# Contents

## 1 Introduction
- 1.1 Words used in this Customer Contract
- 1.2 Understanding the Customer Contract
- 1.3 Policies
- 1.4 General enquiries

## 2 What is a Customer Contract
- 2.1 What is a Customer Contract?
- 2.2 Who is covered by this contract?
- 2.4 When does this Customer Contract commence?
- 2.5 When does this Customer Contract end?
- 2.6 Variation of this Customer Contract?

## 3 What Water Services Do We Provide?
- 3.1 Drinking water quality
- 3.2 Supply of water services
- 3.3 Health or special needs
- 3.4 Drinking water pressure
- 3.5 Water restrictions

## 4 What Recycled Water Services Do We Provide?
- 4.1 Supply of recycled water

## 5 What Sewerage Services Do We Provide?
- 5.1 Supply of sewerage services
- 5.2 Wastewater overflow
- 5.3 Wastewater mining
- 5.4 Prohibited substances

## 6 What Trade Waste Services Do We Provide?
- 6.1 Supply of trade waste services

## 7 What Stormwater Services Do We Provide?
- 7.1 Supply of stormwater services
- 7.2 Stormwater harvesting

## 8 Factors Affecting Service
- 8.1 Unplanned interruptions
- 8.2 Planned interruptions
- 8.3 Major operational incident
- 8.4 Restriction or disconnection
- 8.5 Force majeure

## 9 What You Pay
- 9.1 How prices are set
- 9.2 Publication of charges
- 9.3 Responsibility to pay the account
- 9.4 Concessions
- 9.5 Your bill
10 What Can I Do If I Am Unable To Pay My Bill?

10.1 Payment difficulties and assistance options

11 Restrictions Or Disconnection Of Services

11.1 Restriction or disconnection of services for non-payment
11.2 Notice of restriction or disconnection for non-payment
11.3 Restriction or disconnection for other reasons
11.4 Minimum flow rate
11.5 Disconnection by a customer
11.6 Restoration of services after restriction or disconnection

12 Responsibilities For Maintenance And Repair

12.1 Drawings
12.2 Our responsibilities regarding our infrastructure
12.3 Your responsibilities regarding your water system
12.5 Pressure sewerage system
12.6 Non-standard connections
12.7 Private joint service
12.8 Stormwater connections, coverings and bridges
12.9 Conserving water
12.10 Giving notice of system failures
12.11 Removal of trees

13 Defective Or Unauthorised Work

13.1 Authorised Connections
13.2 Defective or unauthorised work
13.3 Building, landscaping and other construction work
13.4 Altering and unauthorised connection or use

14 Entry Onto A Customer’s Property

14.1 Access to Hunter Water’s infrastructure
14.2 Identification
14.3 Notice of access
14.4 Impact on customer’s property

15 Water Meter Reading, Installation, Testing and Maintenance

15.1 Installing and maintaining the meter
15.2 Access to the meter
15.3 Measuring water supplied
15.4 Meter testing
15.5 Meter replacement

16 Redress

16.1 Notification
16.2 Rebates
16.4 Claim for damages
16.5 Limitation of Liability
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>What Can I Do If I Am Unhappy With The Service Provided By Hunter Water?</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>Customer complaints</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>Complaints review</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>Resolution of complaints</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>External dispute resolution</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Who Should I Contact?</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>Emergency assistance (Faults and leaks assistance)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>General enquiries</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>Interpreter and TTY services</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Consultation, Information and Privacy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>Community involvement</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>Providing information</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Definitions, Drawings and Interpretation</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.3 Drawings</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREWORD

Hunter Water provides **drinking water**, **sewerage services** and **stormwater services** to over half a million people in the Lower Hunter region. In addition, some **trade waste services**, **unfiltered water** and **recycled water services** are also provided.

For Hunter Water, providing excellent service is an important part of our purpose of providing safe, reliable and efficient water and sewerage services to our community.

This **Customer Contract** outlines your rights and obligations as a user of Hunter Water’s **services** (except unfiltered water) and sets out the minimum standards of customer service that you can expect.

For more information about Hunter Water and the **services** we provide visit **hunterwater.com.au**

1 Introduction

1.1 Words used in this Customer Contract

Words in bold in this **Customer Contract** have a special meaning. The meanings are set out in the definitions in clause 20.

1.2 Understanding the Customer Contract

There are a number of provisions in clause 20 of this **Customer Contract** that may assist you in interpreting this **Customer Contract**.

Other than clause 16.5, which sets out how our liability is limited to the extent permitted by **Law**, nothing in this **Customer Contract** is intended to remove or limit any statutory rights you may have under **Law** that cannot be excluded, including the consumer guarantees regime under the **Australian Consumer Law**.

1.3 Policies

A reference to any of our **Policies** or **Standards** means the policies and standards as published on our website at any one time and any amendment or replacement applying to the same or similar subject matter.

1.4 General Enquiries

For all general enquiries, please contact us using any of the following methods: online enquiry form; email; post; telephone; in person; using the contact details notified by us from time to time on our website: hunterwater.com.au

*Note: As at 1 July 2017, you can contact Hunter Water using the following methods:*

**Website:** hunterwater.com.au

**Online enquiry form**

**Email:** enquiries@hunterwater.com.au

**Post:** PO Box 5171 HRMC 2310

**Telephone:** 1300 657 657

**In person:** Head Office

- 36 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle West (8.30am to 5.00pm)
- Lake Macquarie
- 128 Main Road, Speers Point (8.30am to 4.30pm)
- Maitland
- 285 High Street, Maitland (8.30am to 4.30pm)
2 What is a Customer Contract

2.1 What is a Customer Contract?

This Customer Contract is between us, Hunter Water, and you, the customer. You do not need to sign this Customer Contract for it to be valid and binding.

This Customer Contract is a legally enforceable document and is a requirement of the Act. It provides the terms under which we provide the services to you. The Customer Contract also sets out each party’s rights and obligations including your rights in any dispute with us.

This Customer Contract is summarised in a separate document called the Customer Contract Summary and is available on our website or by contacting us via the General Enquiry Process.

2.2 Who is covered by this contract?

2.2.1 You are a customer and you are covered by the relevant clauses of this Customer Contract if you:

(a) own property within our area of operations that has an authorised connection to our water infrastructure, our sewerage system or our recycled water infrastructure; or

(b) own property that is within a declared stormwater drainage area.

2.2.2 If you have a contract for water services, sewerage services and/or recycled water services from a licensee under the WIC Act, this Customer Contract only applies to you for the services you receive directly from us.

2.3 Other agreements with us

2.3.1 We may enter a separate agreement with you for the provision of different levels of service for example, a non-standard water connection, a non-standard sewerage connection, a trade waste connection, recycled water connection, or services to WIC Act licensees. Before entering a separate agreement with you, we will provide you with an estimate of the costs to supply you with the service requested and advise you if the service that we have agreed to provide is different from the standards set out in this Customer Contract.

2.3.2 If you have a separate agreement with us, or a contract for water services or sewerage services with us on specific terms and conditions, this Customer Contract does not apply to you, to the extent that other contract applies.

2.4 When does this Customer Contract commence?

2.4.1 This Customer Contract comes into effect on 1 July 2017 and will apply to you:

(a) if you are a customer on or from 1 July 2017, or

(b) if you are not a customer on or from 1 July 2017, on such a later date as you become a customer.

2.4.2 On its commencement this Customer Contract replaces any previous customer contract between you and us. If you have a separate agreement with us, that separate agreement will continue. Any rights and liabilities that have accrued under any previous customer contract with us are not affected by the commencement of this Customer Contract.

2.5 When does this Customer Contract end?

2.5.1 This Customer Contract or relevant clauses of this Customer Contract will terminate between us and you if you cease to be a customer. The termination of this Customer Contract does not affect any rights or obligations of you or us that accrue prior to termination.

2.5.2 If this Customer Contract, or part of the Customer Contract, terminates because you have requested that some or all of the services that we provide to your property be transferred to a licensee under the WIC Act, we will comply with the Transfer Code of Conduct established under the Act to effect the transfer.

2.6 Variation of this Customer Contract?

2.6.1 We may vary this Customer Contract in accordance with the Act. If the Customer Contract is varied:

(a) a notice identifying a variation to this Customer Contract (other than for variations of charges) will be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the area of operations, on our website and through the General Enquiry Process at least six months before the variation becomes effective, or for a shorter period of notice as approved by the Minister;

(b) a copy of the notice will also be given to each customer with their next account although failure to do so will not invalidate the variation.

2.6.2 This requirement to give notice of variations to the terms of the Customer Contract does not apply to variations in charges made in accordance with a determination by IPART.
3 What Water Services Do We Provide?

3.1 Drinking water quality

3.1.1 The drinking water we supply must comply with the health-related guidelines provided in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines unless otherwise specified in writing by NSW Health.

3.2 Supply of water services

3.2.1 If your property has an unauthorised standard connection to our water infrastructure, we will provide a drinking water service to meet your reasonable needs, unless prevented by events referred to in clause 8.

3.2.2 If you require a continuous supply of drinking water, you should make alternative arrangements in the event of an interruption to the drinking water service. Any such arrangements would be at your cost.

3.3 Health or special needs

3.3.1 If you require a continuous drinking water service to operate a life support machine or for other special health needs, you must notify us. We will include you on our list of critical customers and will use our reasonable endeavours to provide a continuous drinking water service to meet your reasonable health needs. However, disruptions to your drinking water service are not always preventable, so you should be ready to make alternative arrangements if necessary.

3.3.2 If you require a drinking water service to operate a life support machine or for other special health needs, you may also be eligible for a free water allowance.

3.3.3 Critical customers will receive notification of any planned interruption to the drinking water service. In addition, we will contact our critical customers as soon as possible in the event of any unplanned interruption.

