

GOUVERNEMENT DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU

**Autorité de Régulation des Services
Publics**

Ministère des Finances
et de la Gestion Economique

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GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**Utilities Regulatory
Authority**

Ministry of Finance
and Economic Management

Media Release: 25 February 2013

URA Proposes Price Increase for Water Improvement in Luganville

In its recently published draft decision, the Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) proposes a conditional price increase for water in Luganville. The URA invites all stakeholders to provide their comments in the public consultation process that will take place until 22 March.

During its investigations, the URA found that many water customers in Luganville are concerned about water quality. The water quality delivered is not in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards of water quality. The recommended price increase of 13.2% (to 59 vatu per cubic metre) is to ensure that enough revenue is collected so that the water quality can be improved.

Water services in Luganville are operated by the government through the Public Works Department (PWD). In order to ensure that quality is improved, the URA has set certain conditions that must be met before the price will increase. These conditions include the proper financial and operational ring-fencing, establishing a performance audit, and securing funding for a large investment programme by the Vanuatu Government to overhaul the water infrastructure in Luganville.

The URA will now begin a public consultation on this proposal. A briefing will be held in the URA office on the ground floor of the VNPF building in Port Vila at 9am on Wednesday 6 March. Briefings will be held in Luganville in various venues from 13-15 March.

Copies of the draft decision and other relevant documents are available from the office of the URA on the ground floor of the VNPF building in Port Vila and on its website www.ura.gov.vu. Stakeholders in Luganville can contact the URA by phone (23335) to request a copy of the document.

Questions, comments and submissions can be sent to the URA by email to mmalas@ura.gov.vu or by regular mail to: Luganville Water Tariff Review, Utilities Regulatory Authority, PMB 9093, Port Vila VANUATU.

Feedback can also be provided in person at the briefings, or by coming to the Authority's office located at the Ground Floor of the VNPF Building or by calling Ms. Maureen Malas at (678) 23335.

The review of water prices in Luganville started in October 2012 at the request of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, and will be completed in April 2013. The URA would like to thank all those who have contributed to the process so far, including customers in Luganville, PWD staff and government stakeholders, and looks forward to received comments during the public consultation.

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About the Utilities Regulatory Authority

The URA was set up under the Utilities Regulatory Authority Act No. 11 of 2007. The Authority acts independently of the Government and its primary purpose is to increase access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity and water services, and to protect the long-term interests of consumers throughout Vanuatu. In the electricity sector, the Authority monitors the concessions operated by UNELCO in Malekula, Port Vila and Tanna; and Vanuatu Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd (VUI) in Luganville. In addition, the Authority manages consumer disputes and advises the Government on matters related to electricity and water. It also reviews tariffs under the rules of the Concessions Agreements and relevant legislation.

Contact Information

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