



NOOSA COUNCIL

Community Grant Program – Water Rebates

What is the water rebate?

Council will pay an annual rebate towards an eligible not for profit community organisation's Unitywater water and sewage bill. The cost of the water rebate is facilitated and funded through the [Community Grants Policy](#) as part of Council's support to not for profit community organisations.

The water rebate calculation is based on:

- Fixed usage charges to a maximum of \$1,000 per year. However, to receive a rebate for usage charges over \$250 per year the recipient organisation will be required to have a Council approved water management plan in place (see EcoBiz Water Management Audit* below).
- Bulk and variable access charges for a 25mm meter (for each land parcel). However, a higher contribution for multiple or larger water meters may be considered if there's a legal requirement or a professionally prepared hydrology report that sets out why they are required.

How is the water rebate calculated?

The rebate calculation is based on usage charges and then the access charges as follows. The [Unitywater bill](#) covers approximately a quarter of a year (e.g. anywhere from 88 to 96 days). Each bill's 'Number of Days' is different.

Calculation for Variable Usage Charges

$(\text{State Govt. Bulk Water} + \text{Variable Usage Charges} + \text{Variable Sewerage Charges}) / \text{Number of Days} \times 365$

Conditions: > \$250 Water Management Plan required and maximum set at \$1000

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Calculation for Fixed Access Charges

$(\text{Fixed Water Access Charges} + \text{Fixed Sewerage Access Charge}) / \text{Number of Days} \times 365$

Condition: based on 20mm or 25mm meter, that is, maximum water access \$262.07 and maximum sewerage access charge \$548.23, unless verifiable legal or hydrological reasons.

= water rebate

Water Efficiency Plan = EcoBiz Water Management Audit*

If water usage charges are over \$250 per year, the community organisation must adopt a Water Management Plan after being advised through an EcoBiz Water Management Audit*. EcoBiz is a free program for Queensland community not for profit organisations which aims to reduce energy, water consumption, and waste production and save money. EcoBiz is funded by the Queensland Government.

EcoBiz Water Management Audit*:

- After registering online, completing a very short pre-coaching form, the participating community organisation is eligible for a two hour coaching session with an EcoBiz consultant on their site.
- During the session, the coach will discuss operations and goals, do a walk-through the site to identify savings.
- After the session, the community organisation will be provided with a report detailing a number of no cost, low cost and higher cost initiatives that they could action in order to reduce usage and costs. It is entirely up to the organisation which initiatives they choose to action.
- EcoBiz then monitors the organisation's water use over the next 12 months in order to quantify any reductions made.
- In addition, there is a wealth of resources available on the EcoBiz website, www.ecobiz.cciq.com.au.

Administrative time commitment required:

- The initial requirement is to register online, complete a pre-coaching form which provided EcoBiz with the baseline data.
- The next commitment is the two hour coaching session (depending on the site the session may not take two hours if it is not required).
- The final commitment is providing EcoBiz with water bills for the coming 12 months.

Next steps

The Water Rebates will apply regardless of whether the organisation has been directly billed by Unitywater or where the organisation is billed by Council (passing on charges from Unitywater). The only difference is the administration process of the rebate. See instructions below:

Organisations Invoiced by Council

The Noosa Council invoice for Water, Sewage will have deducted the calculated Water Rebate if they have met the rebate obligations.

Organisations directly billed by Unity water

- The community organisation pays the [Unitywater bills](#) to Unitywater
- When asked, (usually in November of each year) lodge all pages of the quarterly Unitywater bill to via Noosa Council's grants management system, SmartyGrants. Ensure the bill period starts after 1 July, 2019.
- If your organisation does not have a Grant Account with Council request a Grant Account form (email grants@noosa.qld.gov.au)
- Council will calculate the amount of the Water Rebate and request an invoice so that Council can pay the rebate.
- The recipient organisation will be required to put an approved water management plan in place prior to payment of rebate.

**This is a new measure and it will be introduced in the 2020-2021 Financial Year.*