

30 September 2022

Ms Kate Symons  
Commissioner and Chairperson  
Essential Services Commission  
C/O water@esc.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Symons,

### **Southern Rural Water Price Submission 2023**

We are pleased to submit the Southern Rural Water (SRW) Price Submission 2023, setting out our service levels and pricing for the next five years.

We are committed to providing great value to our customers and community. During the past 15 years SRW has invested in large capital-intensive modernisation works in each of its irrigation districts. This has created opportunities for customers to increase efficiencies, expand profitability and generate state-wide employment benefits. It has resulted in significant uplift in water supply reliability, which means customers have been able to increase on-farm productivity and are better able to remain profitable during dry periods. This investment is continuing into this next pricing period with further works in the Macalister and Werribee irrigation districts.

Our investment has been carefully planned to generate long term benefits – funded in a way that is fair and sustainable. So, while some of our irrigation customers will see limited price increases to fund past and future modernisation, more than 86% of customers will see price increases capped at the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

We have developed this submission through ongoing, deep discussions with customers, via our consultative committees which have been in place for around two decades and bolstered by a dedicated Customer Reference Group. To complement this we undertook bespoke engagement with Bulk Entitlement holders and Traditional Owners, as well as providing all customers the opportunity to engage with us at two key junctures.

We have worked closely with our board in the development of this submission. The board's attestation to the submission is included in the submission along with a letter from our Customer Reference Group outlining their support for the engagement process we've implemented.

Our key contacts for this submission are:

	<b>Main contact</b>	<b>Price model contact</b>
Name	Craig Smith	Clinton Hartley
Email	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

We look forward to presenting our submission to you and your fellow Commissioners on 18 October 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Cameron FitzGerald  
Managing Director