

Power and Water Corporation

PowerWater

Updating our positions for AER feedback Revised Regulatory Proposal – Due 29th November 2018

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Key Messages | What we welcome

Power and Water welcomes the AER's approval of key elements of our proposal and their tailored approach to assessing our proposal, including:

Fit for purpose approach

- The AER Board and staff were collaborative throughout our first NT NER determination
- They recognised our efforts to engage our customers, and provide them the information they requested
- The draft determination's consideration of our circumstances, and application of assessment methods that are fit for our geography, size and maturity

Approving things our customers said they wanted

- Allowing our proposed investment in improving reliability for poor performing rural and urban areas
- Allowing our proposed investment to continue to roll out smart meters on a new and replacement basis, helping make energy technology and pricing innovations available to our customers
- Supporting our proposal for more cost reflective (fairer) tariff structures.

Key Messages | Our remaining concerns

Debt | We will lower our WACC by adopting AER's new WACC approach for all items except cost of debt transition. We do not require a transition to a cost of debt trailing average

- Ministerial Direction mandated the effective start of trailing average funding arrangement and customer prices in this current period, so our reasons and situation are different to other networks
- The draft decision not only ignores our actual history in this way, but it fails to recognise the NT NER rules requirement to have regard to that direction

OPEX | We will update its RRP forecast for actual audited 2017/18 opex base year data, including adjusting this down to account for the impacts of Cyclone Marcus and a low capex year.

We believe the AER's additional opex cuts are unsustainable and risk the reliability and safety outcomes expected by our customers, employees and wider community:

- Our IRP proposed a 10% efficiency reduction
- The AER's DD reduced opex by 19%
- Our RRP will see us submit approx. 15% reduction from audited 2017/18 opex

CAPEX | We will lower our revised capex forecast

- The Draft Determination cut our forecast by 20%
- Our revised forecast will be approximately 10-15% lower than our IRP

Responding to AER's Rate of Return decision



We need to be able to earn a fair rate of return of capital to continue investing in the network in a manner that best promotes customers' long-term interests

Our IRP adopted the 2013 rate of return guideline to estimate our rate of return of 6.62%, except for the cost of debt transition.

The draft decision applied the AER's draft 2018 rate of return guideline and did not consider our specific NT circumstances as regards our cost of debt transition.

We will **lower our WACC** by adopting the AER's 2018 draft guideline for all matters except the cost of debt transition relevant to the NT. The next slide explains our reasons for our proposed departure to instead adopt the trailing average without transition.

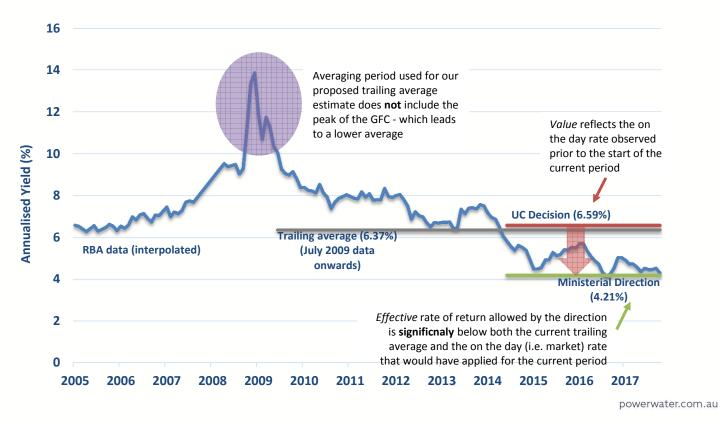
Used the AER's	ŧ.,
preferred methods and	
parameter values	

	Component	IRP value	DD value	RRP	
	Return on debt	6.37%	4.50%	5.91%	Estimated using placeholder averaging periods
•	Return on equity	7.00%	6.30%	6.19%	
,	Leverage	60%	60%	60%	
	Rate of return	6.62%	5.22%	6.02%	
	Gamma	0.4	0.5	0.5	
•	Forecast inflation	2.42%	2.45%	2.45%	powerwater.com.au

