

2019/20 to 2023/24 Network Service Plan Fact Sheet

Cunnamulla Bulk Water Service Contract

This fact sheet details a range of proposed immediate and longer-term improvement projects, and presents a breakdown of anticipated costs. It also provides a summary of changes provided to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) during the current irrigation price review process for new prices commencing on 1 July 2020.

Summary of key changes

On 6 November 2018, Sunwater provided a comprehensive submission to the QCA's review of irrigation prices for the 2021–24 period. We have since updated our forecast costs to reflect changes to underlying inputs, including:

- a revised non-routine program of works, based on the latest available information (eg condition and risk data)
- a greater focus on direct charging of labour to service contracts and the splitting of local area support costs to better align with where the costs are incurred
- an increase in insurance premiums, to align with current market conditions and a revalued insurance asset base
- using the scheme's 16-year average water usage over the 2002/03 to 2017/18 period to determine the Part B cost per megalitre.

These changes have been reflected in this Network Service Plan (NSP) fact sheet and Sunwater's June 2019 regulatory model, which is available at: <https://www.sunwater.com.au/customer/fees-and-charges/water-pricing-review/>.

For additional information on Sunwater's cost categories and Cost Allocation Methodology, please refer to the 2018/19 NSPs at: <https://www.sunwater.com.au/customer/products-and-services/network-service-plans/>.

Irrigation charges for 2019/20

The 2019/20 charges and cost per megalitre are shown in **Table 1**. The Cunnamulla Bulk Water Service Contract does not currently require additional subsidies to recover irrigation's share of future renewals, maintenance and operating costs. For the full suite of charges that apply, refer to Sunwater's website.

Table 1: Irrigation charges for 2019/20

Product	Charge type	2019/20 (\$/ML)	Cost (\$/ML) ¹	Subsidy (\$/ML)
Medium Priority Allocation Charge	Bulk Water Charge – Part A (fixed charge based upon allocation)	31.75	18.90	N/A
Medium Priority Allocation Water	Bulk Water Charge – Part B (variable charge based upon actual usage)	3.58	2.52	N/A

1. Costs reflect lower bound cost recovery ie recovery of future replacement and ongoing maintenance and operations. Charges do not allow for any capital returns on existing assets.

Service targets

Sunwater and customers have agreed Water Supply Arrangements and Service Targets for the Cunnamulla Bulk Water Service Contract. **Table 2** below sets out our performance in 2016/17 and 2017/18 against selected service targets.

Table 2: Service targets and performance

Service target		Target	Number of exceptions	
			2016/17	2017/18
Planned shutdowns – notification	For shutdowns planned to exceed 2 weeks	8 weeks	0	0
	For shutdowns planned to exceed 3 days	2 weeks	0	0
	For shutdowns planned to be less than 3 days	5 days	0	0
Unplanned shutdowns – duration ¹	Unplanned shutdowns during Peak Demand Period	48 hours	0	0
	Unplanned shutdowns outside Peak Demand Period	5 working days		
Maximum number of interruptions	Planned or unplanned interruptions per water year	6	0	0

1. This is the number of times that the unplanned shutdown has exceeded the shortest of the peak/off peak periods.

Routine expenditure

Routine (or annual) expenditure includes funds for operations activities (operations, electricity and insurance), preventative maintenance and corrective maintenance.

Table 3: Routine expenditure^{1,2}

Cunnamulla Service Contract	2015/16			2016/17			2017/18 ³		2018/19 ³		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Sunwater Actual \$'000	QCA Recommended \$'000	Variance \$'000	Sunwater Actual \$'000	QCA Recommended \$'000	Variance \$'000	Sunwater Estimate ⁴ \$'000	2016/17 QCA Recommended (Adjusted) \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000	2016/17 QCA Recommended (Adjusted) \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000	Sunwater Forecast \$'000
Operations	49.4	42.3	7.2	15.6	42.3	(26.7)	41.1	43.4	38.5	44.5	39.5	40.5	41.5	42.5	43.6
Labour	13.0	10.6	2.4	3.3	10.9	(7.6)	11.6	11.2	8.8	11.5	9.0	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.0
Contractors	3.4	5.1	(1.7)	0.2	5.2	(5.0)	-	5.3	1.0	5.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Materials	-	2.8	(2.8)	-	2.9	(2.9)	-	2.9	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	4.8	2.5	2.3	5.0	2.6	2.4	4.6	2.6	5.3	2.7	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.9
Other	2.0	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.8	2.9	0.8	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3
Local area support costs	11.1	-	11.1	2.8	-	2.8	8.9	-	7.9	-	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.9
Corporate support costs	3.4	10.4	(7.0)	1.2	10.6	(9.4)	5.4	10.9	6.6	11.2	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.4
Indirect costs	11.8	10.1	1.7	2.0	9.5	(7.5)	9.6	9.7	6.1	9.9	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.9
Preventative maintenance	4.6	6.4	(1.7)	4.0	6.4	(2.4)	3.7	6.5	2.6	6.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Labour	1.0	2.3	(1.2)	1.4	2.3	(0.9)	1.2	2.4	0.8	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Contractors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materials	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1.3	-	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local area support costs	0.9	-	0.9	1.2	-	1.2	0.9	-	0.7	-	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Corporate support costs	0.4	2.1	(1.7)	0.4	2.1	(1.7)	0.5	2.2	0.6	2.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Indirect costs	0.8	2.0	(1.2)	0.9	1.9	(1.1)	1.0	2.0	0.5	2.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Corrective maintenance	7.8	8.8	(1.1)	-	8.9	(8.9)	-	9.1	3.6	9.3	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1
Labour	2.0	2.7	(0.7)	-	2.8	(2.8)	-	2.9	0.8	2.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Contractors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materials	0.6	1.1	(0.6)	-	1.1	(1.1)	-	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local area support costs	1.7	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	-	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Corporate support costs	0.6	2.6	(2.0)	-	2.6	(2.6)	-	2.7	0.6	2.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Indirect costs	2.4	2.4	0.0	-	2.3	(2.3)	-	2.3	0.5	2.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Routine total	61.8	57.4	4.4	19.6	57.6	(38.0)	44.8	59.0	44.7	60.5	45.8	47.0	48.2	49.4	50.6

