

## Central Highlands Water – Outcomes – 2018–2023

*In this document, the water business provides a summary report of its actual performance against each of its outcome commitments **for the 2022-23 reporting year i.e. 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**. The business has given itself a “traffic light” rating (green = met target, red = not met, yellow = close or largely met) for its performance on each measure, outcome and an overall rating. The business has provided its own comments about its performance on each outcome and overall. Following customer consultation, updated targets for 6 Outputs and 1 new Output is included in this table, effective from 1 July 2020.*

### Summary table

Outcome	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
1. Better customer experience	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
2. Safe clean drinking water that tastes great	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3. Reliable and sustainable water and sewer systems	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4. More efficient water use	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
5. Increased value for money	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Overall	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow

## Business comments

We rated our overall performance as yellow for 2022-23 as the majority of Outcomes were largely met.

### Updated Outputs apply from 2020-21

The Outputs were reviewed in consultation with our Customer Advisory Panel and the ESC with a number of adjustments to apply from 1 July 2020. This resulted in the targets to 6 Outputs being refreshed and 1 new Output being created. A full description of this process is included in the Appendix and a short description to the changes is included following each Outcome.

The changes shown are highlighted in the Outcomes table as follows:

Change

Removal of information

Explanatory note

### Outcome 1: Better customer experience

Output	Unit		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
a Online self-service account access implemented by December 2018	Pass/fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
b Accounts using e-billing <i>Note: Reset new baseline of 17,778 from end of 2019-20 and increase by 20% p.a.</i>	Number	Target	–	NA	8,028	9,634	11,560 21,336	13,872 25,603	16,647 30,723
		Actual	NA	6,690	11,184	17,778	23,769	27,926	35,698
c Accounts using direct debit <i>Note: Reset new baseline of 5,106 from end of 2019-20 and increase by 10% p.a.</i>	Number	Target	–	NA	5,116	6,139	7,366 5,616	8,840 6,178	10,608 6,796
		Actual	NA	4,263	4,662	5,106	5,440	8,004	8,373
d Online two-way, digital communications channels implemented by June 2019	Pass/fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
e Telephone contacts per year	Number	Target	–	NA	46,744	44,407	42,186	40,076	38,629
		Actual	55,316	49,204	42,635	38,362	30,366	31,484	34,038
f Website traffic – number of hits-users sessions per year. Develop new measure and agreed baseline by 30 June 2019 <i>Note: Change measure to 'sessions. Reset baseline from 131,912 from end of 2019-20 and increase by 15% p.a.</i>	Number	Target	–	NA	Pass	97,724	117,269 151,698	140,723 174,453	168,867 200,620
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	94,120	160,898	140,333	131,206

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g	Online platform satisfaction – develop new measure and agreed baseline by 30 June 2019	Average score out of 10	Target	–	NA	Pass	6.5	On track	On track	7.2
			Actual	NA	NA	Pass	4.6 Off track	3.5 Off track	6.0	No longer measurable
h	Functionality available for customer alerts via SMS or email for planned and unplanned water supply interruptions by December 2018	Pass/fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
			Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
i	Customer interruptions that an SMS/email notification is sent <i>Note: No change to targets, only calculation definition</i>	Percentage	Target	–	NA	NA	60%	70%	80%	90%
			Actual	0	NA	NA	4%	60%	89%	80%
j	Top three customer priorities identified annually by March	Pass/fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
			Actual	NA	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
k	Customer submission of online forms <i>Note: This is a new measure commencing 1 July 2021. The measure excludes 'Contact us' form submissions. Commence annual target of 5% increase from estimated baseline of 3,500 from 2020-21</i>		Target	-	-	-	-	3,675	3,858	4,051
			Actual	-	-	-	-	4,966	4,915	9,678

Overall Outcome 1 performance for the regulatory period:



### Business comment

We rated the overall performance as yellow, which is similar to last year.

1f Website sessions decreased again this period.

- 1g The website customer satisfaction rating is no longer able to be measured as a change to a new external website supplier did not provide for the functionality to support this capability.
- 1i Decrease in notifications due to a number of issues including a large number of interruptions during multiple flood events.

### **Notes on the updated Output targets from 1 July 2020**

1b Accounts using e-billing

As the initial targets were achieved by customers showing great support for the new service, the baseline was reset from 1 July 2020, maintaining the target of 20% p.a. increase.

1c Accounts using direct debit

The baseline was reset from 1 July 2020 in line with decreased demand from customers for this service, maintaining the target of 10% p.a. increase.

