

MEDIA RELEASE

South East Water's response to ESC pricing announcement

Immediate Release

26 June 2009

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) has announced an increase in water, sewerage and trade waste charges, to take effect from 1 July 2009.

For South East Water customers this means that water, sewerage and trade waste charges will increase by an average of 20.1 per cent, including CPI. This equates to an increase of approximately 30 cents a day for the average residential customer.

Commercial and industrial customers will see average price increases of 20.1 per cent including CPI.

The price increases will help to fund the Victorian Government's \$4.9 billion Water Plan, designed to secure Melbourne's future water supplies, following 12 years of drought. This includes major infrastructure projects such as the Victorian Desalination Project, the North-South Pipeline and most recently, the reconnection of the Tarago Reservoir.

The reconnection of the Tarago Reservoir alone has made an additional 15 billion litres of water available to Melburnians and is now providing high quality water to over 95,000 South East Water customers.

While we expect that the average water bill for Melburnians will still remain less than other capital cities, we understand the impact these price rises may have on low-income earners and pensioners. To help offset the impact of these increases, the Victorian Government is providing an additional \$10.1 million to increase the concession rebate for low income earners.

The State Government and Melbourne water industry's 'Target 155' Program has also been developed to help residential and commercial customers to save water. Visit www.target155.vic.gov.au to find out more.

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Media Enquiries

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