收入及水費釐定

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繼續凍結水費

自一九九五年二月起,大部分收費及水費均沒有增加。然而,只有某些類別收費,如 遠洋輪船的水費和一些服務的收費,曾於一九九六年作出調整。從水費所得的收入自 此只有輕微升幅。

對住宅用戶財政狀況的影響,以及公眾的意見,都是我們釐定水費時必須考慮的 重要因素之一。其他考慮因素,包括所定收費對消費物價指數的影響和收費應盡量消 除住宅用戶與其他類別用戶之間的補貼.

水費經常依賴政府從差餉收入撥出大量款項補貼,因此不足以反映食水的生產成本。水費的調整幅度往往只接近通脹率,未嘗因要收回全部成本而調高升幅。

由於每住戶每四個月可獲免費供水12立方米,若把不用繳交水費的16%住宅用戶計算在內,水費現時約只佔本港一般住宅用戶每月家庭總收入的0.2%,這比例為世界各大城市最低之一。

然而,政府現正考慮各種削減補貼的方法。

收費辦法

水務帳目的收入,分別來自一般水費、政府機構的水費、各項收費、牌費及代客戶進行工程,以及按金的帳面利息收入。

全港約230萬用戶當中,住宅用戶的水錶每四個月抄讀一次,而高耗水量的非住宅用戶則按月讀錶。

住宅用戶的水費分為四級,目的是採用遞增的水費結構,鼓勵市民節約用水。藉 著這個收費結構,過量耗水用戶所繳交的水費,便可補貼用水量較低的用戶。

第一級的用水量是免費的,每住戶每四個月可獲免費供水12立方米。這個供水額 一直是根據公屋住戶家庭的人數釐定,作為維持健康衛生所需的最低用水量。

第二級的用水量為每住戶每四個月31立方米,須按成本在扣除來自差餉的政府補 貼後收費。

第三級的用水量為19立方米,同樣須按每住戶每四個月的用水量計算,但完全沒有補貼。

水費收入(按用戶類別劃分)(百萬港元) Water Charge Received (By Sectors) (HK\$ Million)									
1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
908	995	1,039	1,089	1,052	1,038	1,044	986	938	942
567	664	748	926	1,012	1,118	1,138	1,185	1,245	1,266
97	97	108	127	141	164	150	143	149	158
130	149	155	179	204	219	224	206	196	202
1,702	1,905	2,050	2,321	2,409	2,539	2,556	2,520	2,528	2,568
	908 567 97	Water 1990/91 1991/92 908 995 567 664 97 97 130 149	Water Charge 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 908 995 1,039 567 664 748 97 97 108 130 149 155	Water Charge Receive 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 908 995 1,039 1,089 567 664 748 926 97 97 108 127 130 149 155 179	Water Charge Received (By S 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 908 995 1,039 1,089 1,052 567 664 748 926 1,012 97 97 108 127 141 130 149 155 179 204	Water Charge Received (By Sectors) 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 1995/96 908 995 1,039 1,089 1,052 1,038 567 664 748 926 1,012 1,118 97 97 108 127 141 164 130 149 155 179 204 219	Water Charge Received (By Sectors) (HK\$ N 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 1995/96 1996/97 908 995 1,039 1,089 1,052 1,038 1,044 567 664 748 926 1,012 1,118 1,138 97 97 108 127 141 164 150 130 149 155 179 204 219 224	Water Charge Received (By Sectors) (HK\$ Million) 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 1995/96 1996/97 1997/98 908 995 1,039 1,089 1,052 1,038 1,044 986 567 664 748 926 1,012 1,118 1,138 1,185 97 97 108 127 141 164 150 143 130 149 155 179 204 219 224 206	Water Charge Received (By Sectors) (HK\$ Million) 1990/91 1991/92 1992/93 1993/94 1994/95 1995/96 1996/97 1997/98 1998/99 908 995 1,039 1,089 1,052 1,038 1,044 986 938 567 664 748 926 1,012 1,118 1,138 1,185 1,245 97 97 108 127 141 164 150 143 149 130 149 155 179 204 219 224 206 196

Freeze on Fees Continues

There has been no increase in most fees and charges for water since February 1995. However, adjustments were made in 1996 in fees for some uses, such as for ocean liners and miscellaneous services. Since then, there has been only marginal increase in revenue for chargeable supplies.

The financial impact on domestic users, together with public views, is one of the major factors taken into account in fixing water charges. Other considerations include economic implications on the consumer price indices and the intention to avoid any cross-subsidisation between domestic users and others.

Water charges have always relied on a high level of government subsidy through contribution from rates, and thus, do not reflect the cost of production. Revisions of charges were set close to the rate of inflation, rather than at recovery of full cost.

The average household benefits from this to the extent that water charges amount to only about 0.2 per cent of total family income. This figure - one of the lowest among the world's major cities - takes into account the 16 per cent of households that do not have to pay for water due to the free allowance of 12 cubic metres given to every household for every four months.