3.4 Drinking water pressure

3.4.1 We will use our reasonable endeavours to ensure that the drinking water service we provide for authorised standard connections is at a minimum of 20 metres head of pressure at the connection point.

3.5 Water restrictions

3.5.1 The Hunter Water Regulation allows the Minister, in the case of drought or other emergency, or in the interest of maintaining water supply, to place water restrictions on the drinking water service.

3.5.2 Notice of the water restrictions will be published in the New South Wales Government Gazette and in newspapers circulating in the area of operations affected by the water restrictions and on our website.

3.5.3 The water restrictions may regulate or restrict:
(a) the purposes for which drinking water may be used;
(b) the times when drinking water may be used;
(c) the quantities of drinking water that may be used; and/or
(d) the means or methods of the use of drinking water.

3.5.4 The water restrictions will override any inconsistent provisions in this Customer Contract.

3.5.5 You must comply with the conditions of the water restrictions on and from the date specified in the notice.

3.5.6 If you do not comply with the conditions of the water restrictions:
(a) you may be issued a penalty notice by an officer authorised under the Act; and/or
(b) we may restrict or disconnect the water service to your property in accordance with the Hunter Water Regulation.

Authorised Hunter Water employees have the power to issue penalty notices for breaches of water restrictions.
4 What Recycled Water Services Do We Provide?

4.1 Supply of recycled water

4.1.1 If your property is in a recycled water area and has an authorised connection to our recycled water infrastructure, we will provide you with a recycled water service unless prevented by events referred to in clause 8.

4.1.2 If your property is not in a recycled water area, we may supply other types of recycled water by way of separate agreement with us.

4.1.3 We will use our reasonable endeavours to ensure the recycled water we supply complies with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling unless otherwise specified in writing by NSW Health.

4.1.4 If you are supplied with recycled water, we will give you information on the standard requirements for its safe use at the time we commence supply to you. We are not responsible for your use of recycled water contrary to the information we provide.

5 What Sewerage Services Do We Provide?

5.1 Supply of sewerage services

5.1.1 If your property has an authorised standard connection to our sewerage system we will provide you with a sewerage service on the terms set out in this Customer Contract, unless prevented by events referred to in clause 8.

5.2 Wastewater overflow

5.2.1 We will use our reasonable endeavours to minimise the incidence of wastewater overflows on your property due to a failure of our sewerage system.

5.2.2 If there is a wastewater overflow on your property due to the failure of our sewerage system, we will use our reasonable endeavours to:

(a) minimise inconvenience and damage to you by containing the overflow as soon as possible;

(b) clean up the affected area as quickly as possible at our cost and in a manner that minimises the risk to human health; and

(c) notify you of any forms of redress available.

5.3 Wastewater mining

5.3.1 You may extract wastewater from our sewerage system only if you have obtained our prior written consent and entered into a separate agreement with us. You may also require approval from other Authorities. You should contact us via the General Enquiry Process for further information.

5.4 Prohibited substances

5.4.1 You must not discharge into our sewerage system any substance classified in our Trade Wastewater Standard as a prohibited substance.
6 What Trade Waste Services Do We Provide?

6.1 Supply of trade waste services

6.1.1 To control the discharge of trade waste into our sewerage system, you must obtain our written consent and, if required, enter into a separate agreement with us to discharge trade waste into our sewerage system in accordance with our Trade Wastewater Policy and Trade Wastewater Standard.

6.1.2 We will not provide our consent if by accepting the trade waste, we are in breach or potentially in breach, of any Laws, including the Act, our Operating Licence or our Environment Protection Licences.

7 What Stormwater Services Do We Provide?

7.1 Supply of stormwater services

7.1.1 Hunter Water’s stormwater infrastructure is located in the declared stormwater drainage areas and consists mostly of major open channels and pipe systems into which local council owned networks and street drainage systems discharge. Generally, your stormwater is not directly connected to Hunter Water’s stormwater infrastructure. Hunter Water transports the stormwater collected through our stormwater infrastructure to its eventual discharge point.

7.1.2 If your property is within a declared stormwater drainage area we will charge you the charges for stormwater services set by IPART.

7.1.3 You may contact us using the General Enquiry Process to determine if your land is within a declared stormwater drainage area.

7.2 Stormwater harvesting

7.2.1 You may extract stormwater from our stormwater infrastructure only if you have obtained our prior written consent and entered into a separate agreement with us. You may also require approval from other Authorities. You should contact us via the General Enquiry Process for further information.
8 Factors Affecting Service

Hunter Water’s obligations to you under clauses 3 to 7 (except clause 3.3) are suspended for the duration of any of the following events, listed in this clause 8, to the extent those events relate to the relevant obligation.

8.1 Unplanned interruptions

8.1.1 If there is an unplanned interruption to your services, we will use our reasonable endeavours to minimise the inconvenience to you by restoring the services as quickly as possible.

8.1.2 Access to emergency supplies of drinking water and/or toilet facilities may be provided where reasonably practicable and necessary having regard to the particular circumstances, unless your separate agreement provides otherwise.

8.1.3 Our website will provide information in relation to the unplanned interruption (including details of any emergency assistance) as well as estimated times for restoration of the services.

8.2 Planned interruptions

8.2.1 We may need to arrange planned interruptions to your services to allow for modification (for example, a new customer connection) or planned maintenance of our infrastructure.

8.2.2 Our website will provide information in relation to the planned interruption as well as estimated times for restoration of the services.

8.2.3 We will notify you in writing of expected time and duration of any planned interruption. We will provide you with two days’ notice if you are a residential customer and seven days’ notice if you are a non-residential customer (or such other times as agreed with you) of a planned interruption.

8.2.4 We will use our reasonable endeavours to reinstate your services within five hours in one continuous period.

8.3 Major operational incident

8.3.1 We may need to shut down part of our infrastructure if a major operational incident occurs. We may interrupt the services, or arrange for the Minister to place water restrictions on the use of the drinking water services until such time as the major operational incident is over.

8.3.2 Where practicable, notice of the major operational incident will be published on our website.

8.4 Restriction or disconnection

8.4.1 We may restrict or disconnect your services for any of the reasons set out in clause 11.

8.5 Force majeure

8.5.1 Our ability to provide services to you may be affected by events beyond our reasonable control, such as:

(a) severe weather or conditions resulting from severe weather (or like event as classified by the Bureau of Meteorology); or

(b) a physical natural disaster including fire, flood, lightning or earthquake.
9 What You Pay

9.1 How prices are set
9.1.1 We will set and vary charges from time to time as allowed by the Act, our Operating Licence and the maximum prices and methodologies determined by IPART.
9.1.2 When the date for commencement of a variation occurs part way through your billing cycle we will apply the variation of charges on a daily ‘pro-rata’ basis.

9.2 Publication of Charges
9.2.1 Information on our charging policies, current charges and concessions is available on our website or by contacting us via the General Enquiry Process. It can be provided to you on request free of charge and, if necessary, in languages other than English.
9.2.2 We will publish any variations to our charges and provide details with your next bill. The variation will commence on:
(a) the first day of the next billing cycle;
(b) a date we nominate after we have published the change; or
(c) as determined by IPART.

9.3 Responsibility to pay the account
9.3.1 You are responsible for payment of the charges included on the bill and must pay us the amount of your bill by the date specified in accordance with our Billing Policy, unless you have made other payment arrangements with us under the Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy.

9.4 Concessions
9.4.1 If you hold one of the recognised pensioner concession cards you may be eligible for a government funded pension concession.
9.4.2 You must apply to us for the concession. To obtain information about your eligibility for a concession, please contact us via the General Enquiry Process.
9.4.3 If we determine you are eligible for a concession, we will ensure that it is applied to the full billing cycle in which it was requested. You must advise us using the methods available under the General Enquiry Process if your eligibility for a recognised concession card changes.
9.4.4 By applying for a concession, you authorise us to make enquiries with relevant Authorities to confirm your eligibility.
(Note: See clause 19.3 for an outline of the information we may provide to relevant Authorities for the purpose of confirming your eligibility for a concession.)

9.5 Your bill
9.5.1 When will your bill be sent?
(a) We will issue a bill to residential customers every four months. If we intend to change the billing frequency, we will give you at least four months’ notice.
(b) Non-residential customers may be sent an account on a monthly basis.
(c) We will provide you with copies of your bills for the previous 12 months at any time on request, free of charge.

9.5.2 What information is on your bill?
We will ensure that your bill contains details of:
(a) the dates to which the charges apply;
(b) any credit or overdue amounts from previous bills and the total amount due;
(c) the usage and service charges separately itemised;
(d) other charges payable;
(e) the date payment is due;
(f) the most recent meter reading;
(g) a comparison of your water usage, where available;
(h) your postal address and account number;
(i) the address of the property where the charges have been incurred;
(j) options for the method of payment;
(k) contact telephone numbers for account enquiries and emergency services;
(l) how to get information on payment assistance options; and
(m) information in community languages about the availability of interpreter services and the phone number for these services.

[Note: See clause 19.3 for an outline of the information we may provide to relevant Authorities for the purpose of confirming your eligibility for a concession.]
9.5.3 How are bills sent?

(a) We will send your bill to your nominated postal address.

(b) If you do not nominate a postal address, the account will be sent to:

(i) the property to which the services are available or provided; or
(ii) your last known postal address

(c) Your bill will be considered delivered to you if it is sent to one of these addresses. Please advise us if you move or your postal address changes.

(d) We may offer other methods of providing you with your bill (such as electronically) during the term of this Customer Contract and your bill will be considered delivered to you if it is sent by one of these methods.

9.5.4 How can payment be made?

(a) We will provide a range of payment options including via the internet or direct debit, over the phone, by mail or in person at an agency representing Hunter Water.

