

# Stepped billing – what it means for you

## Learn more about how we charge for water use



Your water use is measured annually between 1st July and 30 June.

Three times a year – in October, February and June – Busselton Water will read your meter and send you a bill.

This bill consists of two components – your water consumption and your supply charge.



Water use charges

+



Supply charges

=



Your bill

Water is a precious resource – we know that, and you know that – so our charges are designed to help reward households who consume less of it during the course of a year.

### What is stepped billing?

Stepped billing is a way of creating tiered charges that are activated only after your usage reaches a certain threshold. This means that the rate you are charged for your water increase in line with your cumulative annual water consumption.

### What are the rates, and what are the thresholds?

We have six stepped charges for water use in residential properties – these rates are set each year by the State Government.



In addition to this, the standard residential supply charge is \$201.89, which is charged in instalments and shown separately on each bill.

### What is normal annual household water usage?

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the average Western Australian household consumed 328 kilolitres of water in 2014-15 – this is the second highest rate in Australia. The average Busselton Water residential customer uses around 300 kilolitres per year.

### How do these rates compare?

Busselton Water charges some of the lowest rates in the country. The national average per kilolitre was \$2.99 in 2014-15.

### How can I tell what rate I'm being charged?

You can find this on your Busselton Water invoice. We also include details about what pricing tier you will be charged on your next bill, based on your current consumption rate.

### Why do I need to know about this?

Tiered pricing gives you an incentive to be water-wise year-round – not just in summer.

If you use less water, you'll end up paying less. And vice versa.

### What will happen if I'm not water wise?

In short, your bills will get bigger. Everyone starts at the same rate on 1 July each year, but the more water you use, the more you'll be charged, which is why you might notice that the total water charge in June is higher than on your October or February invoices, even if you use less water.

All rates effective from 1 July 2017