Thought is now being given, however, to finding ways to reduce the subsidy.

Charging Method

Revenue in the waterworks accounts is derived from chargeable supplies, supplies to government establishments, fees, licences and reimbursable work, and notional interest income from deposits.

For the some 2.3 million accounts throughout the territory, meters for domestic accounts are read every four months while those for non-domestic accounts with large consumption are read monthly.

For domestic use, the tariff is divided into four tiers, intended to provide a progressively increasing price structure to discourage unnecessary use. Costs recovered from excessive use go to subsidise the lower tiers.

In the first tier, a free supply of 12 cubic metres has been provided for each household every four months. This is regarded as the minimum amount of water needed for health and hygiene by reference to household size in public housing.

In the second tier, 31 cubic metres has been charged at cost to each household for four months, after taking into account the government subsidy through rates.

The third tier of 19 cubic metres every four months has been charged on a non-subsidy basis.

The fourth tier, for the remainder, has been charged at a punitive rate roughly 40 per cent above the third.

For non-domestic uses, such as for trade or construction purposes, the water tariff has been set at the total production cost after taking into account the government subsidy through rates.

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第四級為住戶其餘的用水量。這個級別的水費須按懲罰性收費徵收,收費率約比 第三級高出40%。

至於非住宅用戶的水費,如屬工商業或建築用水,則會須按整體生產成本在扣除來自差餉的政府補貼後徵收。

水費調整

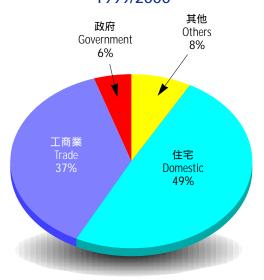
水務署每年均按照預測的收支水平、非經常開支費用、用水量及通脹情況,擬備五年收支推算。

我們會根據這份收支推算,考慮各種水費調整幅度的方案,然後草擬下一年度的 水費調整建議。

水費調整建議會提交水務帳目委員會審議。該委員會由庫務局局長擔任主席,其 他委員包括水務署署長,以及庫務局、工務局、庫務署和水務署的高層人員。

水務帳目委員會通常在每年舉行會議,審核水務經營帳目及五年收支推算。如有 經該委員會審議後調整收費的建議,當局會擬備正式提案,提交行政會議考慮。如獲 行政會議批准,有關修訂水務設施規例的法案會提交立法會,並在立法會通過,成為 法律。

1999/2000年度水費收入 (按用戶類別劃分) Water Charge Received (By Sectors) 1999/2000



Tariff Revision

Five-year projections are prepared each year on the basis of forecasts of income and expenditure levels, capital spending, outlays, levels of water consumption and inflation.

The projections form a model on which various scenarios of water tariff revision are tested. A draft proposal is then worked out for the next year's tariff.

The proposal is in turn put up for consideration at a meeting of the Waterworks Accounts Committee, chaired by the Secretary for the Treasury. Others on the Committee are the Director of Water Supplies, and senior officers from the Finance Bureau, the Works Bureau, the Treasury and the Water Supplies Department.

Each year, the Committee meets to examine the Waterworks Operating Accounts and the Five-year Projections. If there are proposals for revising charges, a formal proposal is then submitted for consideration by the Executive Council. If approved, an amendment legislation to the Waterworks Regulations is tabled at the Legislative Council for final approval to become law.

	水費 Water Charges					
除遠洋輪船用水外,下列水費收費率均由一九九五年二月開始實施(現時的遠洋輪船用水收費率於一九九六年七月生效) The following water rates have been in effect since February 1995 except the rate for Ocean- going shipping purposes which was effective from July 1996.						
種類	耗水量	港幣 HK\$				
Category	Consumption	(每立方米) (Per cubic metre)				
住宅用水	每四個月耗水量	每四個月收費率				
Domestic Use	Cubic metres every 4 months	Rate for every 4 months				
第一級 First Tier	為首的12立方米 First 12 cubic metres	免費 FREE				
第二級 Second Tier	繼後的31立方米 Next 31 cubic metres	\$4.16				
第三級 Third Tier	再繼後的19立方米 Next 19 cubic metres	\$6.45				
第四級 Fourth Tier	其餘 For the remainder	\$9.05				
非住宅用水 Non-Domestic Use						
商業 Trade		\$4.58				
建築 Construction		\$7.11				
遠洋船 Ocean-going Shipping		\$10.93				
非遠洋船 Non-ocean-going Shipping		\$4.58				
沖廁用淡水 Fresh Water for Flushing	每四個月耗水量 Cubic metres every 4 months	每四個月收費率 Rate for every 4 months				
第一級 First Tier	為首的30立方米 First 30 cubic metres	免費 FREE				
第二級 Second Tier	其餘 For the remainder	\$4.58				
沖廁用海水 Sea Water for Flushing		免費 FREE				

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