

## Lower Mary River Water Supply Scheme

### Irrigation Price Path 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2029

We are developing a pricing proposal to submit to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) in late 2023.

The QCA will review this proposal in line with its requirements under the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* and any conditions set out in a Referral Notice, before making a recommendation back to the Queensland Government.

Our proposed future prices for your scheme are set out in this document. A more detailed presentation is available at

[www.sunwater.com.au/price-path/factsheets](http://www.sunwater.com.au/price-path/factsheets)

### Scheme overview



34,459 ML in entitlements, with an average annual usage of 11,392 ML



86 irrigation customers



Mary Barrage & Tinana Barrage

### Key operations and maintenance activities



Comprehensive barrage inspections



Customer meter replacements



Barrage pipeline refurbishments and equipment replacements

### Pricing tariffs



Two tariff group: Mary Barrage & Tinana Barrage and Teddington Weir, with fixed (Part A) charges and volumetric (Part B) charges.



No risk or other forms of entitlements or usage (e.g. water harvesting)

# How irrigation prices are set

A five-step price setting process leads to a four-year price path in each regulated scheme. There are differences in each scheme that impact pricing, such as risk entitlements, water harvesting or whether there is a scheme distribution system.

## Price setting process

### Step 1

Allocate revenue by charge type (variable or fixed)

### Step 2

Allocate fixed revenue to priority group allocation buckets

### Step 3

Allocate fixed revenue to priority group

### Step 4

Calculate cost reflective prices

### Step 5

Determine recommended prices

## Our operating environment

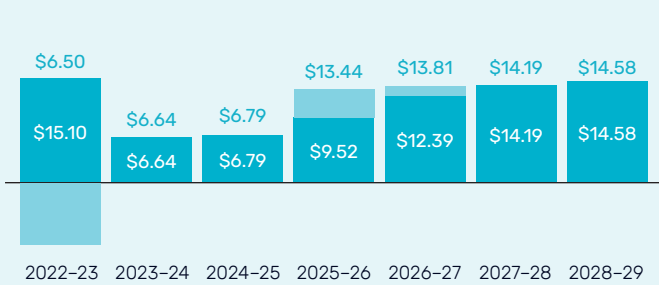
Our draft cost and pricing proposal reflects a challenging operating environment over the past few years and as we look ahead. Key impacts include:

- global events such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine and their implications for both inflation and availability of goods and services (including labour)
- natural disasters – both here and overseas – which have continued to place upward pressure on insurance premiums
- national and international factors that have contributed to higher energy prices
- rising interest rates which have increased the cost of debt
- an ageing workforce – particularly in regional areas – meaning we need to invest in resilience and business continuity
- ageing Sunwater assets which require upgrades to extend their life.

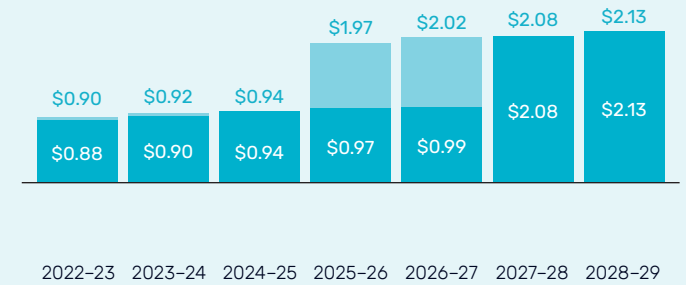
## Proposed pricing breakdown under current annuity approach

