



CHANGES TO THE USE OF SHIRE WATER STANDPIPES FROM 1 JULY 2019

The Shire of Narrogin currently has nine (9) fixed water standpipes located within the Shire for use by the Shire, for fire fighting purposes and the community. Earlier in the year the Water Corporation contacted rural Western Australian Local Government Authorities (LGA) and advised them that as of 1 July 2019, new water charges will apply to fixed standpipes based on the category of the standpipe and requested that all LGA categorise their standpipes.

The Water Corporation presented options for LGAs to categorise their standpipes into, for the purpose of water usage billing. These options were discussed at Council's 26 September meeting. To view Council minutes please use this link <https://www.narrogin.wa.gov.au/documents/minutes/2018-minutes>

Summary

Due to the significant increase in the commercial service water charges being introduced by the Water Corporation, the Shire of Narrogin has chosen to classify eight (8) of the nine (9) existing standpipes as Local Authority standpipes and padlock them using the Shires standard fire control padlocks as of 1 July 2019. These standpipes can only be used by the Shire, during emergency fire events and declared times of drought. By doing so, the Shire will be able to conduct future road construction and maintenance programs without significant increases in water costs. Water availability for a fire emergency will remain the same, with all Fire Control Officers (FCO's) being issued with a key to unlock the fire control padlocks.

The need to have a standpipe to provide water to the community is important. The standpipe identified to provide this service is to be the one located on Highbury West Road near the intersection of Chomley Road Narrogin. This standpipe will be classed as a commercial standpipe for the purchase of water and will attract a higher charge for water consumption than that of the eight (8) other Local Authority standpipes.

Customers wishing to purchase water from the commercial standpipe will be able to via an electronic standpipe management system using a swipe card. Swipe cards are available for purchase at the Shire's administration office for \$20. These swipe cards can be credited by attending the Shires administration building in person or by phoning the Shire and requesting staff to credit your swipe card (credit card details will need to be given over the phone). The cost of water from the standpipe is \$6.54 per kilolitre (1000 litres).

For firefighting access, nominated Shire staff will remotely switch the commercial standpipe system to "Fire Mode" whereby the need for a swipe card is not required and water is available to fight fires. There is no charge for water used during a fire event.

The proposed changes in water charges by the Water Corporation on rural fixed water standpipes have necessitated LGA to make changes on the way they manage their standpipe assets so as to:

- Recognise that water is a valuable, but scarce commodity;
- Provide a cost efficient standpipe service to the public and other users with a user pay system that can be effectively monitored;
- Provide water during fire emergencies; and
- Provide water to farmers in times of declared drought.

The changes to standpipes will take effect from 1 July 2019.

[Answers to frequently asked questions are available.](#)

Should you need further clarification or wish to comment then please direct your emails to enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au or contact Torre Evans on 9890 0900