(b) We may offer additional methods during the term of this Customer Contract. Current payment methods are shown on your latest bill and can be found on our website or obtained by contacting us via the General Enquiry Process.

9.5.5 Overdue account balances

(a) We may charge you interest on overdue account balances in accordance with our Interest Standard. The interest will accrue on a daily basis commencing on the due date until you have paid the amount that is overdue.

(b) We may also charge the costs and fees that we incur in recovering (or attempting to recover) an overdue amount.

(c) We will not charge you interest on your overdue account if you have entered into a payment arrangement with us due to financial hardship.

9.6 Undercharging

9.6.1 If due to our error your bill states that you are required to pay us an amount that is less than what you are actually required to pay us (that is, we have undercharged you), we may adjust your next bill to include as a separate item the amount (or amounts) by which you were previously undercharged.

9.6.2 However, if the undercharging is due to:

(a) you providing false information;

(b) you not providing up to date information in relation to a change of use of the property or the number of dwellings on the property.

(c) an unauthorised connection; or

(d) your breach of this Customer Contract or the Act, you must pay the correct amount on request.

9.6.3 We may also charge you from the date we determine an unauthorised connection to have occurred.

9.7 Overcharging

9.7.1 If due to our error your bill states that you are required to pay us an amount that is greater than what you are actually required to pay us (that is, we have overcharged you), we will apply a credit to your next bill after we become aware of the error, except where:

(a) you have provided false information;

(b) you have not provided up to date information in relation to a change of use of the property or the number of dwellings on the property.

(c) there is an unauthorised connection; or

(d) you are in breach of this Customer Contract or the Act.

9.8 Account queries and disputes

9.8.1 If you have questions regarding the charges on your bill, you should contact us via the General Enquiry Process.

9.8.2 If there is an unresolved dispute concerning an amount of money to be paid by you, we will not seek from you the amount that is the subject of the dispute until the dispute has been resolved. Once the dispute has been resolved, you must, if the resolution is in our favour, pay the determined amount. (Refer to clause 17.3.1 for when a dispute is considered to be resolved).

9.8.3 You are obliged to pay any undisputed amount by the due date shown on your account.

9.9 Wastewater usage charge

9.9.1 The wastewater usage charge applies to non-residential customers only. We will determine a wastewater discharge factor that is used to calculate sewerage service and usage charges. Unless you have a wastewater meter, our wastewater discharge factor will be based on how you use your property. We may review the determined wastewater discharge factor for your property where you can provide measured data to validate the change. Information on the review is available on our website.
9.9.2 Where significant wastewater discharge volumes from your property originate from sources other than a metered water service or metered recycled water service (for example, from rainwater or other on-site sources, tankered water or effluent), we may apply an additional wastewater discharge factor or require the wastewater discharge to be metered by a meter approved by us. The supply and installation of the approved wastewater meter will be at your cost (see clause 15.1.3).

9.9.3 Where a wastewater discharge factor is varied, the revised charge will apply from the beginning to the next billing cycle. We will notify you of any change to your wastewater discharge factor.

9.10 Other costs and charges

9.10.1 Dishonoured or declined payments

(a) If payment of your account is dishonoured or declined, we will charge you the relevant maximum administration charge specified by IPART.

9.10.2 Costs for installing and connecting services.

(a) You must pay the installation costs of an authorised connection and the construction of any necessary works from your property to our water infrastructure, recycled water infrastructure, sewerage system or stormwater infrastructure.

9.10.3 Charges for other matters

(a) We may charge you a fee for any other service you request from us. You should contact us for further details of any ancillary charges.

(b) We may also charge you other fees, charges and amounts where we are entitled to do so under the Act, the Operating Licence or any applicable Law.

10 What Can I Do If Am Unable To Pay My Bill?

10.1 Payment difficulties and assistance options

10.1.1 If you are experiencing financial hardship you should contact us and we will provide you with information about available options to assist you in accordance with our Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy. All reasonable efforts will be taken by us to provide assistance to you.

10.1.2 If you are experiencing financial hardship, you have a right to:

(a) be treated sensitively on a case by case basis;

(b) receive information from us on alternative payment arrangements;

(c) seek a deferral of payment for a short period of time;

(d) negotiate an amount you can afford to pay us on an agreed instalment plan. If you are a non-residential customer these arrangements will be based on reasonable commercial considerations and market conditions; and

(e) access to a language interpreter, if required, at no cost to you.

10.1.3 Additionally, if you are a residential customer experiencing financial hardship, you will be provided with information about other options that may assist you as:

(a) the possibility of paying smaller amounts on a regular basis;

(b) accredited community agencies offering financial assistance, such as payment assistance scheme credit;

(c) government concession programs; or

(d) other programs which may assist you.

10.1.4 If you enter into a payment arrangement with us, we will:

(a) allow you to make payments by instalments;

(b) inform you of the period of the payment plan and the amount and frequency of each instalment;

(c) provide for instalments to be calculated having regard to your consumption needs, your capacity to pay and the amount of any arrears you are required to pay; and

(d) provide you with procedures that are fair and reasonable for dealing with the financial hardship.

10.1.5 If you are unable to meet your scheduled payment you will need to contact us immediately to reschedule the payment to prevent recovery action.
11 Restrictions or Disconnection of Services

11.1 Restriction or disconnection of services for non-payment

11.1.1 If you have not paid your bill by the due date we may take legal action to recover the debt or restrict or disconnect your services in accordance with our Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy, unless you have entered into and honoured a payment arrangement with us.

11.1.2 You may face additional costs if we take legal action, or restrict or disconnect your services.

11.2 Notice of restriction or disconnection for non-payment

11.2.1 If you fail to pay your bill by the due date and your recent payment history is good (payment commitments have been consistently honoured and no additional debt recovery action had commenced on your account in the previous 12 months) we will send you a reminder notice. The reminder notice will advise you:

(a) of the amount payable and that payment is due within seven days of issue;

(b) to contact us if you are having difficulty making payment so we can provide you with information about options available to assist you, in accordance with clause 10.1; and

(c) of your right to raise your concerns with the EWON if you have attempted to resolve those concerns with us and are not satisfied with a decision made by us.

11.2.2 If you fail to comply with the reminder notice issued under clause 11.2.1 or your recent payment history is not good we will issue a final notice. The final notice will advise you:

(a) of the amount payable and that payment is due immediately to avoid debt recovery action or the restriction or disconnection of the services to your property;

(b) to contact us if you are having difficulty making payment so we can provide you with information about options available to assist you, in accordance with clause 10.1;

(c) that you may incur additional costs relating to the taking debt recovery action or the restriction or disconnection of the services to your property, and

(d) of your right to raise your concerns with the EWON if you have attempted to resolve those concerns with us and you are not satisfied with a decision made by us.

11.2.3 If we intend to restrict or disconnect a know tenanted property, notice will be sent to your nominated address as well as the serviced property before we restrict or disconnect the services.

11.2.4 We may restrict or disconnect the services to your property if at least seven days have elapsed since we issued the final notice to you under clause 11.2.2 and to the serviced property under clause 11.2.3 (if applicable) and you have still not paid the account.

11.2.5 If you receive an account for a new billing cycle that contains an overdue amount from a previous billing cycle, we may restrict or disconnect the services on the arrears after issuing you with the appropriate notices relating to the overdue amount as described in this clause.

11.2.6 Information on our practices and procedures relating to financial hardship, debt, restriction and disconnection are outlined in our Debt Recovery and Hardship Policy, which is available on our website.

11.2.7 We will not restrict or disconnect the services or commence recovery action in relation to non-payment of your account:

(a) without giving appropriate notice in accordance with this clause 11 of our intention to restrict or disconnect your services;

(b) if there is an unresolved dispute as to the amount owing (for when a dispute is deemed to be resolved for this purpose please see clause 17.3.1);

(c) if you have entered into or are in the process of entering into a payment arrangement due to financial hardship and are complying with the agreed terms; or

(d) you have notified us that you have sought assistance from a community agency and that assistance is imminent.
11.2.8 We will not restrict or disconnect your services:

(a) if you have notified us that you need drinking water for a life support machine or other special needs (as per clause 3.3);

(b) on a Friday, the weekend or on a public holiday or the day before a public holiday, or after 2.00pm on a business day excluding Friday;

(c) if your property is occupied by a tenant:

(i) without advising the occupier that in some circumstances the Act permits a tenant to pay outstanding charges and then recover the amount paid from the owner of the property or deduct the amount paid from any rent payable to the owner of the property; and

(ii) without providing the occupier reasonable opportunity to pay the account; or

(d) if a related compliant is being considered for resolution by HunterWater or EWON, or by legal proceedings.

11.3 Restriction or disconnection for other reasons

11.3.1 We may restrict or disconnect the services to your property if:

(a) you have an unauthorised connection to our infrastructure;

(b) we become aware your systems are defective and you fail to rectify such defect as requested by us in accordance with clause 13.2.1 of this Customer Contract;

(c) you breach this Customer Contract, the Act, a separate agreement or any other agreement with us, concerning the use or taking of water or the discharge of wastewater or stormwater;

(d) you fail to ensure access to our meter on your property in accordance with clause 15.2.2. Prior to taking this step, we will use our reasonable endeavours to contact you to arrange reasonable access, leave a notice requesting access and provide you with a disconnection warning;

(e) the poor quality of your pipes prevents us from exchanging the meter and you have failed to address this within 30 days of our notifying you of this;

(f) we issue you with a written notice requiring the installation of the appropriate backflow prevention device in accordance with our Backflow Prevention Standard and you have not complied with this written notice;

(g) you discharge trade waste into our sewerage system without a separate agreement with us to discharge trade waste into our sewerage system (if one is required), or you do not comply with the conditions of the separate agreement;

(h) you are connected to a pressure sewerage system that is owned by Hunter Water (refer to clause 12.5) and you do not comply with your separate agreement or the operation and maintenance requirements;

(i) a serious health, environmental or operational risk is posed by the discharge of chemicals or other substances into our sewerage system;

(j) a serious health or environmental risk is posed by backflow of any substance from your water system into our water infrastructure;

(k) you use your recycled water in a manner inconsistent with its intended purpose or in a manner contrary to the information we provide about the safe use of recycled water;

(l) we are entitled or required to restrict or disconnect by direction of the Minister or under any applicable Law, or

(m) the customer is a non-residential customer and a corporation, and an Insolvency Event occurs.

