



AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION
& CONSUMER COMMISSION

Example of schedule of charges

December 2021



The *Water Charge Rules 2010* (WCR) commenced on 1 July 2020 and require infrastructure operators to include certain information about their charges on a schedule of charges. These requirements aim to help customers understand and compare operators' charging arrangements.

This example schedule of charges is intended to demonstrate to infrastructure operators and their customers the content that should be included on a schedule in specified circumstances under the WCR. However, the requirement for each operator's schedule will vary depending on individual circumstances. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that its schedule complies with the WCR and any other relevant obligation concerning the display of charges.

DEAKIN IRRIGATION

Schedule of Charges

Valid: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

(This is the date from which each individual charge applies unless otherwise specified)

The charges on this schedule of charges relate to the Deakin River and the Deakin River Resource Plan.

All listed charges are payable by 30 June each year and are charged in two instalments: 1 July and 1 January each year.

Your payment will be due 20 business days after you receive your invoice.

(All charges and fees are due at this time unless otherwise specified)

Item	Price
Infrastructure access fee - District A	\$20/ML of general security water delivery right (WDR) \$75/ML of high security WDR
Infrastructure access fee - District B	\$15/ML of general security WDR \$65/ML of high security WDR \$2.00/ML of WDR
Outlet charge - irrigation customer	Small meter (11-20 ML/day flow rate) - \$2,000 per connection Large meter (>40 ML/day flow rate) - \$3,200 per connection
Outlet charge - stock and domestic customer	\$600 per connection
Administration fee	\$100 per account
Variable charges	
Delivery fee - District A	\$27.50/ML
Delivery fee - District B	\$23.75/ML
Casual usage charge	1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 \$50/ML 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 \$55/ML

The date that the schedule of charges comes into effect must be on the schedule of charges. There must also be a statement that this is the date from which each individual charge applies unless otherwise specified. [Rules 11(1)(b) and 13, item 4(a)]

Rule 15 of the WCR sets out when a schedule of charges should be published and given to customers.

A schedule of charges must set out (if applicable) the water resource, catchment or district, and the water resource plan to which the charge relates. [Rule 13, item 1(b)(i)]

For each infrastructure charge or planning and management charge, the schedule of charges must include information on the circumstances in which the charge is payable. [Rule 13, item 1(b)]

If the charge is payable by instalments, the number of instalments and the intervals at which the charge is payable must also be included. [Rule 13, item 1(e)]

The name of each charge must be on the schedule of charges. [Rule 13, item 1(a)]

If applicable, the district to which the charge relates should be included on the schedule of charges. [Rule 13, item 1(b)(i)]

The amount of each charge or the details of rates and all other information needed to determine that amount must be on the schedule of charges. [Rule 13, item 1(c)(i)] There are some exceptions, for example, connection/disconnection fees.

The schedule of charges must set out (if applicable) the class of water access right, irrigation right or water delivery right to which the charge relates. [Rule 13, item 1(b)(iii)]

The schedule of charges must set out (if applicable) the class of water access right, irrigation right or water delivery right to which the charge relates. [Rule 13, item 1(b)(iii)]

Infrastructure operators can still use local terminology for terms on their schedule of charges. For example, operators can continue to label 'water delivery rights' as 'delivery entitlements' and 'water access entitlements' as 'water entitlements' if they wish to do so.

Where it is not possible for an infrastructure operator to put the amount of a charge on its schedule of charges, it should put the details of rates and all other details to enable the customer to determine the amount. [Rule 13, item 1(c)(i)]

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Deakin Irrigation Pass-through (Recovery of WaterNSW conveyance licence) charge	\$1.40/ML
Deakin Irrigation Pass-through charge - usage (Recovery of WaterNSW bulk water charges)	\$14.34/ML
Deakin Irrigation Pass-through charge - usage (Recovery of Water Administration Ministerial Corporation charge)	\$1.82/M
Deakin Irrigation Pass-through charge - usage (Recovery of NSW Government contribution to the MDBA)	\$1.58/ML
The authority for the Water Administration and Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) charge is s. 11 and schedule 1 of the IPART Act, and IPART's WAMC determination.	
The WAMC charges recover the costs of water management and planning activities and services. These services are currently delivered by DPIE, NRAR and WaterNSW on behalf of WAMC. For more information, please refer to the IPART website.	
Other fees	
Connection/Disconnection fee	The charge will be determined based on the recovery of reasonable costs at the time of connection or disconnection.
Transformation fee	\$200
Description of infrastructure charges	
Administration fee	Covers the cost of account administration (including postage, preparation of invoices and Deakin Irrigation's quarterly newsletter).
Casual usage charge	The delivery of water in a season in excess of the volume of water delivery rights held.
Connection/disconnection fee	Physical connection/disconnection of the customer to/from the Deakin Irrigation's network.
Deakin Irrigation Pass-through charge (Recovery of NSW Government contribution to the MDBA)	Recovers the costs of the NSW Government's contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for costs related to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.
Deakin Irrigation Pass-through charge (Recovery of WaterNSW bulk water charges)	Recovers the costs of on-river (bulk) water services provided by WaterNSW.

