

**From:** Burns, Aimie  
**Sent:** Mon, 11 Nov 2019 03:05:17 +0000  
**To:** water@acc.gov.au  
**Subject:** Correspondence - Director-General, Ben Ponton  
**Attachments:** 19\_28525 - DG Response.pdf, 19\_28525 - Signed Table.pdf

**UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only**

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Director-General, Ben Ponton regarding ACCC Water Monitoring Information Request 2018-19.

Thanks,

**Aimie Burns** | Ministerial Liaison Officer – Government Services  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
Ph: 6207 2156  
ACT Government Level 3, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2602  
[www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

19/28525

Mr Tom Carrigg  
Assistant Director  
Water Section, Infrastructure Regulation Division  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Level 18 Casselden  
2 Lonsdale Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
[water@acc.gov.au](mailto:water@acc.gov.au)

Dear Mr Carrigg

**ACCC Water Monitoring Information Request 2018-19**

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2019 requesting the provision of information for the preparation of the ACCC's Water Monitoring Report 2018-19.

Attached is the ACT's information for the water monitoring report 2018-19 as per the request provided by your office.

Should you have any queries in relation to the information provided, please contact Giuseppe Erba (02) 62059752 or Geoff Stannard on (02) 62077472.

Yours sincerely

Ben Ponton  
Director-General

// November 2019

**2018-19 ACCC WPM Information Request**  
**ACT Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**

**Table 1 - Regulated water planning and management charges**

Please note all cells shaded green have been pre-populated by the ACCC with reference to your schedule of charges.  
 Please confirm the information in ALL green cells. Please provide answers in all cells shaded purple.  
 For all new and existing WPM charges identified by the ACCC, please confirm the green columns and complete the purple cells.  
 If you need to amend / correct any information in the green cells, please add a comment explaining the change made.  
 For all WPM charges not already listed, please provide details in the empty purple cells in the bottom part of the list below.

1.1	1.1 a. Charge title	1.1 b.	1.1 c.	1.1 d. Unit of charge	Percentage increase from 2017-18 to 2018-19	1.1 e. Please provide information to explain any changes in the amount or application of existing WPM charges between 2017- 18 and 2018-19.	1.1 f. Number of units charged	1.1. g. Revenue from charge (\$)	Please provide explanation if the total revenue from charge does not match the charge amount * units charged.	1.1 h. When and where was information regarding your regulated WPM charges for 2018-19 published?	
		2017-18 Charge amount	2018-19 Charge amount							Gazette or website	Notices published in newspapers. including the
		\$	\$					\$			
<b>WAE fees (per ML)</b>											
	s.20 Grant of a WAE where use is not restricted to a particular location, in all cases except those specifically identified-per megalitre	\$770.40	\$790.00	per megalitre	2.5%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	1.50	\$ 1,185.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
	s.25 Change of condition of a WAE from one that is restricted in location to one that is not restricted for use at a particular location	\$770.40	\$790.00	per megalitre	2.5%	NIL units charged	-				
<b>Application fees</b>											
	s.29 Application fee for a licence to take water	\$170.40	\$175.00	per application	2.7%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	2	\$ 350.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
	s.43 Application fee for a waterway work licence	\$170.00	\$174.00	per application	2.4%	NIL units charged	-				
	s.38 Application fee for a bore work licence	\$170.00	\$174.00	per application	2.4%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	2	\$ 348.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
	s.34 Three year driller licence application fee where the applicant does hold an equivalent licence in a state in Australia.	\$170.00	\$174.00	per application	2.4%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	7	\$ 1,218.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
	s.26 application fee for the transfer of a water access entitlement either permanently or for a period of time	\$170.00	\$174.00	per application	2.4%	NIL units charged	-				
<b>Annual administration fees</b>											

s.30 Licence to take water administration fee for each licence year relating to a licenced volume of up to 1000 ML per year, except where a licensee has entered into a data collection and sharing agreement with the EPA	\$441.00	\$452.00	per year	2.5%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT Government for all legislated fees and charges.	178	\$	80,456.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
s.30 Licence to take water administration fee for each licence relating to a licensed volume of more than 1000ML per year	\$8,561.60	\$8,776.00	per year	2.5%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	1	\$	8,776.0		Website	Not published in newspapers
s.50 Recharge licence yearly administration fee	\$441.00	\$452.00	per year	2.5%	The increase, as explained in the Water Resources (Fees) Determination 2018 Explanatory Statement, is to reflect indexation of the fee by the change in the Wage Price Index (equal to 2.5 per cent for 2018-19, subject to rounding), in line with the standard approach adopted by the ACT	1	\$	452.0		Website	Not published in newspapers