11.4 Minimum flow rate

11.4.1 If we take restriction action, we will provide a reasonable flow for health and hygiene purposes. If you believe that the restriction will cause a health hazard you should contact us.
11.5 Disconnection by a customer

11.5.1 You may disconnect your property from our water infrastructure, recycled water infrastructure or sewerage system provided that:

(a) you have paid the relevant charge, and
(b) the disconnection is undertaken by a licensed plumber or drainer and conducted in accordance with Hunter Water’s Water Services Connections Standard or Wastewater Connection Standard as applicable; and
(c) you have complied with all applicable Laws, and
(d) you have given us all information we may reasonably require; and
(e) you or your licensed plumber have given us two business days’ notice of the disconnection from the infrastructure, booked an inspection of the work and returned any of our infrastructure to us (i.e. the meter).

11.5.2 We will continue to charge you a service charge, even if you are not using the service, until the disconnection has been confirmed and/or any of our infrastructure is returned to us.

11.6 Restoration of services after restriction or disconnection

11.6.1 Following restriction or disconnection, we may restore the service if the reason for the restriction or disconnection no longer exists and you pay the reconnection charge. If these conditions are met we will restore:

(a) your water service on the same day, if you pay before 2:00 pm on any business day; or
(b) your sewerage service within 24 hours.

11.6.2 If the conditions for restoration are met after 2:00 pm on any business day, we may restore the water service on the same business day but you will be required to pay an after-hours reconnection charge as set by IPART.
12 Responsibilities for Maintenance and Repair

12.1 Drawings

12.1.1 Clause 20.3 contains drawings showing responsibilities for maintenance for authorised standard connections. These drawings are illustrative only and should not be relied on for any purpose other than to assist with understanding the provisions of this Customer Contract. In the event of an inconsistency between the drawings and other terms and conditions of this Customer Contract, the other terms and conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. Refer to our Water Services Connection Standard and/or Wastewater Connection Standard for further information.

12.2 Our responsibilities regarding our infrastructure

12.2.1 Hunter Water is only responsible for maintaining and repairing its infrastructure.

12.3 Your responsibilities regarding your water system

12.3.1 As the owner of the property, you own and are responsible for maintaining and repairing your water system.

12.3.2 You are also responsible for any damage caused by a failure of your water system.

12.3.3 We may maintain and repair your water system up to and including the meter as long as your water system complies with our Water Services Connection Standard. However, if the meter lies more than one metre along the pipe within your property boundary, we will provide this service only up to one metre along the pipe within your property boundary. We will only maintain and repair your path tap if it is less than one metre along your pipe inside the property boundary (as shown in a registered plan with the Land and Property Information division of the Department of Finance and Services).

12.3.4 If there is no meter, we will maintain and repair your water system up to one metre along the pipe within your property boundary closest to our water infrastructure.

12.3.5 We are not responsible for the installation, modification, disconnection, or disposal of water connections between our infrastructure and the meter.

12.3.6 We are not responsible for the installation, modification, repair, maintenance, disconnection, disposal or testing (where applicable) of:

   (a) your water system:
       (i) downstream of the meter, or

   (ii) if your meter is located more than one metre along the pipe within your property boundary, more than one metre along the pipe within your property boundary;

   (b) backflow prevention devices on properties, except where the device is integrated into the meter supplied and owned by us;

   (c) main to meter services greater than 40 millimetres diameter and/or that are designed and installed to meet a customer's supply requirements;

   (d) unauthorised connections;

   (e) dedicated fire services or combined fire and domestic water services connected to our water infrastructure;

   (f) water services connecting to privately-owned water mains such as in some community title subdivisions or private joint services;

   (g) private water services connecting to our water infrastructure under the terms of a separate agreement; or

   (h) damage to your water system not caused by Hunter Water.

12.3.7 You should contact us via the General Enquiries Process if you have any questions about the repair and maintenance responsibilities for your water system.

12.3.8 In this clause 12.3, references to “one metre along the pipe within your property boundary”:

   (a) refer, in the case of a property comprised of a lot in a strata scheme, to one metre along the pipe inside the boundary of the parcel of the strata scheme of which your property is a part; and

   (b) includes one metre along any easement within which your meter or private service may be situated if that easement falls within your property boundary.
12.4 Your Responsibilities regarding your wastewater system

12.4.1 You are responsible for maintaining and repairing your wastewater system.

12.4.2 It is possible that the connection point with our sewerage system is outside your property. If you do not know where the connection point is, you should contact us via the General Enquiry Process.

12.4.3 We are not responsible for the installation, modification, repair, maintenance, disconnection, disposal or testing (where applicable) of:

(a) sewerage systems connecting to privately owned wastewater mains such as in some community title subdivisions or shared private services;

(b) private sewerage systems connecting to our sewerage system under the terms of a separate agreement; or

(c) damage to your wastewater system not caused by Hunter Water.

12.4.4 We will also not meet the costs of installing new private services or modifying, upsizing or relocating existing private services. You should contact us via the General Enquiry Process if you have any questions about the repair and maintenance responsibilities for your wastewater system.

12.4.5 Blockage of the wastewater system

(a) If a blockage occurs and you suspect that it is a blockage in our sewerage system, you should notify us.

(b) If the blockage occurs in our sewerage system we will clear the blockage at our costs. However, you are liable to pay to the extent you have contributed to the blockage.

(c) If the blockage occurs in your wastewater system, you are responsible for arranging the blockage to be cleared by a licensed plumber at your cost.

12.4.6 You should contact us via the General Enquiries Process if you have any questions about the repair and maintenance responsibilities for your wastewater system.

12.5 Pressure sewerage system

12.5.1 Pressure sewerage systems use pressure created by pumps, instead of gravity, to transport wastewater to our sewerage system.

12.5.2 If you have a pressure sewerage system, you will generally have a collection tank, a pump, an alarm control panel and a boundary kit (known as the connection point) on your property.

12.5.3 There are different repair and maintenance obligations depending on whether the pressure sewerage system is owned by us or by you.

(a) Hunter Water Pressure Sewerage (HWPSS)

If you are a residential customer connected to our sewerage system via a HWPSS, we will repair and maintain up to and including the collection tank. We will also repair and maintain the control panel and the power cable to the pump, as illustrated in the relevant drawing at clause 20.3.

(b) Private Pressure Sewerage System (PPSS)

If you are a residential customer connected to our sewerage system via a PPSS, you are responsible for repairs and maintenance from the boundary kit to your property as illustrated in the relevant drawing at clause 20.3.

12.5.4 We may need to enter into a separate agreement depending upon the location of the boundary kit. You must ensure you maintain your pump and storage tank as set out in this separate agreement.

12.5.5 You are also responsible for any approvals from any authority relating to the installation and ongoing use of the pressure sewerage system.

12.5.6 You should contact us via the General Enquiry Process if you have any questions about the repair and maintenance responsibilities for your pressure sewerage system.
12.6 Non-standard connections

12.6.1 A standard connection is one that gives you the level of service outlined in this Customer Contract. If a standard connection is not available, then you may seek a non-standard connection. If we approve a non-standard connection, this will give you access to our services, but these services will be provided at a different standard to those outlined in this Customer Contract. The level of service we give you, and your responsibilities to maintain any equipment, will be listed in a separate agreement. Approval of a non-standard connection will be at Hunter Water’s discretion.

12.6.2 Subject to the terms of any separate agreement, if your property has a non-standard wastewater connection, we will generally repair and maintain the system up to the connection point with our sewerage system, which may be outside the property boundary.

12.6.3 Subject to the terms of any separate agreement, if your property has a non-standard water connection, we will repair and maintain the system up to the connection point with our water infrastructure, which is located at our water main. You should engage a licensed plumber to repair leaks on your water system.

12.6.4 You should contact us via the General Enquiry Process if you have questions about your non-standard connection.

12.7 Private joint service

12.7.1 A private joint service exists if more than one property receives services from the one connection point.

12.7.2 Each owner is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the private joint service and any damage to private or public property resulting from a defect in the private joint service. Your shared responsibility starts from the connection point to our infrastructure. The apportionment of costs incurred in its maintenance is a matter between you and others who share it.

12.7.3 Disconnection of individual properties from private joint services is a matter between the relevant owners of the properties. We have no authority in respect to disconnection from private joint services. If you are the account holder, you must apply for disconnection, as described in clause 11.5.1.

12.8 Stormwater connections, coverings and bridges

12.8.1 You are responsible for the maintenance of any connections between your property and our stormwater infrastructure regardless of land ownership.

12.8.2 You are responsible for the maintenance of any coverings, bridges or similar structures within your property that cover or cross our stormwater infrastructure unless they are owned by us.

12.9 Conserving water

12.9.1 You may install water efficient plumbing fixtures, appliances and equipment as recommended under the Water Efficiency and Labelling and Standards Scheme.

12.9.2 You must install water saving devices, for example:

(a) that collect and use rainwater for your own use. Provided that the water tanks are not directly connected to our water infrastructure in any way, you do not need to meet any of our requirements. However, if the water tank is to be directly connected to our water infrastructure, you will be required to install the appropriate site containment backflow prevention device. This is to avoid the risk of contamination of our drinking water supply.