1f Website traffic

The website traffic measure was changed from 'users' to 'sessions' to ensure a better representation of traffic to the site. The target growth rate was reduced from 20% p.a. to 15% p.a. in line with anticipated growth.

1i Customer interruptions that an SMS/email notification is sent

No change was made to the annual targets, only the number of unplanned interruptions that qualify for a notification consistent with customer preference. See Appendix for further detail.

1k Customer submission of online forms

This is a new measure that reflects the increasing capability of our website and customer preference to self-serve through the website using a range of self-completion online forms such as: Change of tenancy, Direct Debit request, Events booking, Information Statement Request, Register for Concession and Update your details etc. A baseline of 3,500 p.a. based on current experience with an increase of 5% p.a. commenced 1 July 2020.

**Outcome 2: Safe clean drinking water that tastes great**

Output	Unit		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
a Number of Safe Drinking Water Act non-compliances (water sampling and audit)	Number	Target	–	NA	0	0	0	0	0
		Actual	3	1	0	0	1	2	2
b Options for improved water quality of small towns – summary report for priority small towns published by:	Learmonth: July 2018	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Waubra: February 2019	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Clunes: November 2019	Target	–	NA	On track	Pass	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	On track	Pass	NA	NA	NA
c Customer satisfaction with water quality via CHW survey	Average score out of 10	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	7.8
		Actual	7.1	NA	7.5 On track	7.4 On track	8.6 On track	7.8 On track	7.9
d Water quality complaints	Number	Target	–	NA	152	144	137	130	124
		Actual	160	141	116	83	70	88	84

Overall Outcome 2 performance for the regulatory period:



## Business comment

The majority of Outputs have been met during the year which helps ensure customers receive and recognise high quality water.

2a Central Highlands Water achieved a high level of compliance with the drinking water quality standards, as detailed in Regulation 12 of the *Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015*, across its supply systems, with the following exceptions:

1. *E.coli* detected in Buninyong tank 14 February 2023
2. March 2023 water quality audit non-compliance re water sampling

## Notes on the updated Output targets from 1 July 2020

No changes were made.

### Outcome 3: Reliable and sustainable water and sewer systems

Output	Unit		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
a Implement key actions of Ballarat Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	Pass
		Actual	NA	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	Pass
b Publish Maryborough IWM Plan by 1 December 2019	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	On track	Pass	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	On track	Pass	NA	NA	NA
c Publish Daylesford IWM Plan by 1 December 2021	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	Pass	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	On track	On track	On track	Pass	NA
d Communicate Long-term Water Security Plan – Produce and publish plan by 1 December annually	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
e Sewer spills inside customer house <small>Guaranteed Service Level rebate of \$750 applies</small>	Number	Target	–	NA	0	0	0	0	0
		Actual	1	3	2	4	5	2	2
f Unplanned water supply interruptions restored within 5 hours	Percentage	Target	–	NA	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%
		Actual	95%	94%	92%	95%	94%	95%	93%
g Sewer supply interruptions restored within 5 hours	Percentage	Target	–	NA	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
		Actual	93%	98%	97%	97%	99%	99%	96%
h	Number	Target	–	NA	0	0	0	0	0



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Number of customers receiving more than 5 unplanned water supply interruptions in the year		<b>Actual</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
i	Number of customers receiving 3 or more sewer supply interruptions in the year	Number	Target	–	NA	3	3	3	3	3
			Actual	3	5	2	0	2	2	1
j	Greenhouse gas emissions	Tonne CO <sub>2</sub> e	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	15,505
			Actual	18,336	15,076	17,380 On track	14,976 On track	13,557 On track	15,483 On track	14,117 Pass

Overall Outcome 3 performance for the regulatory period:



### Business comment

Overall this Outcome was largely achieved.

### Notes on the updated Output targets from 1 July 2020


#### 3e Sewer spills inside customer house

A note was added confirming that these customers received a significantly increased Guaranteed Service Level rebate of \$750 - which is greater than the annual Wastewater Service Fee.

One sewer spill p.a. will attract a colour grading of yellow. Any more than one incidence will be graded red.