Infrastructure and planning and management charges levied on an infrastructure operator (taking account of any discounts) on the basis of:

- water access rights held or used by the operator specifically for the purposes of meeting distribution losses, or
- infrastructure used by the operator to extract water from a watercourse or discharge water to a watercourse in the course of providing a service to the operator's customers are defined as network operation charges. [Rule 9A(9)]

Network operation charges may be recovered as separate charge(s) or as a component of general charges levied on customers. However if levied as a separate charge, any separate charges must not recover in total more than the total amount of the network operation charge. [Rule 9A(1)-(2)]

An infrastructure charge or planning and management charge levied on an infrastructure operator (taking account of any discounts), that is not a network operation charge, is an ancillary charge.

Ancillary charges must be recovered through one or more infrastructure charges that:

- are levied separately
- recover the same total amount of the charge being passed through
- are recovered on the same basis as the original charge, and
- are not levied on the basis of the number of units of water delivery right or water drainage right held. [Rule 9A(3)-(6)]

For planning and management charges, the schedule of charges must include information on the legislative, contractual or other authority for the charge. [Rule 13, item 3]

The schedule should also include any other information that is reasonably necessary or desirable to explain the charges to the customer. [Rule 13, item 4(b)(v)]

Where it is not possible for an infrastructure operator to put the amount of a disconnection/connection charge on its schedule of charges, it is required to use words to this effect on its schedule of charges. [Rule 13, item 1(c)(ii)]

A transformation fee is a fee charged by an irrigation infrastructure operator when an irrigator applies to permanently transform their entitlement to water under an irrigation right into a water access entitlement. This fee must not exceed the reasonable and efficient costs likely to be incurred by the irrigation infrastructure operator in processing the application. [Water Market Rules 2009, Rule 13]

Transformation fees are not infrastructure or planning and management charges under the WCR but this has been included for completeness.

For each infrastructure charge set out in the infrastructure operator's schedule of charges, there must be a description of the infrastructure service to which the charge relates. [Rule 13, item 2(a)]

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Deakin Irrigation Pass-through (conveyance) charge	A charge to recover the water conveyance licence charge levied by WaterNSW on Deakin Irrigation.
Delivery fee	The delivery of water to the customer under a water delivery right.
Infrastructure access fee	Provision of off-river water infrastructure to enable the delivery of water to customers.
Outlet charge	Recovers the costs of operating and maintaining service point outlets to your property. The charge applies for each service point outlet on your property.
Exemptions	
The ACCC has granted Deakin Irrigation an exemption to publishing infrastructure charges for particular customers under Rule 9, <i>Water Charge Rules 2010</i> .	
Name of customer: Wheatcorp	
Time period covered: 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2022	
Infrastructure service to which the exemption relates: Infrastructure access fee.	
How our infrastructure charges and planning and management charges are determined	
Deakin Irrigation's board approves its infrastructure charges and water planning and management charges for the upcoming financial year in June. This follows a three month informal consultation process with our customers.	
If you wish to provide feedback to this consultation process, please call us on 1300 777 888 or email us at: admin@deakinirrigation.com.au .	
How our pass-through charges are determined - fixed and variable (to recover the WAMC and WaterNSW bulk water charge - these include conveyance)	
Deakin Irrigation sets its pass-through charges to recover the NSW Government's contribution to funding the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to undertake activities under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the amount set by IPART.	
The WaterNSW and WAMC charges are set by IPART. IPART sets these charges every four years through a public consultation process. It updates these charges annually if necessary.	
Dispute resolution	
Please refer to our dispute resolution policy available on our internet site: www.deakinirrigation.com.au/hardshippolicy .	
If you have any questions or wish to dispute your bill, please call us on: 1300 777 888 or email us at: admin@deakinirrigation.com.au .	
Generally available discounts	
Administration Fee: Deakin Irrigation will reduce the administration fee from \$100 to \$80 for those customers who provide us with an email address.	
On-time discount: Deakin Irrigation will provide a 1 per cent discount to customers who pay by the due date.	
Hardship policy	
Deakin Irrigation has a hardship policy which may result in qualifying customers being given a discount on their bills. Please see: www.deakinirrigation.com.au/hardship for information on this policy.	

If the ACCC grants an exemption in relation to the requirement on an operator to publish charges under Rule 9 for an application made on or after 1 July 2020, the infrastructure operator must publish on its schedule of charges within 12 months after the exemption is granted: (a) that the ACCC has granted an exemption under this rule; (b) the name of the customer or customers to which the exemption relates; (c) the time period of the contract or contracts; (d) the infrastructure service to which the exemption relates. [Rule 9(13A)]

The schedule of charges must include a statement on how the infrastructure and planning and management charges in the schedule are determined and how a customer can participate in that process. [Rule 13, item 4(b)(i)]

Where the infrastructure or planning and management charge is not set by the operator, the operator must put on its schedule of charges who determined the charge. [Rule 13, item 1(f)]

The schedule of charges must include a statement setting out how the infrastructure operator has determined or calculated the infrastructure charges it levies to recover any ancillary charges or network operation charges. [Rule 13, item 4(b)(iv)]

It is not compulsory to include this statement for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation charge, as it is a planning and management charge. It has been included here for completeness.

The schedule must have a statement setting out how a person can make an enquiry or resolve a dispute in relation to regulated water charges. [Rule 13, item 4(b)(ii)]

Details of any general discount or surcharge, including the circumstances under which the discount or surcharge applies (for example, a discount for early payment), must be included. [Rule 13, item 1(d)]

The schedule of charges must have a statement setting out any generally available discounts, surcharges or hardship policies. [Rule 13, item 4(b)(iii)]

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