(b) a composting toilet that does not require connection to our water infrastructure or our sewerage system.

12.9.3 You must comply with BASIX requirements and all applicable Laws when installing water saving devices. Approval may be required from your local council.

12.9.4 For non-residential properties, where rainwater tanks with a volume exceeding 20,000 litres are installed to supply plumbing facilities connected to our sewerage system (for example, where rainwater is used for toilet flushing, laundry supply, floor wash down), we may require wastewater discharge to be metered or may impose an additional wastewater discharge factor as set out in clause 9.9.

12.9.5 Information on how to conserve water is available on our website or by contacting us via the General Enquiry Process.
12.10 Giving notice of system failures

12.10.1 You should inform us if you become aware of:

(a) any failure of our infrastructure;

(b) any interruption or disruption to your water service or sewerage service; or

(c) a burst, overflow or leak in our infrastructure, and we will attend to the incident as soon as practicable.

12.11 Removal of trees

12.11.1 If a tree on your property is obstructing or damaging our infrastructure, or is reasonably likely to do so, we may require the removal of the tree. Except where the Act provides otherwise, this will be at your cost. We may be required to reimburse you for reasonable expenses where required by the Act. You may contact us via the General Enquiry Process for further information.

12.11.2 We will give you 14 days’ notice requiring you to remove the tree. You may, with our consent and at your cost, take steps to eliminate the cause of damage or interference to our infrastructure, without removing the tree.

12.11.3 If you fail to comply with the notice to remove the tree, by the specified date, then we may remove the tree.

12.11.4 We cannot require a tree to be removed that is the subject of a protection or conservation order under the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) or the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) or similar Law but not including any environmental planning instrument.
13 Defective or Unauthorised Work

13.1 Authorised Connections

13.1.1 Connection to our water infrastructure, sewerage system or stormwater infrastructure must be approved by us and comply with the conditions we set to ensure the safe and reliable supply of services. The connection must be undertaken by a licensed plumber and in accordance with our connection requirements, including our Water Services Connection Standard, Wastewater Connection Standard or Trade Wastewater Connection Standard (as applicable). If you do not comply with these requirements you will be considered to have an unauthorised connection.

13.2 Defective or unauthorised work

13.2.1 If we become aware of any defective works or unauthorised connection to our infrastructure, we will request the defective works or unauthorised connection to be rectified within a reasonable time.

13.2.2 If you do not comply with the notice, we may restrict or disconnect your services until it is fixed. We may also remedy the defective works or unauthorised connection and you will be charged the reasonable costs incurred by us in undertaking this work and, if required, in reconnecting you.

13.2.3 We may restrict or disconnect your services without notification if your defective works or unauthorised connection presents a health or physical hazard to our employees, infrastructure or the community in general.

13.3 Building, landscaping and other construction work

13.3.1 In order to protect our infrastructure, you must not undertake any excavation, building, landscaping or other construction work that is over, or adjacent to, our infrastructure without first requesting our consent. Such consent can be given subject to certain conditions or withheld at our sole discretion as outlined in our Building Over and Adjacent to Assets Standard. If you do not comply with these requirements you will be considered to have undertaken unauthorised works.

13.3.2 We may request that you remove any unauthorised works that has the potential to interfere with our infrastructure or access to our infrastructure at your cost. If you do not comply with our request within the required timeframe, we may remove the unauthorised works and charge you the reasonable costs incurred by us in undertaking this work.

13.3.3 Failure to obtain approval or comply with the conditions of an approval will limit our obligation to reinstate the unauthorised works or the obligation for compensation (see clause 14.4) as a result of our need to access our infrastructure.

13.4 Properties with an existing water service must be metered during the building period. The meter must be accessible (as described in clause 15.1) at all times.

13.4 Altering and unauthorised connection or use

13.4.1 You must not:

(a) wrongfully take, use or divert any water from our water infrastructure;

(b) wrongfully interfere with the operation of a meter, metering system or prevent a meter from accurately registering the quantity of water supplied by us;

(c) use a dedicated fire service for any purpose other than firefighting or testing of the fire service;

(d) wrongfully discharge any substance into our infrastructure; or

(e) carry out any activity that may alter, cause destruction of, damage to, or interfere with, our infrastructure.
14.1 Access to Hunter Water’s infrastructure
14.1.1 You must provide us with safe access to your property to allow us:
(a) to maintain or inspect our infrastructure;
(b) to ensure compliance with this Customer Contract, the Operating Licence or the Act;
(c) to read, test, inspect, maintain or replace the meter; and
(d) to access your property for other purposes set out in the Act or other applicable Law.

14.2 Identification
14.2.1 When we enter your property, our employees or contractors will carry identification that will be shown to you (or to any person present at the time of access).

14.3 Notice of access
14.3.1 Subject to any provision of this Customer Contract, we will give you, or the occupier of your property, two business days written notice specifying the date and approximate time of our entry onto your property, except where:
(a) you have agreed to a shorter period;
(b) in our opinion entry is required urgently;
(c) giving notice would defeat the purpose of entry;
(d) we need to investigate a health or safety issue; or
(e) we have the power under any Law to access your property without the provision of such notice.

14.4 Impact on customer’s property
14.4.1 If we enter your property we will use our reasonable endeavours to:
(a) cause as little disruption or inconvenience as possible;
(b) remove all rubbish and equipment we have brought on to the property; and
(c) leave the property, as near as possible, in the condition that it was found on entry.

14.4.2 Where our activities result in inconvenience, damage or loss to you or your property, we may provide redress as outlined in clause 16.

14.4.3 You may be entitled to compensation under the Act for damage incurred by our entry to your property. Any entitlement to compensation will be subject to the conditions set out in clause 16.4.

15.1 Installing and maintaining the meter
15.1.1 Your property must have a meter, unless we otherwise agree in writing. Separate meters will be installed for drinking water and recycled water where the property has connection to both services.

15.1.2 An approved site containment backflow prevention device appropriate to the property’s hazard rating must be fitted. Most residential properties with low hazards serviced by either a 20mm or 25mm meter already contain a backflow prevention device as part of the meter. Properties with larger meters or which have a higher hazard rating as determined under the Backflow Prevention Standard, must comply with any additional requirements under our Backflow Prevention Standard.

15.1.3 You are required to pay for the installation of the meter and ensure that it is installed either by us or a licensed plumber. The meter is to be fitted within one metre of your property boundary. If a meter cannot be fitted in this location, the meter must not be installed until we have approved an alternative location.

15.1.4 The installed meter remains our property and we will maintain it. We may charge you for the cost of repair or replacement of the meter and its assembly if it is wilfully or negligently damaged by you.

15.1.5 You are responsible for installing the pipework on either side of the meter. You are also responsible for maintaining the pipework located on either side of the meter, unless we maintain it under clause 12.2. For further details, refer to the Water Services Connections Standard.

15.1.6 If there is no meter measuring the supply of water to your property we will charge you an unmetered service charge as approved by IPART.

15.1.7 We may require that you fit a meter to your fire service. This requirement will be noted in your connection approval.

15.1.8 You must not remove a meter from your property without our consent.

15.2 Access to the meter
15.2.1 We may enter your property without notice to read, test, inspect, maintain or replace the meter.

15.2.2 You must ensure that the meter is accessible to Hunter Water or its representatives at all times. The meter and the visible pipe connected should be clear of concrete, plants, trees, bushes and other obstructions.
15.2.3 If you have not provided reasonable and safe access to your **meter**, we will bill you on an estimate of your usage and will also recover the cost of the attempted **meter** reading.

15.2.4 If you have not provided reasonable and safe access to the **meter**, we may:

(a) require you to:
   (i) relocate the **meter** at your cost;
   (ii) read the **meter** yourself and provide us with the reading; or
   (iii) install a remote reading device, which may attract an additional charge.

(b) seek access at a time suitable to you, which may attract an additional charge;

(c) take action under clause 11.3 and restrict or disconnect your services until you provide reasonable and safe access around the **meter**; or

(d) make other arrangements with you

15.2.5 If you intend to relocate your **meter**, you should engage a licensed plumber at your cost. Your plumber should check our current Water Services Connections Standard before relocating the **meter**.

15.3 Measuring water supplied

15.3.1 You will be charged for the quantity of water measured by the **meter**, unless the **meter** is faulty and we are required to adjust what we charge you under clause 15.4.3.

15.3.2 It is an offence under the Act to tamper with a **meter** or to divert water in a manner that prevents the **meter** from recording usage.

15.3.3 If a **meter** is stopped or damaged, an estimated usage will be calculated on a basis that is representative of your usage pattern.

15.3.4 Where in our opinion no satisfactory basis exists to adjust a usage charge, we will negotiate with you a mutually agreeable adjustment of charges based on an estimated reading.

15.3.5 When the price for water or wastewater usage is varied on a date that falls within your **meter** reading period, we will apply the new price on a pro rata basis.

15.3.6 We will use our reasonable endeavours to provide an actual **meter** reading at least once every 12 months, inclusive of **meter** readings taken by you on our behalf.

15.3.7 Where the **meter** is part of an automated meter reading system in a multi-level building, we may share your **meter** reading information with the Owners Corporation or building manager.

15.4 Meter testing

15.4.1 If you consider that the **meter** is not accurately recording water passing through it, you may request that we test it. We will advise you of the **meter** test results and make available a written report on your request.

15.4.2 You will be required to pay the costs of the **meter** test prior to the test proceeding. This cost will be refunded if the **meter** is shown to be inaccurate.

15.4.3 If the test shows that the **meter** is over recording by over four per cent (4%) of the actual volume of water passing through it, we will:

(a) replace the **meter**;

(b) refund the charge paid by you for the test under clause 15.4.2; and

(c) recalculate your account on the basis that is representative of your usage pattern.

