Rural Water Efficiency Project

Early Exit Expression of Interest

Coliban WATER

An opportunity to exit the rural water system

Coliban Water has secured funding to reconfigure our rural water supply network. As this project gets underway, we are inviting rural customers to consider whether they wish to remain on the system or whether now is the right time to exit.

The Early Exit Expression of Interest (EOI) is your opportunity to voluntarily surrender your water licence in exchange for a financial incentive. Participation is entirely voluntary and there is no obligation to make a decision at this stage.

Why we're doing this

We are now planning a significant upgrade to the network and understanding how many customers intend to remain on the system will support planning and design for a network that is fit for purpose for customers who remain connected.

The Early Exit EOI gives customers who no longer need their rural water licence the opportunity to exit now, with a financial incentive that reflects the value of what they hold.

Incentives for early exit

Incentive	Payment
Licence incentive	**$7,500 per licence**
Water incentive	**$2,000 per megalitre**
Early exit incentive	**$2,500 per licence**

What happens if I don't exit now?

There will be further opportunities to exit the rural system later in the project, however, the $2,500 early exit incentive will not apply.

Additionally, customers who complete the early exit process in 2026 will avoid paying rural licence fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year.

There will be another opportunity to exit in 2027, when we will be undertaking more detailed customer engagement.

After that, some customers may still be able to surrender their licence or reduce their licence volume during the broader planning process.

Customers who remain on the system should also be aware that transitioning to the future rural network will require some changes to their property and investment on their part, including on-property works to connect to the new infrastructure or install efficient onsite water storage. Tariff pricing is also expected to change.

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What to do next: EOI timing

1. Review this information

Take time to consider your current and future water needs. Customers can claim rebates for eligible transaction related costs incurred throughout the life of the project. This includes costs incurred as part of the early exit expression of interest. Customers can claim:

- Up to $1,500 for professional services advice
- Up to $750 for property advice

2. Express your interest

If you wish to proceed, complete and return the enclosed EOI form, or register online at connect.coliban.com.au/rural-water-efficiency

We strongly encourage you to submit your EOI by **30 June 2026** to ensure we have enough time to review your form and prepare your deed for signing.

3. Sign your formal deed

Once your EOI is received, we will mail you an official deed to sign and return.

The early exit EOI process will close **31 July 2026**. To be eligible for the incentive, we must receive your signed deed by this date – or see via stamp that it was lodged at the post office on this date.

What is the formal deed?

The formal deed is a binding document that needs to be signed for the incentives to be paid to complete the transaction. If you're seeking financial advice, a generic version of the *Deed for the Surrender of a Licence* can be accessed via the project website.

A practical example

Jane is a rural channel customer with a 3 megalitre water entitlement and decides to exit the rural system in June 2026.

She pays $350 for advice about installing a rainwater tank and $500 for financial advice. She also has a $268 rural water bill for the final quarter of the 2025–26 financial year.

Based on this example, Jane's package would include:

$15,732 in incentives

- $7,500 for surrendering her licence
- $2,500 early exit incentive
- $6,000 for surrendering her 3 megalitre water entitlement ($2,000 per megalitre)
- Less $268 to cover her rural water bill for Quarter 4 of the 2025/26 financial year

$850 in rebates

- $350 out-of-pocket expenses associated with property advice (water tank)
- $500 out-of-pocket expenses associated with financial advice

Stay connected

Have questions or want to learn more about the project?

Email: rural@coliban.com.au

Project page: connect.coliban.com.au/rural-water-efficiency