

Mareeba workshop—issues raised

This note records issues identified and views expressed by stakeholders present at the QCA's initial workshop for the 2025-29 irrigation pricing review. The QCA is yet to form any opinion on these issues and views. As appropriate, issues will be addressed in the QCA's draft report.

Schemes: Mareeba-Dimbulah

Date of workshop: 31 January 2024

Topic	Issues raised
Electricity costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were concerns about high electricity costs.
RAB vs annuity approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders asked questions about how the regulatory asset base (RAB) approach works. Stakeholders were particularly interested in understanding what happens to annuity balances, how borrowing costs are determined and price impacts in future periods.
Customer engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were concerns that most customers do not have sufficient knowledge about how irrigation prices are set, making customer engagement difficult.
Government pricing decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One stakeholder asked about the timeframes for the government to announce prices and how often the government rejects the QCA's recommendations.