

FACT SHEET

2025/26 Operational Plan

In line with the requirement to renew and upgrade infrastructure effectively, Council is proposing:

- an increase in water availability charges of 20% each year in 2025/26 and 2026/27, followed by a return to a CPI annual adjustment from 2027/28,
- a 4% increase to water usage charges in 2025/26,
- an increase of 2.4% for Developer Charges as per CTW's Development Servicing Plan 2021, being \$7,351 per equivalent tenement (ET) for the Lake Rowlands supply area, and
- a new access charge will apply for unconnected vacant land within 225 metres of a water main, pursuant to section 552 of the Local Government Act, that can practically be connected to the water main. This will be charged at 50% of the 20mm availability rate. To be subject to this charge, the property must have the ability to be connected to the water supply system.

Council considered two options before it settled on the 20% increase over 2 years. An alternate option of 10% over 4 years was discounted due to the prolonged deficits it would cause the Council, as well as the lower overall operating results over the life of the LTFP.

By applying the principles of full cost recovery, the proposed increase to the availability charge will ensure we have the funds needed to replace ageing infrastructure and augmenting equipment to enable growth, while providing a continuous and sustainable water supply. Unlike usage-based charges, which fluctuate with water consumption, the availability charge provides a stable revenue stream. This will help the Council stabilise its finances and reduce revenue fluctuations.

During 2025/26, some operational cost increases expected by Council include:

- Superannuation costs to increase from 11.5% to 12% (SGC).
- Electricity costs are estimated to increase by 10%.
- Insurances are expected to increase by up to 4%.
- Award wages increase of 3%, based on 27.6 FTE from current 24.6 FTE, two new Water Network Operator Trainees (part funded by State Government) and a Chief Financial Officer.
- New NSW Dam Safety Regulation charges \$13,063.
- Water NSW Licencing fees estimated to increase by 100% over 5 years.

2025-35 Long Term Financial Plan

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) provides for financial sustainability over the next decade while maintaining services and providing for major capital renewals and infrastructure upgrades, including:

- \$40M Lake Rowlands Dam Wall raising, 2030-32
- \$15.3M Renewal of Blayney Water Treatment Plant, 2023-34.

How will this affect my rates?

There will be two increases of approximately 20% in 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years to the availability charge and a 4% increase to water usage charge in 2025/26. The increase to availability charges for differing meter sizes, is in accordance with the flow capacity calculation in the Regulatory Assurance Framework (RAF).

Table 1: Availability charge

Connection size	2024/25 (per annum)	2024/25 (per quarter)	2025/26 (per annum)	2025/26 (per quarter)	2026/27 (per annum)	2026/27 (per quarter)
20mm	\$292	\$73.00	\$352	\$88	\$422	\$105.50
25mm	\$457	\$114.00	\$550	\$138	\$902	\$225.50
32mm	\$748	\$187.00	\$902	\$226	\$1,081	\$270.25
40mm	\$1,168	\$292.00	\$1,408	\$352	\$1,688	\$422.00
50mm	\$1,825	\$456.00	\$2,200	\$550	\$2,638	\$659.50
80mm	\$4,672	\$1,168.00	\$5,632	\$1,408	\$6,752	\$1,688.00
100mm	\$7,300	\$1,825.00	\$8,800	\$2,200	\$10,550	\$2,637.50
150mm	\$16,425	\$4,106.25	\$19,800	\$4,950	\$23,738	\$5,934.50
200mm	\$29,200	\$7,300.00	\$35,200	\$8,800	\$42,200	\$10,550.00

Table 2: 20mm Water usage charge

Annual usage	Annual increase	Quarterly increase	Annual increase
155Kl	\$84.80	\$21.20	9.4%
200Kl	\$92.00	\$23.00	8.5%
300Kl	\$108.00	\$27.00	7.3%

Table two demonstrates a household with a standard 20mm connection using 155 kilolitres of water per year will increase by \$21.20 per quarter or \$84.80 (9.4%) per annum.

The overall impact of the proposed price changes is dependent on the level of annual water consumed by customers. Lower overall consumption will reduce the impact of the increase in dollar terms.

Please contact Council if you wish to obtain an estimate of the impact of the changes to your water account, based upon your consumption history.

Council welcomes community feedback on the plans no later than 4pm on 9 June 2025. Submissions must be addressed to the General Manager at water@ctw.nsw.gov.au or mailed to PO Box 61, Blayney NSW 2799.

For More Information: visit www.ctw.nsw.gov.au to view the documents or contact the Central Tablelands Water on (02) 6391 7200.