

Water Pedestal Levy Charges

I wanted to bring to the Commission's attention a discrepancy in charges levied upon Aged Care providers for utilities, in particular a "Pedestal Levy" charged by water suppliers.

Warrigal Care is a Not For Profit- Registered Charity Aged Care provider with operations across NSW that are located in various local government areas. There is provision within legislation for suppliers of water & sewerage to levy organisations for infrastructure and services. One such charge is the "Pedestal Levy" which both Sydney Water Corporation and some councils pass on to organisations, whether for profit or not.

The issue I wish to bring to the Commission's attention is in the differences in the levy charged. One such example is between Sydney Water and Queanbeyan City Council;

- Sydney Water = \$23.84 per pedestal per quarter
- Queanbeyan City Council = \$83.00 per pedestal per quarter

Whilst it is acknowledged that such levies allow for ongoing investments in infrastructure, there appears little logic to charges based upon the number of pedestals over water volume usage.

Example: 1 toilet shared between 10 residents will be used at the same rate and generate the same water volume as one toilet per resident.

I request that the Productivity Commission examine this issue and seek a review of pedestal levies by the Water Regulatory Authority in each State & territory.

kind regards
Ian Price
Warrigal Care