### Part A

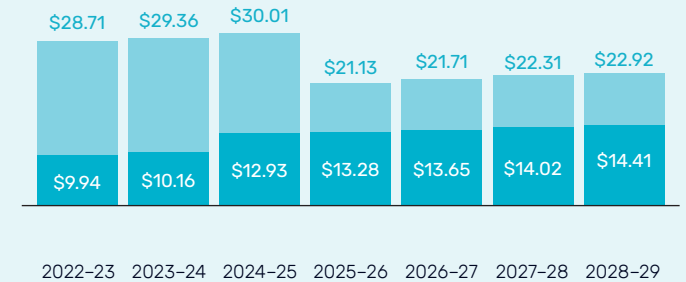
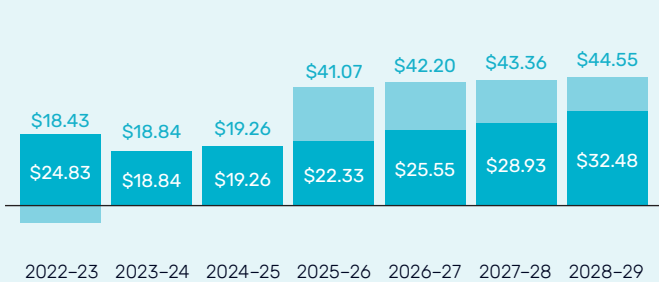
#### Lower Mary - Mary Barrage



### Part B



#### Lower Mary - Tinana and Teddington



\*Renewals expenditure is currently recovered via an annuity contribution which is a key element of customers prices. The annuity approach is complicated, inefficient and lacks transparency and we are proposing a change to a RAB-based approach.

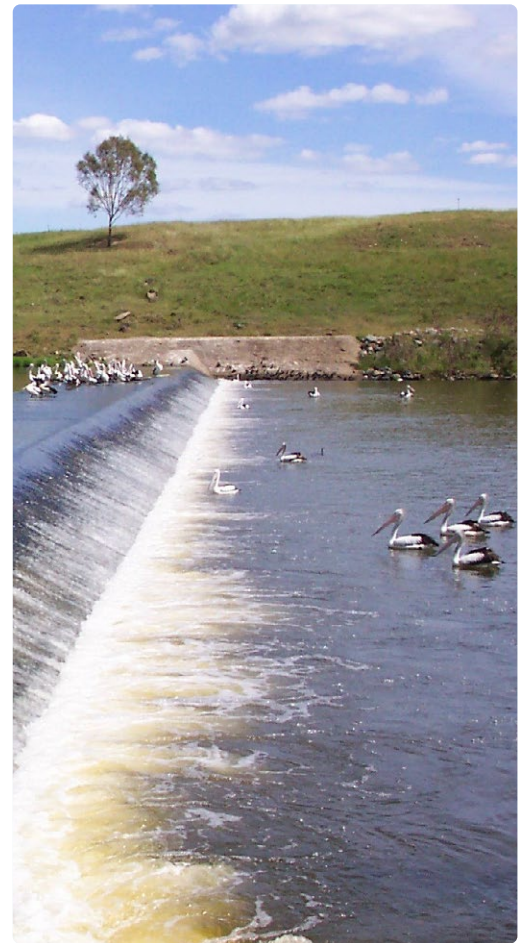
# Proposed changes

Sunwater is committed to proactive and ongoing engagement with our customers and acknowledges the feedback we have received over the past few years. We have been engaging more recently with customers and peak body representative groups, via a Consultative Committee, to identify any issues we need to consider as part of our pricing proposal, and to ensure our customers are aware of, and able to participate in, the irrigation price path review process.

The Consultative Committee has helped shape proposals on service and performance plans changes and a permanent electricity cost pass-through for relevant schemes. It also supports Sunwater engaging with customers regarding a proposal to change renewals cost recovery.

- Service and performance plan refresh – a proposal for a revamp of the service and performance planning process and content, delivering a greater and more timely focus on reporting of actuals
- Permanent electricity cost recovery – a proposal for a permanent and symmetrical electricity cost pass-through mechanism in our seven schemes with large electricity consuming assets (i.e. pump stations)
- Renewals cost recovery – a proposal to change the way renewals expenditure is funded through your prices.