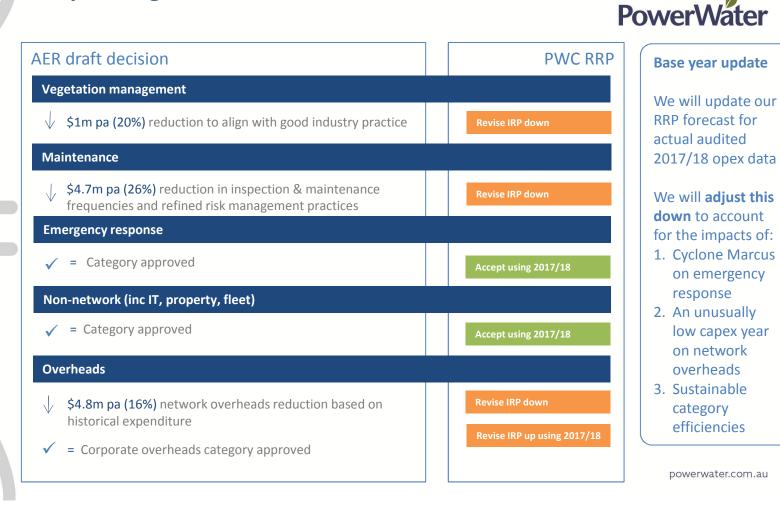
Return on debt transition (cont.)



Comparison of observed 10 year BBB+ rate debt yields to UC decision and Ministerial Direction for the current period

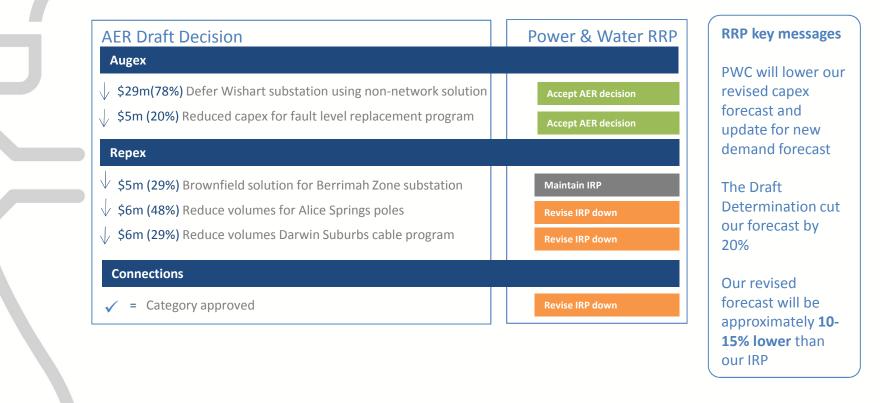


Responding to AER's OPEX decision



Responding to AER's network CAPEX decision





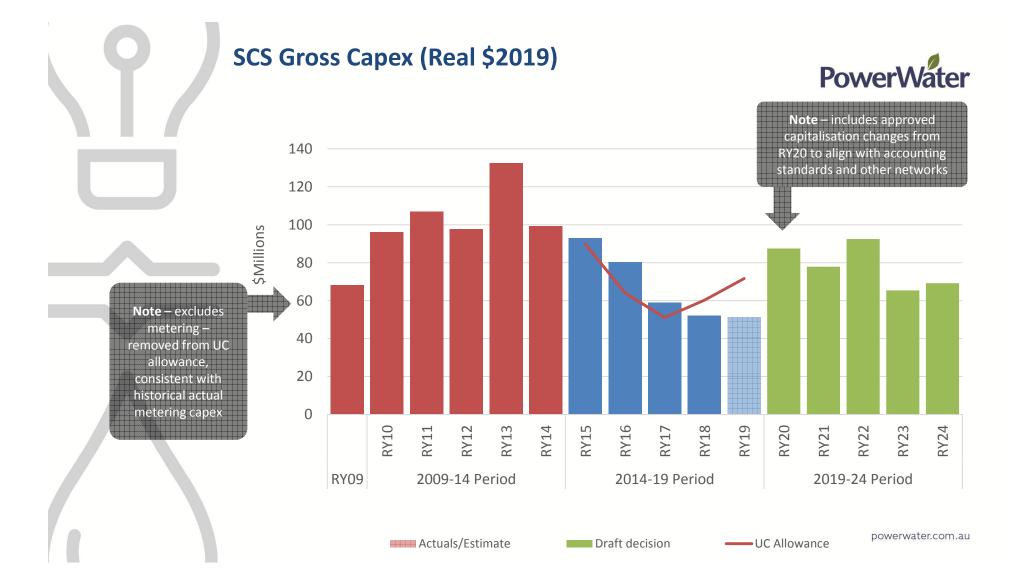
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Responding to AER's CAPEX decision





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Power and Water's original proposal included a program to replace all immediate action poles (i.e. severe & very severe) poles across Alice Springs. This wasn't fully accepted in the AER's Draft Decision.

- > Power and Water asked for all immediate action poles (i.e. severe & very severe) to be replaced;
- > AER's Draft Determination stated only the "very severe" poles to be replaced;
- > We disagree as it cuts into a number of different area's, including:
 - Public Safety
 - System Reliability



