



Irrigation Pricing Discounts 2021–24

June 2021 update

Irrigation prices for water supply schemes owned by Sunwater and Seqwater will now have the following discounts applied for the three-year period from 2021-22 to 2023-24:

- ◆ 50 per cent discount for irrigation of horticulture crops
- ◆ 15 per cent discount for all other irrigation.

This fact sheet provides an update on how these discounts will be implemented.

Which prices will be discounted?

The discounts will apply to all components of each tariff group. This will include to Part A and Part B prices and, where applicable, Part C and Part D prices.

Following the Queensland Government’s decision to freeze (or decrease) prices for the 2020-21 financial year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the discounts for 2021-22 to 2023-24 will be applied to the prices that QCA recommended for 2020-21 to 2022-23.

The QCA recommended a four-year price path commencing from 2020-21. The following table shows how the prices set by government relate to these QCA recommendations.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
QCA recommended prices	QCA Year 1 prices	QCA Year 2 prices	QCA Year 3 prices	QCA Year 4 prices
Prices set by government	Prices at or below 2019-20 levels	Discounted QCA Year 1 Prices	Discounted QCA Year 2 Prices	Discounted QCA Year 3 Prices

This means that:

- ◆ the irrigation prices for the financial year 2021-22, will be discounted from what the QCA recommended for the previous year (2020-21)
- ◆ the irrigation prices for the financial year 2022-23, will be discounted from what the QCA recommended for the previous year (2021-22)
- ◆ the irrigation prices for the financial year 2023-24, will be discounted from what the QCA recommended for the previous year (2022-23).

The QCA recommended price path is set out on the QCA’s website at www.qca.org.au/project/rural-water/irrigation-price-investigations

How will I receive my discounts?

Irrigators supplied by Sunwater and Seqwater owned schemes will automatically receive the 15 per cent discount through the prices used to calculate their bills.

Horticultural growers will be able to apply to receive the balance of their 50 per cent discount through a 35 per cent rebate, which will be administered and assessed by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

Irrigators growing both horticultural and non-horticultural crops will be eligible for the rebate. No additional measurement equipment will need to be installed.

What prices are receiving the 15 per cent discount?

The 15 per cent discount will apply to all components of each tariff group. This will include to Part A and Part B prices and, where applicable, Part C and Part D prices, regardless of the volume of water used.

What crops will be eligible for the additional 35 per cent rebate?

The 35 per cent rebate will apply to water used to grow all horticultural crops.

Water used to grow broadacre crops such as grains, cotton, sugar cane and legumes is not eligible for the rebate.

The definition of horticulture crops will be based on the following Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) codes:

- ◆ 011 – Nursery and Floriculture Production
- ◆ 012 – Mushroom and Vegetable Growing
- ◆ 013 – Fruit and Tree Nut Growing.

When will the rebate be implemented?

Over the coming months, the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water will be working with QRIDA to finalise the rebate program.

Will the rebate be paid where no water is available?

The program will be flexible enough to accommodate all forms of eligible horticultural farm businesses and water entitlement arrangements across the State. This will include accommodating circumstances where water may not be currently available but has historically been used to produce horticultural crops.

What about prices for irrigation water in schemes that are not owned by Sunwater and Seqwater?

Prices that are charged by entities other than Sunwater and Seqwater, such as those by Local Management Arrangement (LMA) entities, are a matter for those entities and not the Queensland Government.

LMA irrigators will automatically have the 15 per cent discount applied to the Part A and Part B prices charged by Sunwater. LMA irrigators will also be able to apply for the additional 35 per cent rebate on any Part A and Part B charges from Sunwater associated with horticulture production.

What if I have more questions about the rebate?

Our next fact sheet will provide information on the guideline and application form for the QRIDA rebate program, once these are finalised.

Once the rebate program is in place, QRIDA's contact details will be provided to you. QRIDA staff will then be able to answer all detailed questions about the rebate.

This information is also available at www.rdmw.qld.gov.au