



## Oakey Reticulated Town Water Project - Payment of Council's Water Access and Consumption Charges PFAS Investigation and Management Program

This factsheet provides guidance to property owners being provided access to the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) Town Water Supply Network in Oakey and the Department of Defence (Defence) payment of the water access charge, water consumption charge and annual backflow prevention device inspection / testing fees (if applicable) charged by TRC.

### **Oakey Reticulated Town Water Connections Project**

As part of a long-term and precautionary measure for the supply of drinking water, Defence has funded TRC to provide property owners in the Oakey Investigation Area access to TRC's Town Water Supply Network, under the Oakey Reticulated Town Water Connections Project (the Project).

The Project has included the installation of new water mains infrastructure and plumbing connections from the water mains to private properties for domestic use. Approximately 43 properties are expected to be connected under the Project. When all connections have been established, eligible residents in the Oakey Investigation Area will have access to high quality drinking water. Once these properties are connected to the supply network, any provision of bottled water or rainwater tank top ups will cease.

### **Toowoomba Regional Council's Water Access Charge and Water Consumption Charge**

TRC sets water charges annually. The annual water access charge and any applicable water consumption charges are issued to ratepayers half yearly (October and April) and apply to all ratepayers who have access to TRC's water supply infrastructure.

### **What will Defence pay for and for how long?**

If you meet the eligibility criteria described within this factsheet, Defence will fund the water access charge, the water consumption charge and, where required by TRC, the annual inspection / testing costs that are required for testable backflow prevention devices for a period of three years from the date of connection.

This decision will be reviewed by Defence at an appropriate time to determine whether Defence will continue to make these payments beyond the three year period.

### **Backflow Prevention Devices**

TRC may require that some properties in the Oakey Investigation Area that connect to TRC's supply network have a testable or non-testable device (a Reduced Pressure Zone device) downstream of the meter and within the property, that stops the potential for backflow into TRC's supply network. TRC will supply and install backflow prevention devices as required at no cost to the property owner.

Testable backflow prevention devices need to be tested annually by a licensed plumber with the results sent to TRC. The property owner will need to arrange for annual testing of a testable backflow prevention device.

Testing is estimated to cost \$100-\$200 per annum. In addition to the property owner's cost of engaging a plumber, an annual fee (\$40.00 (GST not applicable) for 2017/18) is payable to TRC. Defence will meet the cost of annual testing for a period of three years, from the date of connection.





Arrangements for payment or reimbursement of testing of backflow devices will be communicated to property owners at a later date.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to have the water access charge, water consumption charge and annual backflow prevention device inspection / testing fees (if applicable) paid by Defence for a period of three years from date of water service connection, property owners must meet the following criteria:

- be the owner of the property;
- have received a TRC Supply Network connection under the Project;
- not previously had a town water connection; and
- have authorised TRC to release details of their water charges to Defence by completing and returning the Payment Authorisation Form to allow accounts to be forwarded to Defence for payment.

If the property is sold during the course of the three year period, the new owner will be eligible for Defence coverage of the water access charge, the water consumption charge and, where required by TRC, the annual inspection / testing costs that are required for testable backflow prevention devices for the remainder of the three year period, upon completion of the above mentioned Payment Authorisation Form.

If you have not arranged with TRC for your property to be connected to the supply network under the

Project by 28 February 2018, you may not be eligible to have your water charges and annual backflow prevention device inspection / testing fees paid by Defence.

### Payments Process

Payment of the water access charge, water consumption charge and annual backflow prevention device inspection / testing fees (if applicable) will commence from the date your property is connected by a metered water service to the TRC supply network under the Project.

In order for Defence to make any payments, property owners will need to authorise TRC to release details of their water charges to Defence.

### Payment Authorisation Form

Property owners are requested to complete the form and return it at their earliest convenience to [pfas.imrm@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.imrm@defence.gov.au) or by post to:

PFAS Response Management Team  
PFAS Investigation and Management Branch  
BP8-01-Open Plan  
08 Brindabella Circuit  
Brindabella Business Park  
PO Box 7925 Canberra BC 2610

Once the Payment Authorisation Form has been received, Defence will pay your water access charge and water consumption charge (as applicable).

TRC will provide the water rate notice to you for your information only, so that you have awareness of your water consumption and associated charges.





## Review of Defence Funding

Defence agrees to pay costs associated with the water access charges, water consumption charge and annual backflow prevention device inspection / testing fees, for fair and reasonable use, for a period of three years from the date of metered water service connection.

Defence will review the funding arrangement before the expiry of the three year period. Property owners will be advised whether payments will continue to be covered beyond this timeframe or whether arrangements will transition to 'owner pays', before the end of the three year period. Defence will provide further information on the review in due course.

## Further Information

Up to date information about the Oakey Reticulated Town Water Connections Project is available at:  
<http://www.tr.qld.gov.au/environment-water-waste/water-supply-dams/dams-bores/12487-safety-of-oakey-water>

In summary:

- The 2017/18 application fee for a 20mm metered water service is \$1,150.00 (GST not applicable).
- The 2017/18 application fee for plumbing, drainage and on-site sewerage work is \$344.00 (GST not applicable).
- For 2017/18 financial year, the annual water access charge is \$600.00.

- For 20mm water services, the 2017/18 water consumption charges are:
  - First Tier Consumption Charge of \$2.34 per kilolitre for each kilolitre up to 100 kilolitres (either half of the water year); and
  - Second Tier Consumption Charge of \$3.79 per kilolitre for each kilolitre above the First Tier 100 kilolitres (either half of the water year).

If you have any questions, please direct them to: the PFAS Response Management Team via [pfas.imrm@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.imrm@defence.gov.au)

