

Important information about your water and sewage charges

From 1 July 2008 your water and sewage charges will increase by 19.67 per cent, which includes CPI.

The average residential customer bill will increase by about \$2.00 per week, or less than 30 cents a day.

The increase in water and sewage prices will help fund the Victorian Government's \$4.9 billion Water Plan.

The Water Plan is a major Victorian Government initiative to secure our water supplies into the future.

The Plan includes investments in major infrastructure projects such as the desalination plant, Foodbowl Modernisation Project, North-South Pipeline and the upgrade to the Eastern Treatment Plant.

South East Water is working with the Victorian Government to plan and manage Melbourne's water needs for the long term. The costs involved in securing Melbourne's water supply will be paid for by all water users - residents, business and industry.

At South East Water we are committed to helping our customers reduce water consumption and minimise the impact price rises may have on household budgets. For clever water saving techniques visit www.southeastwater.com.au.

The Victorian Government is also providing \$41 million to increase the concession rate for low income earners and pensioners to help offset the rise in water prices. The concession for water and sewerage costs is increasing in line with the price increase (19.67%), which equates to an annual maximum concession of \$189.70 per year.

For information on our payment assistance programs call South East Water on 131 851.

Water Plan Investment

Desalination Plant

A desalination plant - to be built in the Wonthaggi region will provide 150 billion litres of water each year to South Gippsland, Western Port, Melbourne and Geelong. At an estimated cost of \$3.1 billion, the project will be completed by late 2011.

Food Bowl Modernisation Project

Aging infrastructure in the Goulburn Valley will be modernised. This will create a world class irrigation system. The project will take eight years to complete and capture 450 billion litres of water which will be shared between irrigators, Melbourne's households and rivers. The water will be delivered to Sugarloaf reservoir in Melbourne via the North-South pipeline.

Eastern Treatment Plant

The Eastern Treatment Plant will be upgraded, enabling it to treat wastewater to Class A standard. The upgrade is a key initiative in the Government's plan to secure Victoria's water future and will be completed in 2012.

Up to 135,000 million litres per year of Class A recycled water will potentially be available for use by new housing estates, business and industry.