



Minister for Water

Ref: DEPI08490

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Mr Graeme Anderson
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01 SEP 2014

Dear Mr Anderson

POINT COOK RETIREMENT VILLAGE - WATER CHARGES

Thank you for your email of 20 July 2014 asking how the savings generated under the *Fairer Water Bills* initiative will be made available to each of the residents of the 280 residential units in the Point Cook Retirement Village.

The *Fairer Water Bills* initiative, announced by the Victorian Coalition Government in January 2014, is a major initiative across the water sector to drive down the cost of household water bills. The initiative is delivering more than \$1 billion of savings that will be made across the Victorian urban water sector over the next four years. In May 2014, the government announced that these savings will translate into bill reductions of approximately \$100 a year for Melbourne households for each of the next four years. These savings are intended to ease cost of living pressures and will be applied to the residential water bills of customers of the metropolitan water corporations that incur water use charges.

The government recognises that residential properties are owned and occupied through a range of different legal arrangements (e.g. ownership, tenancy, multiple occupancy, etc.) and that not all water supply services are separately metered. It is nevertheless expected that the benefits of the *Fairer Water Bills* initiative will be shared with all residential water users in Melbourne who pay water use charges irrespective of whether or not their water use is separately metered.

Consistent with this, the metropolitan water corporations have agreed that where there are multiple occupancies of a residential property and the water use by each occupant is not separately metered, each separate occupancy will nevertheless qualify for the annual *Fairer Water Bills* savings. The savings will be applied as annual reductions to the bill of the property owner issued in the first billing quarter of each of the four years commencing 1 July 2014.

For the Point Cook Retirement Village this means a *Fairer Water Bills* reduction of \$28,000 (that is, \$100 for each of the 280 separate occupancies) should be reflected in the quarterly

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water bill issued to the Retirement Village in the first billing quarter of each of the next four years commencing 1 July 2014. City West Water Corporation has confirmed that this amount has been reflected in the water bill issued to the Village in July 2014. Occupants may need to liaise with the Retirement Village owner to ensure that these savings have been passed on.

I trust that this adequately addresses the issue that you have raised. Thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely



THE HON PETER WALSH MLA
Minister for Water