1. All financial figures are nominal. Totals may not add due to rounding.
2. Sunwater's 2020/21 to 2023/24 budget figures are draft as at the time of publication. These figures will not be locked down until late in the financial year prior.
3. For 2017/18 and 2018/19 Sunwater has included and reported against the 2016/17 QCA recommended costs adjusted for inflation which was assumed to be 2.5%.
4. A normalised level of direct expenditure and associated overheads were included in 2017/18 routine costs to rectify an under-representation of time-sheet reporting for direct cost activities (and partially because of the organisational changes occurring) during that year.

Annuity balance and non-routine expenditure

Annuities are managed by Sunwater on behalf of each Service Contract. They allow for customer charges to reflect a constant amount necessary to recoup the costs of refurbishment/rehabilitation of assets over a pre-determined period of time. The forecast annuity balances, and the impacts of budgeted non-routine spend, are shown in **Table 4**. Sunwater has used a 30-year planning period to calculate the annuity from 2020/21.

Details of the major non-routine projects planned for the 2019/20 to 2023/24 period are set out in **Appendix 1**. The main change since the 2018/19 NSP is an additional project in 2023/24 to refurbish the trash racks on the inlet, if required.

Table 4: Annuity balance¹

Cunnamulla Service Contract	2017/18 Actual \$'000	2018/19 Forecast \$'000	2019/20 Forecast \$'000	2020/21 Forecast \$'000	2021/22 Forecast \$'000	2022/23 Forecast \$'000	2023/24 Forecast \$'000
Annuity							
Opening balance ²	(64.1)	(61.7)	(58.9)	(50.4)	(73.4)	(44.9)	1.4
Non-routine spend	-	-	-	(54.4)	(14.7)	-	(6.5)
Insurance proceeds receipts (if applicable)							
Prior year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annuity contribution ³	7.2	7.4	7.6	34.3	47.5	48.9	49.1
Interest/financing costs	(4.8)	(4.6)	(4.4)	(2.9)	(4.3)	(2.6)	0.1
Sunwater – Closing Balance	(61.7)	(58.9)	(55.7)	(73.4)	(44.9)	1.4	44.0
QCA – Closing Balance	(39.9)	(35.5)					
Difference	(21.8)	(23.4)					

1. All financial figures are nominal. Totals may not add due to rounding.
2. The difference in the closing balance for 2019/20 and the opening balance for 2020/21 relates primarily to expenditure incurred prior to the start of the 2012 price path. These amounts have been carried forward to 2020/21 so that they can be considered as part of the QCA's review of expenditure for the new irrigation price path.
3. The annuity contribution is included in the prices paid by customers. It was set by the QCA for 2012/13 to 2016/17 and is rolled forward with the Consumer Price Index for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. Thereafter the annuity contribution is based upon Sunwater's forecast.

Appendix 1: Non-routine projects for 2019/20 to 2023/24

The below table sets out Sunwater’s currently planned non-routine projects for the 2019/20 to 2023/24 period. While the 2019/20 program is well defined, estimates become more uncertain further into the planning timeline. Forecasts are therefore subject to change in future NSPs, reflecting changes in project delivery timing, asset condition and risk updates, and outcomes from scheduled asset inspections.

Year	Project title	Project scope	Budget (\$'000 nominal)
2019/20	Sunwater does not have any non-routine projects planned for 2019/20.		-
	2019/20 Total		-
2020/21	Asset revaluation	Revalue the assets for insurance purposes; update asset replacement costs and Bill of Materials; and identify gaps in asset hierarchy data.	2
	Weir sheet piling and concrete refurbishment	Replace damaged concrete in front of the weir sheet piling. The concrete has broken off over time, exposing the sheet piling to water. Reinstating the concrete will slow the rate of corrosion.	53
	2020/21 Total		55
2021/22	Meter replacements	Replace failed customer meters only if required.	4
	Weir inspection	Undertake a comprehensive inspection of the weir to identify defects, as well as improve asset condition and risk data to facilitate better non-routine planning.	11
	2021/22 Total		15
2022/23	Sunwater does not have any non-routine projects planned for 2022/23.		-
	2022/23 Total		-
2023/24	Trash rack refurbishment	The trash racks on the inlet are deteriorating over time. If the 2022 inspection indicates they need work, this project will remain. If the refurbishment can be deferred, it will be.	7
	2023/24 Total		7

Contact us

To have your say and shape future NSPs, please contact us via email or post:

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We consider and respond to all submissions, publishing all responses on our website.

This NSP has been prepared by Sunwater to provide indicative information to our customers for the purpose of consultation. It contains estimates and forecasts which are based upon a number of assumptions. The actual financial performance of the Service Contract to which this NSP relates, and the operations and activities actually undertaken by Sunwater during the relevant periods, may vary materially from the information contained in this NSP. This NSP should not be relied upon beyond its purpose as a tool for consultation and you should not rely on the information contained in this NSP in making decisions about your circumstances. Sunwater will not be responsible or liable for any loss (including consequential loss), claim or damage (including in tort) that is in any way connected with the use of this NSP or the information contained within it.