

## Water price review 2024

### Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 1 May 2024

Water business: Greater Western

Submission written by: Adrian Murphy on behalf of Wyndham City Council

Postcode: 3030

In March 2024, we began accepting submissions on our draft decision on Greater Western Water's 2024 price submission via Engage Victoria ([www.engage.vic.gov.au/ESC-water-price-review-2024](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/ESC-water-price-review-2024)). On this website, people were given the option to send us general feedback or respond to questions we provided.

1. What do you think of our draft decision on the prices proposed by your water business?
2. What do you think of our draft decision on the business performance and their future service commitments?

Wyndham City Council supports Greater Western Water's efforts to increase investment in alternative water sources via the proposed Stormwater Harvesting Partnership Fund. Council notes that the draft recommendation is to remove this fund, however, Council believes there is significant merit in having this fund available during the next pricing period. Council has been an active participant in the Greater Western Water project which investigated alternative water for open space irrigation across Melbourne's west. This project provides the strategic guidance and direction on the future delivery of alternative water supplies for Melbourne's west to allow for improvements to urban cooling and the greening of open spaces in Melbourne's newly establish residential communities such as those within Wyndham. Council is currently working with Greater Western Water on identifying possible options for co-investment in such infrastructure. A preliminary concept plan for a stormwater harvesting project in the existing

Butterfly Boulevard Reserve wetlands in Tarneit was prepared as part of the aforementioned investigation. This is the type of project that would benefit from the Stormwater Harvesting Partnership Fund. Moving forward, as Council continues to investigate potential sites to be irrigated with alternative water supplies, Council would be interested to be involved in the Stormwater Harvesting Partnership Fund and partner with Greater Western Water on future projects. The Stormwater Harvesting Fund also aligns with Wyndham City's strategic directions. The Wyndham 2040 Community vision seeks to "preserve our natural environment" where we "pride ourselves on being green and sustainable". Council's resilience strategy, Resilient Wyndham 2021-25, identifies water security, climate change and drought as significant shocks and stresses that need to be addressed. The strategy sets a target for Council to invest in alternative water supply projects that supply 70ML/yr of treated stormwater by 2040 to address and mitigate these risks. The retention of the Stormwater Harvesting Fund by Greater Western Water and their ongoing commitment to partnering with local communities, will assist Council in meeting this target. The co-investment opportunity proposed by the Stormwater Harvesting Partnership Fund provides local government with added financial certainty to plan for and invest in new environmental infrastructure. This will be very helpful in addressing the challenges of a changing climate as well as a constrained financial environment. Wyndham City Council thanks the Essential Services Commission for the opportunity to comment on this matter and looks forward to your consideration of this submission.

3. Is there anything else we should consider before we make a final price review decision?