15.5 Meter replacement

15.5.1 We will replace the **meter** at no cost to you if the **meter**:

(a) is found to be defective; or

(b) is replaced as part of a **meter** replacement program.

15.5.2 If we incur additional costs to replace the **meter** because of actions by you (e.g. restricted access to the **meter**, structural work at or near the **meter**), we will recover those additional costs from you.

15.5.3 We will attempt to notify you at the time of replacement and advise you that a new **meter** has been installed. A mutually acceptable time will be negotiated with non-residential customers for the replacement of meters, where practicable.

15.5.4 If a **meter** has been stolen from your property, you are required to engage a licensed plumber to place a spacer where the **meter** was installed and to advise us of the stolen meter. We will arrange for a new **meter** to be installed and you will be required to pay any related charges.
16 Redress

16.1 Notification

16.1.1 If you believe we have failed to comply with this Customer Contract or our activities have resulted in inconvenience, damage or loss to you or your property, you must notify us and we will investigate the matter and provide you with a response. That response will include:

(a) whether you are entitled to a rebate or other redress options available under this clause;
(b) the options available to rectify your problem; and
(c) the availability of compensation under clause 16.4.

16.2 Rebates

16.2.1 You may be entitled to a rebate if any of the events in clauses 16.2.2 to 16.2.7 occur as long as:

(a) you have an authorised standard connection; and
(b) you, or a third party, have not caused or contributed to the event.

16.2.2 Unplanned interruptions

(a) If you experience an unplanned interruption to your drinking water service (not including your recycled water service) of over five hours in duration between the hours of 5:00am and 11:00pm due to a failure of our water infrastructure, a rebate of 15 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill. You will receive this rebate for each of the first and second events that you experience in a financial year.

(b) If you experience three or more unplanned interruptions to your drinking water service (not including your recycled water service) between the hours of 5:00am and 11:00pm in a financial year due to a failure of our water infrastructure, each exceeding five hours in duration, a rebate of 30 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill after the second event. You will receive this rebate for the second event that you experience in a financial year.

(c) If you experience one or more unplanned interruptions to your drinking water service (not including your recycled water service) of over five hours between the hours of 11:00pm and 5:00am due to a failure of our water infrastructure and provide details of the inconvenience caused, the unplanned interruption will be deemed to have occurred between the hours of 5:00am and 11:00pm for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) above, and you will be eligible for the corresponding rebate.

You should make initial contact via our General Enquiry Process.

16.2.3 Planned interruptions

If you experience three or more planned interruptions to your drinking water service (not including your recycled water service) between the hours of 5:00am and 11:00pm in a financial year, each exceeding five hours in duration, a rebate of 15 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill.

16.2.4 Low water pressure

If we assess your property as having experienced low drinking water pressure due to a failure of our water infrastructure, a rebate of 15 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill. Only one rebate will be applied in a financial year.

16.2.5 Wastewater overflows

(a) If you experience a dry weather wastewater overflow on your property in a financial year as a result of a failure of our sewerage system (not including shaft breaks), a rebate of 15 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill after the event. You will receive this rebate for the first event that you experience in a financial year.

(b) If you experience two dry weather wastewater overflows on your property in the same financial year due to a failure of our sewerage system (not including shaft breaks), a rebate of 60 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill after the second event. You will receive this rebate for the second event that you experience in a financial year.

(c) If you experience three or more dry weather wastewater overflows on your property in the same financial year due to a failure of our sewerage system (not including shaft breaks), a rebate of 270 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill(s) after the third event. You will receive this rebate for the third event that you experience in a financial year. (You will not receive any rebate under this clause for a fourth or subsequent event).

16.2.6 Dirty Water

(a) If you are not provided with clean drinking water suitable for normal domestic purposes, you should contact us on the Emergency (faults and leaks) Assistance Line.

(b) We may provide compensation for damage caused by dirty drinking water (see clause 16.4) and we may refund you the cost of water used to flush your water system.
(c) We will undertake an investigation of recurrent dirty drinking water problems to derive a long term solution.

16.2.7 Boil Water Alert

If NSW Health issues a boiled water alert due to contamination of drinking water that has been caused by us, a rebate of 15 kilolitres will be applied to the water usage component of your next bill, if your property is within the declared boiled water alert area.

16.3 Forms of redress

16.3.1 In addition to our obligation to apply a rebate under clause 16.2, we may provide one or more of the following forms of redress:

(a) reinstatement;
(b) repair;
(c) rectification;
(d) construction of works;
(e) providing alternative supplies of water;
(f) emergency accommodation;
(g) payment for damages as set out in clause 16.4.

16.3.2 If you are unsatisfied with the form of redress we provide you, you may request additional redress from us. We will consider your request in accordance with the timeframes in clause 17.1.2 as if your request were a complaint.

16.4 Claim for damages

16.4.1 In the event of physical loss or damage to you or your property as a result of our failure to comply with this Customer Contract, the Operating Licence or the Act, we may compensate you for any loss suffered, following our investigation of the matter. However you should make your initial claim to your insurance company. If your loss is not covered by an insurance policy you may notify us for consideration.

16.4.2 If you make a claim for damages you must specify the nature of the problem and the type of compensation sought. We will require relevant documentation and evidence in support of your claim for damages as part of our consideration of your claim.

16.4.3 We will use reasonable endeavours to acknowledge receipt of your claim within 5 business days including the provision of a case identification number that will assist you with tracking your claim.

16.4.4 We will undertake investigations into the circumstances surrounding the claim/incident and provide a response time for making a decision in regard to your claim.

16.4.5 Within the time indicated, you will be provided with a written assessment of your claim outlining the reasons for the decision and whether any compensation will be paid.

16.4.6 If you are not satisfied with our decision, you have the right to seek review of your claim under clause 17.2 or you may seek an external review under clause 17.4.

16.5 Limitation of Liability

16.5.1 The only promises we make about the goods and services we provide under this Customer Contract, and the only conditions and warranties included in this Customer Contract are:

(a) those set out in this Customer Contract; and
(b) those that the Law (for example, the Australian Consumer Law) states are included.

16.5.2 However, where we are liable to you because of a breach of a condition or warranty that the Law says is included in this Customer Contract, our liability is limited to the extent permitted by Law, to:

(a) replacing the goods and services to which the breach relates; or
(b) at our option, paying you the cost of replacing those goods, or having the services supplied again.

16.5.3 The limitation of our liability does not affect rights you may have under a Law that applies to us that states we cannot exclude or limit our liability.
17 What Can I Do If I Am Unhappy With The Service Provided By Hunter Water?

17.1 Customer complaints

17.1.1 A complaint should be made using the methods referred to in the General Enquiry Process.

17.1.2 We will resolve your complaint in accordance with our Complaint and Enquiry Policy and will use reasonable endeavours to resolve your complaint as soon as possible. We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint and provide a case identification number that will assist you with tracking your complaint. Where we are unable to resolve your complaint within 3 business days, we will provide you with an estimated timeframe for our response.

17.1.3 The response will provide you with our intended course of action and identify when the course of action will be taken (if relevant). We will also provide the name of the contact person for follow up enquiries.

17.2 Complaints review

17.2.1 If you are not satisfied with the solution offered or action taken by us, you may have the complaint reviewed by a manager.

(a) clarify your complaint and the outcome sought;
(b) ensure that the complaint has been properly investigated;
(c) advise you of the estimated timeframe for our proposed action;
(d) communicate to you our final decision;
(e) outline the relevant facts and regulatory requirements where appropriate;
(f) indicate what we will do to address the issue; and
(g) notify you of your rights to external review, if you are still not satisfied with our decision.

17.3 Resolution of complaints

17.3.1 A complaint will be considered resolved if:

(a) we provide you with a response that:
   i. resolves the complaint to your satisfaction (or indicates how the complaint will be resolved to your satisfaction) or provides an explanation of the relevant policy and/or regulatory requirements and why no further action is proposed in relation to the complaint, or
   ii. provides a date when the issue will be resolved if the complaint relates to future planned operational or capital work.
(b) the complaint is resolved through an external dispute process in accordance with clause 17.4, or
(c) 28 business days have passed since receiving our response pursuant to clause 17.1.2 and you have not sought a further review by us or lodged a claim in an external dispute resolution forum.

17.3.2 We will extend the 28 business days by a reasonable period if:

(a) within those 28 business days you have requested an extension; or
(b) after the 28 business days you demonstrate that, because of special circumstances, you were unable to seek an extension within the 28 business days.

17.3.3 Where a further communication is received from you, this will be regarded as a new enquiry or complaint.

17.4 External dispute resolution

17.4.1 If you are still not satisfied with our response after following the process in clause 17.1 and 17.2, you may escalate the complaint to a dispute and seek external resolution of the dispute through EWON. EWON will work with you and Hunter Water to find a fair and reasonable outcome.

17.4.2 EWON’s services are available to you at no cost. Disputes that may be referred to EWON include disputes about supply of service, your account, credit or payment services and restriction or disconnection. Full details are available from EWON. You should attempt to resolve the issue with Hunter Water before referring the matter to EWON.

17.4.3 You may choose whether or not to accept EWON’s decision. If you decide to accept it, then it will be final and binding on us.

17.4.4 The NCAT may also hear and determine consumer claims.

17.4.5 You also have recourse to the legal system.
18 Who should I contact?

18.1 Emergency assistance (Faults and leaks assistance)

18.1.1 In the event of a suspected leak or burst water main, a wastewater overflow, an unplanned interruption, a water quality or low water pressure problem, you may contact our 24 hour Emergency (faults and leaks) Assistance Line on 1300 657 000.

