



# Media Release

## KEN SMITH MP

Member for Bass



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### Lower bills for Westernport Water customers

Ken Smith Member for Bass said customers of Westernport Water will save more than \$100 on their water bills over the next four years as a result of the Victorian Coalition Government's *Fairer Water Bills* initiative.

Customers would receive an annual bill rebate of \$23 on their first bill from 1 January 2015, rising progressively each year to \$30 in 2017-18.

"The Victorian Coalition Government is committed to driving down the cost of living and our *Fairer Water Bills* initiative is making a real difference to household budgets," Ken Smith said.

"We asked water corporations to provide advice on potential productivity and efficiency gains within their businesses which could be adopted to help deliver lower household water bills."

Brian Paynter Liberal Candidate for the Seat of Bass said "Westernport Water identified capital cost savings and operational cost savings which will be delivered without compromising service standards or existing hardship protections that assist vulnerable customers."

Westernport Water identified efficiencies such as:

- Using SMS technology to send bill reminders to customers, avoiding the use of debt recovery services;
- Collaborating with other water corporations to achieve joint efficiencies and to share learnings; and
- Use of early detection methods to treat algal bloom and avoid more expensive treatment.

Minister for Water Peter Walsh said *Fairer Water Bills* was delivering lower household bills after Labor's legacy of waste and mismanagement.

"I thank Westernport Water for working co-operatively with the Office of Living Victoria and with the independent review team, led by Professor Graeme Samuel AC, to save money for its customers," Mr Walsh said.

Westernport Water Chairman Trevor Nink said that the organisation would continue to seek efficiencies to ensure the most cost-effective services for its customers.

"Westernport Water has embraced the *Fairer Water Bills* initiative and is pleased to deliver reduced water bills," Mr Nink said.

For further information go to:

<http://www.westernportwater.com.au/ResidentialCustomers/FairerWaterBills/>

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