**Water Abstraction fees**

s.30 Licence to take water abstraction fee for water taken for the purposes of urban water supply and calculated on the basis of the water abstracted – per kilolitre.	\$0.578	\$0.595	per kilolitre	2.9%	The increase reflects a decision made by the ACT Government, as part of the 2016-17 Budget Review process, to index the Water Abstraction Charge by 3 per cent per annum from 1 July 2017 (see page 44) <a href="https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf">https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf</a> .	50,795,500	\$	30,223,322.5		Website	Not published in newspapers
Licence to take water – abstraction fee for all water from surface water or groundwater except for that supplied through a water supply network – per kilolitre.	\$0.278	\$0.287	per kilolitre	3.2%	The increase reflects a decision made by the ACT Government, as part of the 2016-17 Budget Review process, to index the Water Abstraction Charge by 3 per cent per annum from 1 July 2017 (see page 44) <a href="https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf">https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf</a> .	3,838,423	\$	1,101,627.3		Website	Not published in newspapers
Licence to take water – abstraction fee for all water from surface water or groundwater except for that supplied through a water supply network – per kilolitre.	\$0.278	\$0.287	per kilolitre	3.2%	The increase reflects a decision made by the ACT Government, as part of the 2016-17 Budget Review process, to index the Water Abstraction Charge by 3 per cent per annum from 1 July 2017 (see page 44) <a href="https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf">https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1031688/2016-17-Budget-Review_.pdf</a> .	127,405	\$	36,565.2	no difference	Website <a href="https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2016-283/default.asp">https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2016-283/default.asp</a>	INCLUDED IN THE DRINKING WATER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING with end users: "Water Abstraction"

**New regulated WPM charges for 2018-19**

	N/A										
	N/A										
	N/A										
	N/A										
	N/A										

**Total Revenue** \$ 31,454,300.0

1.2 Were any existing WPM regulated charges repealed in 2018-19? If yes, please state which charges were repealed and when

<p>Operator notes to the ACCC: Please indicate which question(s) the comment(s) relate to.</p>	<p>As in past reports it is difficult for the ACT to accurately provide a comprehensive analysis of costs across the activities listed. The cost of administering and maintaining the water register managed by the Environment Protection Authority can be linked to the fees and charges collected by the Environment Protection Authority but is not retained by the Environment Protection Authority. Note that the administration of water entitlement and registry system and the regulatory functions of the Environment Protection Authority are now under the ACT agency, Access Canberra. The 2019-20 budget estimated that revenue collected from the water abstraction charge for that year is \$29.1 million. The ACT Government began funding its contribution to the Basin Priority Project (ACT Healthy Waterways Project) – the much larger proportion is coming from the Commonwealth Government.</p>
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**We have identified ACT's 2018-19 schedule of WPM charges at the link below**

<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/DownloadFile/di/2018-171/20180701-69103/PDF/2018-171.PDF>

Please advise if this schedule of charges is not the most accurate or relevant.

**2018-19 ACCC WPM Information Request**

**ACT Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**

**Table 2 - Water planning and management activities and expenditures**

The ACCC has identified WPM activities carried out by your agency in 2018-19 and where possible has pre-filled the following table. For existing or new WPM activities, please confirm the activity title and the NWI defined category in the green cells. Please enter the 2018-19 cost for each WPM activity under question 2.1 c.

For any new WPM activities not already listed, please provide details in the empty purple cells in the bottom part of the list below. Please provide a breakdown of total capital, operating and corporate costs either:

- by activity under question 2.1 d; OR
- for ALL activities under question 2.2.