18.1.2 The emergency phone number is also listed on your bill, in the telephone directory and on our website.

18.2 General enquiries

18.2.1 If you have an enquiry relating to your account, payment options, concession entitlements or other information about our services, and you cannot find the answer on our website, you should contact us via the General Enquiry Process.

18.2.2 We will reply to your written enquiry within five business days of receiving it, unless we can respond sooner by phone contact. Our written response will provide an explanation and the name of the contact person for follow up enquiries. If your enquiry cannot be resolved within these timeframes, you will be advised of the contact number of the person who will investigate your enquiry further.

18.2.3 If your verbal enquiry cannot be answered immediately, we will use our reasonable endeavours to provide a response to your verbal enquiry within three business days.

18.3 Interpreter and TTY services

18.3.1 We provide an interpreter service for people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Please call 131 450 to access these services.

18.3.2 Customers who have a hearing or speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS) as follows:

(a) For TTY (teletypewriter) users phone 133 677 and ask for 1300 657 657;

(b) For Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 657 657; or

(c) For internet relay users connect to the NRS (see www.relayservice.gov.au for details) and ask for 1300 657 657.

19 Consultation, Information and Privacy

19.1 Community Involvement

19.1.1 To enable community involvement on issues relevant to our programs, services and decision making process, we have a customer advisory group.

19.1.2 The customer advisory group works to a Charter. The Charter is available on our website or can be obtained by contacting us via the General Enquiry Process.

[Note: The customer advisory group is currently named the Consultative Forum as at July 2017. The Consultative Forum Charter explains the role and functions of the Consultative Forum. The name of this customer advisory group and the Charter may change from time to time.]

19.2 Providing information

19.2.1 We will respond to requests for information according to the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW).

19.3 Privacy

19.3.1 We will treat your personal information according to the provisions of all applicable Laws.

19.3.2 To the extent permitted by Law, we may disclose to, or exchange with, credit reporting agencies, other credit providers, other suppliers, or our agents and contractors, personal information we have collected concerning your identity (such as your name, date of birth and address) and information that pertains to your payment or credit history, your creditworthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity (including our opinions regarding these matters).

19.3.3 We may also disclose personal information of yours which we have collected to Authorities for the purpose of confirming your eligibility for concessions and exemptions (for example, pensioner rebates) with relevant Authorities.
20 Definitions, Drawings and Interpretation

20.1 Definitions

In this Customer Contract, the defined terms have the same meaning as those provided in the Operating Licence and the Act, where available. All other words have the meanings provided below.

Where terms used in the Customer Contract are defined in the Act, these terms are defined by reference to the Act and a guidance note added to set out the meaning of the term. Guidance notes do not form part of the Customer Contract and may be updated by Hunter Water from time to time with the approval of IPART.

Account holder is taken to have the same meaning as ‘owner’ under the Act.


Approval means an approval, consent, lease, licence, permit or authority issued or required in respect of any matter referred to in this Customer Contract.

Area of operations means:

(a) the area specified in Schedule A to the Operating Licence; and

(b) the area referred to in section 16(1)(a) to (c) of the Act, but excludes the area referred to in section 16(2) of the Act.

Australian Consumer Law means the Australian Consumer Law as set out in Schedule 2 to the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Clth).

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) means the document titled Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 published by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council of Australia and New Zealand (as amended or updated from time to time).

Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling means the document titled Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks (Phase 1) 2006 and published by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and the Australian Health Ministers’ Conference (as amended or updated from time to time).

Authorised connection means a connection to our water infrastructure, our sewerage system or our stormwater infrastructure that has been approved by us in compliance with our Water Services Connections Standard, Wastewater Connections Standard or Trade Wastewater Standard and any conditions of approval.

Authorised standard connection means an authorised connection that is not a non-standard connection.

Authority means any government, semi-governmental, statutory, administrative, fiscal or judicial body, corporation, department, commission, authority, tribunal or other person.

Backflow prevention device means a device to prevent the reverse flow of water from potentially polluted source, into our water infrastructure.

Billing cycle means billing periods each of four months commencing on 1 July, 1 November, and 1 March each year.

CEP means common effluent pump, as described in the Wastewater Connection Standard.

Charges include any charges or fees payable under this Customer Contract or other agreement made between Hunter Water and a customer.

Complaint means an expression of dissatisfaction made by customers or consumers to Hunter Water in relation to its products or services, staff or the Complaint-handling process itself, where a response or resolution is reasonably expected (explicitly or implicitly) or legally required.

Connection point is where the private service from a property connects to our infrastructure.

Connection requirements means Hunter Water’s published requirements for connection to its infrastructure. These requirements are intended to ensure that there is adequate capacity for customer connection and that our infrastructure is protected against potential problems that could arise from defective or unauthorised connections and defective customer systems.

Critical customer means a customer that is dependent on drinking water supply to the extent that an interruption to drinking water supply poses an immediate and major health or safety risk and is included on our critical customer list.

Customer has the same meaning as under the Act.

[Note: Under the Act, “customer” means a person who is taken to have entered into a customer contract or a person who has made a contract with the Corporation of a kind referred to in section 37 of the Act.]

Customer Contract means this contract, being the contract referred to in section 36(1) of the Act.

Declared stormwater drainage area means an area within our area of operations declared by order of the Governor under section 46 of the Act to be a drainage area.
Defective or Defective works means an issue, blockage or leakage from your system or into our infrastructure that impacts, or poses a risk to, the operation of our water infrastructure, sewerage system, stormwater infrastructure or the environment and defective has the same meaning.

Disconnect or Disconnection means the stopping (either temporarily or permanently) of the services to your property.

Dispute means an unresolved complaint escalated internally or externally or both.

Drinking Water means water intended primarily for human consumption but which has other personal, domestic or household uses such as bathing and showering, in accordance with the health related guidelines in the ADWG.

Drinking water service means the drinking water service we are permitted to provide by the Operating Licence and any applicable Law in respect to the collection, storage, treatment, conveyance, reticulation or supply of drinking water.

Dry weather wastewater overflow means an overflow resulting from a blockage in the sewerage system (e.g. caused by tree root invasion or pipe collapse), an electrical or mechanical failure or other system problem not related to transporting excess wastewater flows during wet weather.

Emergency (faults and leaks) Assistance Line is 1300 657 000.

Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW or EWON means the NSW industry complaints scheme for the water industry of that name and any successor to that scheme.

Enquiry means a written or verbal question by or on behalf of a customer which can be satisfied by providing information, advice, assistance, clarification, explanation or referral.


Financial hardship means situations where a customer is unable to pay all or some of the account or is unable to pay by the due date.

Fire service means a water service constructed to meet fire protection requirements under the relevant Law.

General Enquiry Process means the process of making general enquiries to us by means of any of the following methods: online enquiry form; email; post; telephone; in person, using the contact details notified by us from time to time on our website: www.hunterwater.com.au. Refer to clause 1.4.

Hunter Water Regulation means the Hunter Water Regulation 2015 enacted under the Act.

Infrastructure means any or all of our water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructures.

Insolvency Event means where:

(a) the customer informs us in writing or creditors generally that the customer is insolvent or is unable to meet its financial commitments;

(b) a notice is given of a meeting of creditors with a view to the customer entering a deed of company arrangement;

(c) a controller, administrator, liquidator, provisional liquidator, receiver or receiver and manager is appointed;

(d) the customer enters a deed of company arrangement with creditors;

(e) an application is made to a court for the winding up of the customer and it is not stayed within a further 10 Business Days;

(f) a winding up order is made in respect of the customer;

(g) the customer resolves by special resolution that it be wound up voluntarily;

(h) a mortgagee of the property takes possession of that property, or

(i) the customer takes or suffers in any place, any step or action analogous to any of those mentioned in clauses (a) to (h).


Law means any requirement of any primary or subordinate legislation, rule or common law, present or future and whether state, federal or otherwise.

Low drinking water pressure means where your drinking water pressure at the connection point to Hunter Water’s drinking water service is below 20m head of pressure for a continuous period of 30 minutes or more unless:
i. as a result of a supply interruption;

ii. water usage by authorised fire authorities in the case of a fire; or

iii. on a day when peak day demand exceeds 370 megalitres per day. It is measured either by:

(a) customer notification and confirmation by Hunter Water field testing, or

(b) Hunter Water’s systems or modelling.

Maintenance includes repairs and replacement, and, where relevant, testing and inspection.

Major operational incident means an event which causes any of our infrastructure to fail.

Meter is the device used to measure the water usage and includes any remote reading equipment and associated wiring, power, plumbing and servicing equipment but excludes the assembly.

Minister means the Minister responsible for the Act, which at the commencement date is the Minister for Energy and Utilities.

NCAT means the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal established under the Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 (NSW).

Non-residential customer is a customer who is not a residential customer and includes a customer who owns property providing commercial residential services (for example, boarding houses, caravan parks, hotels, hostels, mobile home villages and motels).

Non-residential property means property that is not residential property.

Non-standard connection means a non-standard water connection or a non-standard wastewater connection.

Non-standard water connections or non-standard wastewater connections means a connection to a property that does not have a direct frontage to our water infrastructure or our sewerage system or is connected directly to a trunk water main.

NSW Health means the NSW Ministry of Health.

Operating Licence has the same meaning provided in the Act.

(Note: Under the Act, an operating licence means an operating licence granted (to us) under section 12 or any renewal of it.)

Owner has the same meaning provided in section 3 of the Act.

(Note: Under the Act, owner, in relation to land, includes every person who jointly or severally at law or in equity: (a) is entitled to the land for an estate of freehold in possession, or (b) is a person to whom the Crown has contracted to sell the land under the Crown Lands Act 1989 (NSW) or any other Act relating to alienation of land of the Crown, or (c) is entitled to receive, or receives, or if the land were let to a tenant would receive, the rents and profits of the land, whether as beneficial owner, trustee, mortgagee in possession or otherwise, and, in relation to land of the Crown, means the Crown but does not include a person who, or a class of persons that, is specified by a regulation not to be an owner for the purposes of this definition, either generally or in a particular case or class of cases.)

