



COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Pricing Policy Statement

2026-27

Introduction

The Wattle Range Council (WRC) manages Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) in several locations in the WRC area. The CWMS is a fee for service wastewater management system operated pursuant to the *Water Industry Act 2012*.

The following information is provided to inform customers of the WRC's CWMS about how the current service prices have been developed and the rationale for price movements between current and previous years. This information is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA).

Description of the regulated Retail Services currently offered, as specified in the Pricing Schedule

WRC operates four (4) CWMS schemes including – three (3) septic tank effluent schemes in the townships of Kalangadoo, Penola and Southend, and a full sewer scheme in Beachport.

The CWMS schemes, provide for the collection, management and treatment of wastewater generated in these locations. To fund the provision of these services, Council charges an annual CWMS Service Charge to recover the cost to Council of operating, maintaining, improving and replacing infrastructure (considering depreciation of any assets and including future capital works).

Council has applied a differential pricing policy with the owners of vacant properties receiving a reduction in the annual CWMS Service Charge.

The CWMS connection fee represents a contribution by the property owner towards the capital cost of installing a new CWM connection in a newly created allotment through the subdivision or realignment of land.

How the current pricing policies have been developed

Section 155 of the *Local Government Act 1999* states that a Council may impose an annual CWMS Service Charge on land to which it provides or makes available a prescribed service. A 'prescribed service' is defined as including the collection, treatment or disposal (including

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by recycling) of waste, including wastewater. Section 155 enables Councils to recover the costs associated with the provision of CWMS.

Pricing for CWMS services is based on full cost recovery of operational expenses including infrastructure upgrades and renewal as required.

All CWMS Service Charges received are used for managing the CWMS schemes.

There is a pricing differential between the occupied and vacant allotments to reflect the differences in the CWMS operating costs for occupied and vacant land. Additionally, there is a differing CWMS Service Charge applied to the Beachport sewer scheme due to the higher costs of construction and ongoing operational costs compared to the septic tank effluent schemes.

Rationale for price movements between 2025-26 and 2026-27

The pricing movement for both occupied and unoccupied CWMS Service Charge pricing rates are in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases over the past year. A 2.8% increase was approved for the CWMS sewer connection fees in 2026-27 consistent with the recovery of costs of augmentation to the scheme.

Pricing schedule

The following fees apply to CWMS services provided by WRC for the 2026-27 financial year. The fees for 2025-26 are provided for comparison purposes.

(Per Connection Fee)	2025/26		2026/27	
CWMS Schemes	Occupied	Unoccupied	Occupied	Unoccupied
Penola	\$768.00	\$573.00	\$806.00	\$601.00
Southend	\$768.00	\$573.00	\$806.00	\$601.00
Kalangadoo	\$768.00	\$573.00	\$806.00	\$601.00
Beachport	\$871.00	\$653.00	\$914.00	\$685.00
Other CWMS Fee	2025/26		2026/27	
Fee for connection of new and existing allotments to Council CWMS Schemes	\$3,600		\$3,700	

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