2.1	2.1 a. Please list the <b>WPM Activities</b> carried out by your agency in 2018-19.	2.1 b. Please select the NWI defined category that this activity primarily relates to? (link to National Water Initiative Pricing Principles in appendix B)	2.1 c. Activity cost		2.1 d. Breakdown between capital, operating and corporate costs.  Please answer this question (for individual items), <u>or</u> question 2.2 (totals).	
			2017-18	2018-19		
			\$'000	\$'000		
	Woden Valley Stormwater Retardation Basins (Design)	Water management	\$ 80.0	\$ 33.0	Capital	
	Water Policy	Water reform strategy and policy	\$ 2,031.0	\$ 2,546.0	Operating	
	Inner North Stormwater Reticulation System	Water management	\$ 564.0	\$ 544.6	Operating	
	Stormwater Maintenance	Water management	\$ 9,697.0	\$ 8,897.3	Operating	
	Stormwater Improvement Program	Water management	\$ 773.0	\$ 1,696.7	Capital	
	Improvement of Pollution Control Measures at Gross Pollutant Traps	Water monitoring & evaluation	\$ 32.0	\$ -	NA	
	Waterwatch	Water monitoring & evaluation	\$ 481.0	\$ 493.0	Operating	
	Healthy Waterways Project - Isabella Pond rejuvenation project	Water management	\$ 2,724.0	\$ 3,831.0	Capital	
	Monitoring of water usage throughout the ACT Education Directorate	Water monitoring & evaluation	\$ 20.0	\$ 21.0	Operating (in preparing this report, it was identified that this activity was omitted from last year's report.)	
	<b>New WPM Activities for 2018-19</b>					
	Whitlam water and stormwater infrastructure design	Water planning		\$ 900.0	Capital	
	Taylor water infrastructure	Water management		\$ 3,735.3	Capital	
	North Wright water infrastructure	Water management		\$ 398.8	Capital	
	North Coombs water infrastructure	Water management		\$ 245.9	Capital	
	Gungahlin Town Centre water infrastructure	Water management		\$ 104.2	Capital	
	Molonglo 3 Infrastructure - Deep Creek Pond (Concept Design)	Water management		\$ 387.0	Capital	
		Total Cost of WPM Activities above	\$ 16,402.0	\$ 23,833.8		
2.2	If you have not answered question 2.1 d, please indicate what proportion (either as a percentage or a dollar amount) of WPM activity costs were:	Capital Costs				
		Operating Costs				
		Corporate Costs				
		Total of Cap/Op/Corp categories		\$ -	\$ -	
		Difference between cost totals:		-\$ 16,402.0	-\$ 23,833.8	
		Check on cost totals: If there is a discrepancy in cell above between sum of costs of WPM activities and sum of capital, operating and corporate components, please check calculations or explain.				
	Operator notes to the ACCC: Please indicate which question(s) the comment(s) relate to.	2.1 All water expenditure cost are associated with the design and construction work of the water supply in new estates. All costs will be recovered from the land sales revenue generated from these estates.				



**2018-19 ACCC WPM Information Request**  
**ACT Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**

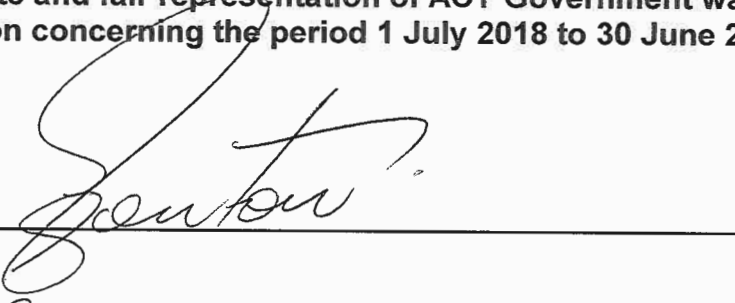
**Table 3 - Statement of executive responsibility**

Please provide a signed copy to the ACCC (an electronic version is adequate)

I, Ben Ponton, am an authorised agent in my capacity as Director General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainability Directorate, having the appropriate authority to verify and supply information to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in meeting the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's functions under the *Water Act 2007*.

In my opinion, the information provided to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission presents an accurate and fair representation of ACT Government water resources activities and compliance information concerning the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Signature



Date

11.11.19

