

Policy

Fire Meter Charging Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the charging arrangements for meters connected to Urban Utilities' drinking water supply network that are used for firefighting purposes.

Applicability of the Policy

This is a strategic policy. This is also an external policy, available to customers and the public on our website.

Scope

This policy applies to all water services connected to Urban Utilities' drinking water supply network that are used for firefighting purposes.

Related Legislation

- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*
- *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*
- *Building Act 1975*

Policy Statement

Recognising Urban Utilities' key role as a drinking water service provider, its legal obligations and customer service standards in relation to the provision of drinking water services to customers, the physical constraints of the drinking water supply network and the economic cost to customers of providing additional network capacity for firefighting purposes, where it is reasonably believed that water drawn from a firefighting system is not used for firefighting purposes, Urban Utilities will charge customers with meters connected to Urban Utilities' drinking water supply network. This will be undertaken in accordance with the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and as per Table 1 below.

Meter Configuration	Charges	Charge description
Dedicated Fire Meter	Volume Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water consumption up to a threshold of 3kL per quarter will not be charged. A different threshold, either higher or lower, will apply where, at Urban Utilities' discretion, the 3kL threshold is not considered appropriate Any consumption above the threshold amount will be charged to the customer and will be included in the water volume and associated sewage disposal charge calculations. A letter notifying the customer that consumption above the threshold has been recorded and charged will be sent to the customer with the corresponding bill If the customer establishes that usage above the threshold was for firefighting purposes, the amount used for firefighting purposes will be rebated (both the Urban Utilities water volume and sewage disposal charges, including bulk water charges). Where consumption is over 30kL for two consecutive billing periods, Urban Utilities will at its discretion conduct an onsite investigation to determine if any of the consumption relates to firefighting purposes. Where the investigation determines the consumption was not related to firefighting purposes, the meter will be changed to a Combined Potable/Fire meter for billing purposes.
	Service Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service charges will not be applied. The meter will be excluded from any calculation of the Flow Capacity Factor.
Combined Potable/Fire Meter	Volume Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All measured consumption will be used in calculating water volume and sewage disposal charges. If the customer establishes that some or all of the water consumption was for firefighting purposes, the amount used for firefighting purposes will be rebated (both the Urban Utilities water volume and sewage disposal charges, including bulk water charges).
	Service Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service charges will be applied in full. The meter will be included for calculation of the Flow Capacity Factor.

In accordance with the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, Urban Utilities does not charge for water consumption used for firefighting purposes. It is the customer's responsibility to provide evidence of water consumption for firefighting purposes to Urban Utilities. Suitable evidence includes:

- Prescribed forms (specifically Form 72) submitted to the Department of Housing and Public Works (*Queensland Development Code MP6.1* and Section 30 of the *Building Act 1975 (Qld)*) after testing has been undertaken
- Records of maintenance of fire safety installations (Section 55 of the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008 (Qld)*),
- Occupier's statements (Section 55A of the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008 (Qld)*), and
- Any other mandatory records relating to fire hydrant and sprinkler system testing and maintenance at the customers' premises.

Definitions

Combined Fire Meter	A meter connected to Urban Utilities' drinking water supply network that is used for both potable supply and for firefighting purposes.
Dedicated Fire Meter	A meter connected to Urban Utilities' drinking water supply network that is solely for firefighting purposes.
Firefighting purposes	As defined in Schedule 3 of the <i>Water Supply Act 2008</i> , this includes training for firefighting and testing firefighting equipment. Also includes actual firefighting activities. A leak on a dedicated or combined fire meter is not considered usage for firefighting purposes

Related Documents

Internal Documents

- REF291 Water Netserv Plan
- POL62 Asset Management Policy
- REF801 Private Fire Systems Guideline
- POL90 Fire Flow Policy
- Urban Utilities Residential Customer Charter
- MAN116 Urban Utilities Pricing Guide

External Documents

- Department of Energy and Water Supply Planning Guidelines for Water Supply and Sewerage
- SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or in accordance with changes to relevant legislation or business objectives.

Authorising Officer

Urban Utilities Board