drought is still being seen with trees that suffered significant root damage due to insufficient deep watering during the drought, now dying through the summer period.





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4. The dramatic increase in the cost of water in re-establishing gardens has had a major effect on business profitability and the disposal income of the home gardener.
5. Many responsible households have taken the opportunity of rebates offered by SA Water and the Government to install water tanks and water efficiency devices. They have taken ownership of saving water with the resultant usage of household water dropping from 245kl per annum to 195kl per annum. Older residents have imposed rigorous control on their water usage to the detriment of their health, short showering and the dangerous concept of collecting water whilst shower, the limited use of air conditioners during the hot period and to their gardens with minimal usage of water.
6. The many surveys have shown the social and health benefits of gardening have had a significant impact on the lifestyle of the home gardener. Gardens and gardening are essential for exercise, contentment, relaxation and peace of mind for not just the older generation but all generations.
7. Individuals on low and fixed income are struggling to meet their existing financial commitments due to the increase in essential services.

The Nursery and Garden Industry of SA Inc is committed to the conserving our most precious commodity and requests,

1. ESCOSA to be aware of the Nursery Industry, the home gardener and local community's commitment to the efficient usage of water.
2. Its concerns regarding the increasing costs of water.
3. Any increase to be based upon current rates at Consumer Price Index.
4. Large users of water, eg "big business" to pay a more equitable price for their water usage and to review their water allocation plans to be more realistic.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Fuller
CEO - Nursery and Garden Industry SA Inc

