

Deliberative Panel to consider future GWMWater prices meets.

GWMWater's Deliberative Panel to consider pricing met for the first time in Horsham last week.

The role of the Deliberative Panel is to act as an independent panel representing the views of GWMWater's broad customer base as the organisation's pricing submission proposal to the Essential Services Commission for the 2018 to 2023 period is prepared.

The panel is Chaired by Barry Hall from Edenhope and is made up of farming customers, residential customers, retail business operators, food processors, welfare agencies and sporting and recreational club representatives.

The seventeen members of the panel come from across the GWMWater footprint and have not been involved in GWMWater Decision making processes before. They provide the opportunity for the panel to start with a "blank canvas" and make decisions on the board's pricing proposals from the perspective of a "reasonable person".

The panel will be making judgements and providing input to the board on their views on pricing proposals that may have a price impact for GWMWater customers.

Mr Hall said "the first meeting was largely introductory and set the scene for the important issues that the Deliberative Panel will need to contemplate and make recommendations on".

"The Panel will meet on several occasions in the coming months before making recommendations on pricing decisions to the GWMWater Board" he said.

Issues which the Deliberative Panel will consider include;

-
- The recreational contribution charge which all GWMWater Customers pay in order to subsidise the cost of water for sporting clubs and recreational lakes,
 - The possibility of extending the Rural Remote Metering program to Urban Customers,
 - The cost impact on all customers of providing treated water to some smaller urban communities,
 - The possibility and cost impact on all customers of providing waste water systems to some smaller urban communities,
 - The cost impact of providing improved service standards to customers.
-

At this stage it is proposed that the Deliberative Panel will meet on several occasions prior to them presenting the results of its deliberation to the GWMWater Board and to one of our regular six monthly Customer/Stakeholder Workshops in late August.

Mr Hall said, "This is an exciting process and will give GWMWater important feedback as it prepares its Pricing Submission for the coming five-year period".

For more information and updates please check our web site and face-book page.

Please note that our media releases are now available through RSS feeds.

Visit our website homepage at www.gwmwater.org.au to subscribe.

Editors - for further information please contact:

Andrew Rose: Ph: 1300 659 961

Distribution: Weekly Times, Wimmera Mail Times, Stawell Times, Ararat Advertiser,
Weekly Advertiser, MIXFM 3WM, ABC Horsham

Date: 21 June 2017