Path tap means the tap on the meter assembly.

Payment arrangement means any type of payment assistance set out in clause 10 of this Customer Contract.

Penalty notice means an infringement notice issued in response to a breach of the Act, the Customer Contract or the Hunter Water Regulation.

Personal information has the same meaning as under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW).

Planned interruption means an interruption to a service initiated by us to allow maintenance to be undertaken and for which notice has been given to you.

Pressure sewerage system means a system where individual pumps located in collection tanks on private property are used to pump wastewater to our sewerage system.

Private joint service means a single connection point to our main which serves more than one property.

Property means real property within the area of operations, excluding public property, which is owned by a person (whether individually or otherwise) and, for the avoidance of any doubt, includes the following:

(a) an individual dwelling or individual premises used for any purpose, which forms part of the land; and

(b) a lot in a strata plan that is registered under the Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 (NSW)

Public Property means real property vested in or under the control of a Minister of the Crown or public authority, and excludes any part of that property which is leased, licensed or used for private purpose.

Recycled Water means water that has been treated to a standard suitable for its intended end use such as industrial, commercial and/or household applications but is not intended for use as drinking water.
Recycled water area is the geographical area occupied by a community or communities supplied with recycled water through a pipe network separate from the drinking water system.

Recycled water infrastructure includes any of our infrastructure that is, or is intended to be, used for:

(a) the collection or storage of recycled water and includes the connection point;

(b) the conveyance or reticulation of recycled water;

(c) the treatment of recycled water, including any outfall pipe or other work that stores or conveys recycled water leaving the infrastructure used for the treatment of recycled water; and

(d) any other infrastructure used in connection with recycled water

(e) but does not include any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated downstream of your connection point to our recycled water infrastructure.

Recycled water service means the services we are permitted to provide by the Operating Licence and any applicable Law in respect to the collection, storage, treatment, conveyance, reticulation, supply or disposal of recycled water.

Residential customer means a customer who owns residential property.

Residential property is property that is the customer’s principal place of residence or that is categorised as residential under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Restrict or Restriction means a direct intervention in the water service by Hunter Water in order to reduce flow to a customer’s property.

[Note: See separate and unrelated definition for “Water restrictions”]

Separate agreements are agreements covering arrangements such as non-standard water connections, non-standard wastewater connections, trade waste connections or recycled water connections.

Service charge is a charge for being connected to our infrastructure.

Services means supplying water (excluding unfiltered water), providing sewerage and stormwater services, and disposing of wastewater.

Sewerage system includes any of our infrastructure that is, or is intended to be, used for:

(a) the collection or storage of wastewater and includes the connection point;

(b) the conveyance or reticulation of wastewater;

(c) the treatment of wastewater, including any outfall pipe or other work that stores or conveys wastewater leaving the infrastructure used for the treatment of wastewater; or

(d) any other infrastructure used in connection with sewerage services and trade waste services but does not include any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated upstream of your connection point to our sewerage system.

Stormwater means the water collected, stored and transported via the stormwater infrastructure.

Stormwater infrastructure means the drainage channels, pipes, detention structures, and quality improvement devices and other equipment that we use to provide stormwater services.

Stormwater services means the services we are permitted to provide by the Operating Licence and any applicable Law with respect to drainage.

Trade waste means any liquid, and any material contained in any liquid, which:

(a) is produced on or stored at any non-residential property;

(b) is produced or stored on, or transported by, any vehicle (including, without limitation, motor vehicles, planes, boats and trains);

(c) is comprised of waste from a portable toilet or septic tank;

(d) is comprised of run-off from an area that is contaminated within the meaning of section 5 of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (NSW), or

(e) contains any substance classified as a restricted substance in our Trade Wastewater Standard.

Trade waste service means the services we are permitted to provide by the Operating Licence and any applicable Law in respect to the collection, storage, treatment, conveyance, or disposal of trade waste.

Trade Wastewater Standard means the standard by this name published on our website from time to time.

Unauthorised connection includes where you:

(a) connect to our infrastructure without our approval;

(b) do not comply with all conditions of connection we have set;

(c) do not comply with the conditions in our Customer Contract or your separate agreement;

(d) do not install a meter on a new water service connection before you start using the water;
(e) do not install backflow prevention devices appropriate for the hazard rating of the property in accordance with our Backflow Prevention Standard, test it, send the results to us and fix any defects; or

(f) discharge wastewater or trade waste without our written permission or breach your trade waste discharge standards or do not meet requirements for trade waste pre-treatment equipment.

Unauthorised works means the placement of any works and structures over Hunter Water Assets, including any of the works referred to in our Building Over and Adjacent to Assets Standard that require our prior approval or consent and such approval or consent has not been obtained.

Unfiltered water means dam water that is dosed with chlorine but is not filtered or otherwise treated.

Unplanned interruption means an interruption to the services due to:

a) emergencies;

b) events beyond our control;

c) a situation where we need to avert danger to any person or property; or

d) faults in our infrastructure, and

e) for which no notice has been given to you.

Wastewater means any discarded water, whether clean or contaminated, that is discharged into the sewerage system.

Wastewater Connection Standard means the standard by this name published on our website from time to time.

Wastewater discharge factor is an estimate of the volume of wastewater discharged by you into our sewerage system usually expressed as a percentage of water measured by our meters as delivered to your property or otherwise determined in accordance with clause 9.9.2.

Wastewater overflow means a discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater from our sewerage system. These overflows may occur in wet or dry weather.

Water infrastructure includes any of our infrastructure that is, or is intended to be, used:

(a) for the collection or storage of water, including from a dam or reservoir or a water production plant;

(b) for the treatment of water;

(c) for the conveyancing or reticulation of water and includes the connection point; or

(d) in connection with water services, but does not include any pipe, fitting or apparatus that is situated downstream of your connection point to our water infrastructure.

Water restrictions means a restriction on the use of water provided for in, or notified under, the Act or the Hunter Water Regulation.

Water service means the service we are permitted to provide by the Operating Licence and any applicable Law in respect to the collection, storage, treatment, conveyance, reticulation or supply of water.

Water Services Connections Standard means the standard by this name published on our website from time to time.

WIC Act means the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (NSW).

Your system(s) means your wastewater system and/or your water system.

Your wastewater system means the pipes, fittings and other connected accessories required for or incidental to the discharge or conveyance of wastewater to our sewerage system, but does not include our sewerage system.

Your water system means the pipes, fittings, meters (except those owned by us) and other connected accessories required for or incidental to the supply and measurement of water provided by us, but does not include our water infrastructure.

20.2 Interpretation

In this Customer Contract, the following interpretations apply:

(a) a reference to a person includes a natural person, corporation, statutory corporation, partnership, the Crown and any other organisation or legal entity;

(b) one gender includes the other;

(c) a party includes the party’s executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns and where there are two or more parties, jointly and severally;

(d) the Law includes legislation, regulations, licences, orders, mandatory codes, permits and directions;

(e) a business day is a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in New South Wales;

(f) a statute, regulation or provision of a statute or regulation (statutory provision) includes:

(i) that statutory provision as amended or re-enacted from time to time;

(ii) a statute, regulation or provision enacted in replacement of that statutory provision;

(iii) another regulation or other statutory instrument made or issued under that statutory provision;
(g) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
(h) including and similar expressions are not words of limitation;
(i) a reference to a clause or schedule is a reference to a clause of or a schedule to this Customer Contract;
(j) a reference to a contract or document (including without limitation, a reference to this Customer Contract) is a reference to this Customer Contract or document or any document which varies, supplements, replaces, assigns or novates that document;
(k) where a word or expression is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning;
(l) headings and any table of contents or index are for convenience only and do not form part of this Customer Contract or affect its interpretation;
(m) a provision of this Customer Contract must not be construed to the disadvantage of a party merely because that party was responsible for the preparation of this Customer Contract or the inclusion of the provision in this Customer Contract;
(n) if an act must be done on a specified business day which is not a business day, it must be done instead on the next business day;
(o) money is to Australian dollars, unless otherwise stated;
(p) if there is any inconsistency between this Customer Contract and any Law, the Law will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency;
(q) a reference to a party, clause, paragraph, schedule or annexure is a reference to a party, clause, paragraph, schedule or annexure to or of this Customer Contract;
(r) a reference to a party in a document includes that party’s successors and permitted assigns;
(s) a reference to any legislation includes all amendments, consolidations, replacements and legislation applying to the same or similar subject matter and all regulations or instruments issued under it;
(t) an agreement on the part of two or more persons binds them jointly and severally; and
(u) a reference to a notice, consent, request, approval or other communication under this Customer Contract means a written notice, request, consent, approval or agreement.

We, our or us means Hunter Water Corporation.
You or your means our customer for the purpose of this Customer Contract.
20.3 Drawings

Figure 20.3.1  Typical water system maintenance responsibilities for an authorised standard connection

NOTE: The water meter may be located more than one metre inside your property. If this is the case, Hunter Water’s maintenance responsibility extends only one metre along the pipe from the property boundary in any direction (i.e. total length horizontally and vertically is one metre). The path tap is your maintenance responsibility if it is further inside your boundary.

20.3 Drawings

Figure 20.3.2  Typical wastewater system maintenance responsibilities for an authorised standard connection

NOTE: The connection point may have been installed outside your property boundary.
**Figure 20.3.3**  Typical Hunter Water Pressure Sewerage System (HWPSS) maintenance responsibilities

**Figure 20.3.4**  Typical Private Pressure Sewerage System (PPSS) maintenance responsibilities