

# Role Description

## Economist - Water & Sewer



<b>Title</b>	Economist - Water & Sewer
<b>Classification/Grade/Band</b>	Band 3 Level 3
<b>Group/Unit/Section</b>	Water & Sewer/Water & Sewer
<b>Reports to</b>	Business Performance Specialist

### Vision

A vibrant organisation doing great things.

### Purpose

To provide valuable services that strengthens and supports the Central Coast Community.

### Values

Decisions, actions and behaviours are governed by our Corporate Values; Be Safe, Serve, Collaborate, Improve, Be Your Best and Be Positive. All employees have a responsibility to uphold and champion these values.

### Primary Role Statement

In contributing to the overarching vision and purpose, the role of Economist – Water & Sewer is responsible for leading the development of pricing related responses to the independent regulator (IPART), including Central Coast Council's periodic water pricing proposal. This role will also assist in the preparation of other regulatory material, and provide economic and policy advice to support the business.

The position of Economist - Water & Sewer is required to provide quality customer service and create value for the community.



## Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Lead in the development of the IPART submission in relation to valuable input and technical advice. This includes (but not limited to): review of the IPART issues paper, price modelling; calculating short-range (SRMC) and Long-range marginal costs (LRMC); weighted cost of capital (WACC); cost of debt; financial sustainability and calculation of Net Revenue Requirements including regulated depreciation and asset lives
- Prepare cost analysis between asset performance and capital investment
- Review and assist in development of Business Cases for Water & Sewer large capital projects to ensure they are both prudent and efficient
- Provide strategic advice on matters including but not limited to access pricing and contestability arising under the Water Industry Competition Act
- Liaise with Water Authorities to keep abreast of economic strategies, submission and determinations and liaise with IPART and any other regulatory bodies on all economic issues
- Conduct performance analysis of OPEX and CAPEX against IPART measures
- Undertake economic and financial modelling in support of business initiatives and to assist with budget and forecasting
- Monitor the Efficiency Carry Over Mechanism (ECM) in relation to operational expenses and efficiency gains that potentially can be passed to the customer by embedding it into the operational forecasts.
- Lead in the development of future Developer Servicing Plans in relation to price and required calculations as advised by IPART for existing and future assets.
- Perform any other duties, tasks or projects the employer may assign, having regard to the incumbent's skills, training and experience.



## Authority and Accountability

- Take care of your own health and safety and that of others. Comply with any reasonable instructions and apply Council's Safe Systems of Work consistent with the Responsibilities, Authorities and Accountabilities of your role
- The Water & Sewer Economist may work away from Council premises and is required to make autonomous decisions usually influenced only by Council policy, the situation and relevant legislative framework. Independent action is required.
- The Water & Sewer Economist will be required to make decisions that affect the work and activities of others within the Unit.
- The work of the Water & Sewer Economist has major long-term influence across the whole of the community
- The Water & Sewer Economist is responsible for ensuring that Council and operational standards and processes requirements are met at an operational level.
- Identifies requirements as an input to budget development.
- Review financial targets for section and forecast costs and commitments. Achieve results through the development of cost and revenue targets and active management of expenditure for section. Use procedures such as benchmarking to monitor cost effectiveness.

## Personal Attributes

- Give frank and honest feedback/ advice and seek to listen and understand when ideas are challenged;
- Represent the organisation honestly, ethically and professionally and encourage others to do so;
- Demonstrate a high level of personal motivation, take opportunities to learn new skills, develop strengths and examine and reflect on own performance;



- Support initiatives that create an environment where diversity is valued.

### **Interpersonal Skills**

- Write fluently in a range of styles and formats and tailor communication to the audience;
- Identify customer service needs, understand customer perspectives and implement responsive solutions.
- Build cooperation and overcome barriers to information sharing and communication across teams/ units;
- Lead and facilitate productive discussions with staff and stakeholders, encouraging others to talk, share and debate ideas.

### **Business Enablers and Technical Skills**

- Provide guidance, coaching and engage staff in change process and recognise cultural barriers that undermine change;
- Use expertise and seek others assistance to achieve work outcomes;
- Ensure current work plans and activities support and are consistent with organisational change initiatives;
- Research and analyse information, identify interrelationships and make recommendations based on relevant evidence;
- Ensure that actions of self and others are focused on achieving organisational outcomes;
- Take account of financial implications and return on investment when planning financial transactions;
- Support compliance with records, information and knowledge management requirements of the organization;
- Be aware of procurement and contract management risks and actions to mitigate these;
- Evaluate progress and identify improvements for future projects.



## Team Work

- Ensure team objectives achieve business outcomes that align with organisational policies;
- Plan and monitor resource allocation effectively to achieve team objectives.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Essential

- Bachelor's degree in Economics or related field or demonstrated solid contemporary experience in a similar role, combined with ongoing professional development;

### Desirable

- Post-graduate qualifications in Economics, Finance or Business.

## EXPERIENCE

- Demonstrated experience in a similar role in a large or complex organisation;
- Demonstrated experience in project management with the ability to plan, prioritise and manage time and workloads to meet changing priorities, organisational goals and timeframes;
- Proven ability to assess and interpret complex data and information to formulate recommendations and provide specialist advice to enable the organisation to achieve quality outcomes;
- Demonstrated experience and ability to investigate and analyse issues, identify any risks and develop innovative solutions to assist in the management and development of economic matters with a focus on best practice and continuous improvement;



- Demonstrated experience working in a team environment with staff at all levels, and an ability to build credible and collaborative working relationships to influence, persuade and achieve organisational outcomes;
- Proven ability to exercise initiative and self-motivation, and provide technical expertise and advice.

### Key Relationships

Internal	External
Leadership Team	Community
Unit Managers	State and Federal Government Agencies
Council employees	Industry representatives and associations