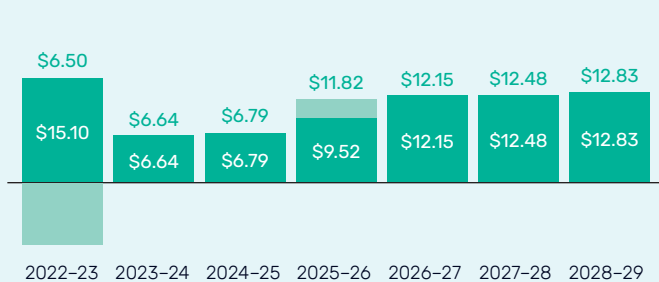
Detailed factsheets on each of these proposals are available online at [www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path/factsheets](http://www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path/factsheets)



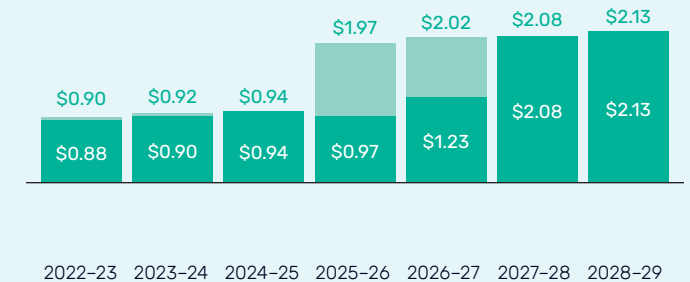
## Proposed pricing breakdown under a regulated asset base (RAB) approach

### Part A

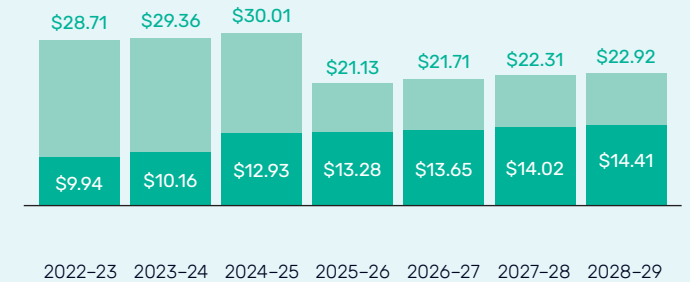
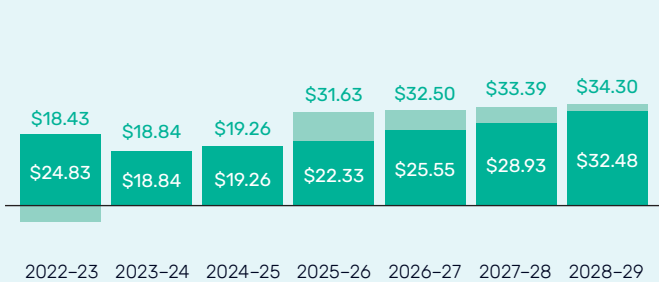
#### Lower Mary - Mary Barrage



### Part B



#### Lower Mary - Tinana and Teddington



#### Legend

\$XX.XX \$XX.XX  
Cost reflective price

\$XX.XX \$XX.XX  
Recommended price

Difference between cost reflective and recommended

- prices shown do not include the 15% discount currently applied to irrigation prices consistent with the terms of the referral notice  
- this is a breakdown of draft prices under either an annuity (in blue) or RAB (in green) approach.



Complete

## Stage 1

Learn how irrigation prices are set

**March to May 2023**

Customers had the opportunity to attend customers forums and learn about:

- how irrigation prices are set
- how Sunwater is developing the pricing proposal.

We want your feedback

## Stage 2

First look at draft future prices

**June and July 2023**

Sunwater's proposed cost and price outlines for each scheme are distributed and presented, and customer feedback is sought.

To gauge support for the changes we are proposing, we will invite online feedback from all irrigation customers in impacted schemes. We will provide more information on this process in the coming weeks.

## Stage 3

Our pricing proposal

**August to October 2023**

Having considered customer feedback, our final proposal will be shared.

Scheme-specific factsheets and presentations are at [www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path/factsheets](http://www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path/factsheets)

# Stay informed

We will update our website as the project progresses.

[www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path](http://www.sunwater.com.au/projects/price-path)

## Get in touch

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**sunwater**