**Outcome 4: More efficient water use**

Output	Unit		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
a Digital Metering program - No of digital meters (replace all meters with digital meters by 2022-23)	Number	Target	–	NA	Targets to be established with project scope				
		Actual	0	NA	On track	On track	On track	See note	See note
b Average household water consumption	kL	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	145
		Actual	150	157	160 On track	151 On track	146 On track	147 On track	141 Pass
c Non-Revenue Water	Percentage	Target	–	11%	On track	On track	On track	On track	9%
		Actual	11%	10.5%	10.4% On track	10.2% On track	11.7% Off track	10.8%	9.1% Pass
d Rainwater Tank Installations Rainwater Tank Rebates	Number	Target	–	NA	≥100	≥100	≥100	≥100	≥100
		Actual	0	NA	387	606	1,168	≥100	≥100

Overall Outcome 4 performance for the regulatory period: 

4a After a detailed tender process to identify a supplier for the Provision and Installation of a Digital Metering Solution, CHW did not award a contract and decided to terminate the procurement process. CHW continued to seek a provider of a digital metering solution and issued a new Request for Tender, released Monday 16 May 2022. CHW has entered into a contract with SUEZ Water Pty Ltd to upgrade our fleet of existing water meters across the entire service region with fully integrated digital meters. The new technology will be rolled out over 3 years commencing mid-2023.

4d This result has previously been obtained from Plumbing Compliance Certificate records, sourced from an external agency. This data is no longer available. However, given the strong performance of rainwater tank installations over the first 3 years and the high level of new housing developments of the past 2 years, we are confident the target has been easily reached.

Overall this Outcome was achieved.

### **Notes on the updated Output targets from 1 July 2020**

4d Rainwater Tank Rebates

The title of the Output was changed to 'Rainwater Tank Installations'. This change reflects the variety of means that tanks are now being installed following changes to the Land Development process, where subdivisions greater than 10 are required to have a rainwater tank installed by the developer. The change signals a more accurate measure of the intent of the original Output – for CHW to facilitate the installation of rainwater tanks on houses and encourage sustainable and efficient water use.

### Outcome 5: Increased value for money

Output	Unit		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
a No individual tariff to increase greater than CPI annually	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
b 2018-19 wastewater service fee frozen	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
c Customer perception of value for money via CHW survey	Average score out of 10	Target	–	NA	On track	On track	On track	On track	7.6
		Actual	6.9	NA	7.1 On track	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.0
d Produce and publish community amenity plan by 1 December 2018	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
e Assist vulnerable customers – develop early intervention strategy and targets by 30 June 2018	Pass/Fail	Target	–	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	NA	NA	NA	NA

Overall Outcome 5 performance for the regulatory period:



### Business comment

5b Note the target for the Wastewater Service Fee for years beyond 2018-19 should be NA as the measure only applied to 2018-19.

5c The value for money target was not achieved.

Overall this Outcome was nearly achieved.

**Updated Output target**

No changes made.

## APPENDIX

### Updated Output targets

The Outcomes table highlights the changes Central Highlands Water (CHW) has made to six Outputs, including the creation of one new Output commencing 1 July 2020. This was the result of a detailed review of performance and in consultation with our Customer Advisory Panel. These changes and the process followed are consistent with the ESC’s expectation that the Outputs should be reviewed as per the following:<sup>1</sup>

- *Outcome commitments were not meant to be fixed for a regulatory period – we envisaged a dynamic process*
- *Expanding and refining Outcomes commitments can be done at any time*
- *Continue to engage with your customers – it is an ongoing process*
- *Seek customer feedback and demonstrate how customer priorities continue to be reflected in your Outcome commitments*

The following changes will apply from the 2020-21 financial year (i.e. from 1 July 2020), which is the third year of the regulatory period. The changes and rationale are summarised in the following table. The changes are incorporated into the Outcomes table.

Output measure	Change	Rationale
<b>1b Accounts using e-billing</b>	Reset baseline from 2020-21	The performance target of 20% p.a. has been easily surpassed so it makes sense to reset the baseline. (Refer to extract from 2019-20 Outcomes Report below 1c).
<b>1c Accounts using direct debit</b>	Reset baseline from 2020-21 and reduce target from 20% p.a. to 10% p.a. increase.	Customers have shown a clear preference to sign up for e-billing in preference to direct debit. The reduction in the target is closer to existing performance.
2017-18    18-19    19-20    20-21    21-22    22-23		

