

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: 14 November 2012

URA Begins Consultations to Review Water Prices in Luganville

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has begun the process of reviewing the price of water in Luganville, and invites all customers, businesses, government bodies and any other interested parties to participate in the consultation process.

The tariff review will be completed by April 2013, and consists of several stages. The first stage is the release of the Luganville Water Tariff Review - Issues Paper, which outlines key issues that will impact how the Authority will carry out the tariff review.

The Authority is inviting stakeholders to provide comments on the Issues Paper by 7 December.

Copies of the Issues Paper are available from the Office of the URA and on the URA website.

The URA is the economic regulator of the electricity and water industries in Vanuatu, and has been requested by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities to perform the tariff review. Water services in Luganville are provided by the Public Works Department (PWD). This will be the first time the water price in Luganville has been reviewed since 1991.

The Issues Paper covers a range of subjects, including tariff-setting methodology, consumer demand, water and service quality, infrastructure, utility operations, and ownership structure. All stakeholders are requested to provide comments on these and any other issues they feel are relevant to the review of water prices in Luganville.

The URA will be holding a briefing session for government stakeholders in Port Vila on 15 November, and a series of briefing sessions for all stakeholders in Luganville on 21-23 November.

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 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 deadline for submissions is 7 December 2012. Submissions received by the Authority will be published on its website. Any confidential or commercially sensitive information should be clearly marked as such and be separate to any public submission.

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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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