

**Media release | 23 April 2020**

## **Riverina Water proposes no increase to fees and charges in draft budget for 2020/21**

Riverina Water has proposed to freeze its water charges for 2021-21 to support the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Both the access and consumption charges remain frozen for the second year in row, along with all sundry fees and charges, in draft documents discussed by the Board at its April meeting.

Riverina Water Chairperson Councillor Greg Verdon said keeping costs on hold will be welcome news for the more than 73,000 people in the county council's supply network.

"So many people in our community are doing it tough," Cllr Verdon said. "Some have already been impacted directly or indirectly by drought and fire; and now the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has struck a further blow.

"We are fortunate to be in a strong financial position, due to good management over many years.

"My fellow Board members and I are committed to easing the burden on our communities where we can, and have proposed to freeze water charges for the next financial year."

Community members can view and make submissions to the draft Revised Delivery Program 2020/21-2023/24 and Operational Plan 2020/21 from Monday 27 April until 22 May 2020.

The draft plan reflects a strong financial position for Riverina Water, which is vital in ensuring the continued delivery of Council's asset replacement program of \$78.7M over the next four years.

In 2020/21, a total capital works budget of more than \$19.1M is proposed. Highlights include over \$3.6M in reticulation and trunk main renewals and \$900,000 in overall system improvements, such as mains renewal at Cox Avenue in Forest Hill and the Brucedale Reservoir trunk main replacement.

### **Riverina Water**

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Riverina Water will spend \$670,000 in new and replacement reservoirs, \$715,000 on bores and \$3.8M on treatment plant refurbishments.

The water utility will start the financial year with some significant projects being completed, including the 1 in 100 year flood levee around its Hammond Avenue headquarters, the two major reservoirs on Willans Hill and aeration covers at the sites of two major Wagga Wagga bores.

Throughout 2020/21, Riverina Water will undertake further site improvement works at its main office, along with aeration covers on infrastructure at Bulgary and Ralvona.

To view the draft plan, visit [rwcc.nsw.gov.au](http://rwcc.nsw.gov.au) from Monday 27 April. As our office is currently closed to the public, to request a hard copy, please email [community@rwcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:community@rwcc.nsw.gov.au) or call 6922.

Submissions can be made in writing via the above email address, mailed to PO Box 456, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 or faxed to 6921 2241.

### **Media contact**

For interviews, please contact Joshua Lang on 0411 743 362 or [media@rwcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@rwcc.nsw.gov.au).

*We supply safe and reliable water to more than 73,000 people across more than 15,000 square kilometres of NSW's Riverina. Our water supply covers the local government areas of Wagga Wagga, Lockhart and parts of Greater Hume and Federation Councils.*

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