

Irrigation Prices

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) is responsible for recommending rural irrigation prices charged by SunWater. QCA recommendations are considered by SunWater's shareholding Ministers, the Treasurer and the Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, who together make the final decision and set SunWater's rural irrigation prices.

SunWater own and operate two forms of irrigation schemes; bulk water supply schemes and distribution systems.

Bulk water supply schemes supplement natural water resources with dams and weirs to increase the yield and reliability of watercourses such as rivers and streams. Dams and weirs can also be used to re-charge groundwater for use by irrigators.

Distribution systems use a network of pipes and/or channels to deliver water to properties that may not have access to a watercourse. Distribution systems can enable a great geographical spread of irrigation districts and can facilitate common infrastructure such as mills and processing facilities.

Irrigation pricing is separated into two types of charges; fixed (Part A and C) and volumetric tariffs (Part B and D).

Fixed tariffs are charged quarterly or six monthly in advance according to the volume of Water Allocation* held by the customer, regardless of the amount of water taken in the year. Fixed tariffs are also known as Part A tariffs in bulk water supply schemes and Part C tariffs in distribution schemes. Bulk water scheme customers pay Part A and distribution scheme customers pay Part A and Part C fixed tariff.

Volumetric tariffs are charged per megalitre of water taken by the customer, measured at the water meter or 'offtake'. Volumetric tariffs are also known as Part B tariffs in bulk water supply schemes and Part D tariffs in distribution schemes. Bulk water scheme customers pay Part B and distribution scheme customers pay Part B and Part D fixed tariff.

SunWater also charges some scheme-specific and administrative costs. These charges are outlined in each scheme's [fees and charges schedule](#). See <http://www.sunwater.com.au/schemes> and select your scheme, then go to the link 'Fees & Charges'.

*A Water Allocation is a volume of water that entitles the holder/customer to a percentage of that water based on the available water in the scheme dams, weirs or barrages. The percentage of water allocation available to the customer can be as high as 100 per cent or as low as 0 per cent, depending on the level of water storages.