<sup>1</sup> ESC (2020). *Outcomes reporting workshop*. 6 July 2020

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Output measure	Change	Rationale								
<b>b Accounts using e-billing</b> Note increase of 59% compared to target of 20% p.a.	Number	Target	–	NA	8,028	9,634	11,560	13,872	16,647	
		Actual	NA	6,690	11,184	17,778				
<b>c Accounts using direct debit</b> Propose to adjust target from 20% p.a. to 10% p.a. to reflect change in customer preferences	Number	Target	–	NA	5,116	6,139	7,366	8,840	10,608	
		Actual	NA	4,263	4,662	5,106				
<b>1f Website traffic</b>	- Clarify measure regarding hits, users or sessions. ‘Sessions’ will be adopted as a more accurate measure.  - Reduce target from 20% p.a. to 15% p.a.	There is an opportunity to re-examine and realign the actual measure and to reduce the target more in line with actual demand.								
<b>f Website traffic – number of hits users per year.</b> Develop new measure and agreed baseline by 30 June 2019 Propose to adjust target from 20% p.a. to 15% p.a.	Number	Target	–	NA	Pass	97,724	117,269	140,723	168,867	
		Actual	NA	NA	Pass	94,120				
<b>1i Customer interruptions notified using SMS/email</b>	Grade service interruptions to <u>not</u> receive notification based upon three factors:  i. Time of day (between 11pm and 6am) - to avoid unnecessary overnight interruption to customers	The original 2017 Customer Forum envisaged a ‘grading of interruptions’ to influence CHW’s subsequent response.  The gradings are the result of a thorough review of CHW processes and data. No change to the notification targets will be made, only the unplanned interruptions that qualify for SMS/email notification.								

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Output measure	Change	Rationale																				
	<p>ii. Number of customers (outages which effect five or less customers) - as these customers will be notified manually by operations crews</p> <p>iii. duration (outages which last less than 45 minutes) - as these are restored before the notification can be distributed</p>	A review of the notification process has been adopted as a specific business project to ensure improved performance against the target.																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">i. Customer interruptions that an SMS/email notification is sent</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Percentage</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Target</th> <th style="width: 10%;">–</th> <th style="width: 10%;">NA</th> <th style="width: 10%;">NA</th> <th style="width: 10%;">60%</th> <th style="width: 10%;">70%</th> <th style="width: 10%;">80%</th> <th style="width: 10%;">90%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Propose to grade interruptions that receive notification re: overnight interruptions, extent and duration as per initial customer discussions regarding this service</td> <td></td> <td>Actual</td> <td>0</td> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> <td style="background-color: red;">4%</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			i. Customer interruptions that an SMS/email notification is sent	Percentage	Target	–	NA	NA	60%	70%	80%	90%	Propose to grade interruptions that receive notification re: overnight interruptions, extent and duration as per initial customer discussions regarding this service		Actual	0	NA	NA	4%			
i. Customer interruptions that an SMS/email notification is sent	Percentage	Target	–	NA	NA	60%	70%	80%	90%													
Propose to grade interruptions that receive notification re: overnight interruptions, extent and duration as per initial customer discussions regarding this service		Actual	0	NA	NA	4%																
<b>1k Proposed new measure - Customer submission of online forms</b>	Introduce a new measure based on the submission of customer online forms (excluding 'Contact us'), increasing by 5% p.a.	Given the new website capability, CHW is now able to develop online forms in response to customer demand. This makes it easier for customers to self-serve at any time and is more efficient for CHW.																				



Output measure	Change	Rationale							
<b>k Customer submission of online forms</b> <i>Note: This is a new measure commencing 1 July 2021</i> <i>The measure excludes 'Contact us' form submissions.</i> <i>Commence annual target of 5% increase from estimated baseline of 3,500 from 2020-21</i>	Target	-	-	-	-	3,675	3,858	4,051	
	Actual	-	-	-	-				
<b>3e Sewer spills inside customer house</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate GSL payment of \$750 into definition.</li> <li>- A result of one incidence for a year (against a target of zero) will attract a 'yellow' traffic light performance rating i.e. target nearly met.</li> </ul>	CHW has recorded 2 and 4 sewer spills over the past two years against a target of zero, attracting a red 'traffic light' i.e. target not met.  Consistent with the ESC's guidance, customers can have input into determining traffic light measurements of future performance.							
<b>e Sewer spills inside customer house</b> <b>NOTE: A Guaranteed Service Level (GSL) payment of \$750 was also introduced with this measure in 2018-19</b>	Number	Target	-	NA	0	0	0	0	0
		Actual	1	3	2	4			
<b>4d Rainwater tank rebates</b>	Change Output heading from 'Rainwater tank rebates' to 'Rainwater tank installations'	This change reflects the variety of means that tanks are now being installed following changes to the Land Development process, where subdivisions greater than 10 are required to have a tank installed by the developer.							

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Output measure	Change	Rationale							
d Rainwater Tank Rebates	Number	Target	–	NA	≥100	≥100	≥100	≥100	≥100
Propose title change to 'Rainwater Tank Installations' as tanks are now being installed by a variety of means, particularly as a result of our agreement with Land Developers.		Actual	0	NA	387	606			