

Water tariffs in the Pacific: a snapshot of issues

28 February 2024

8:00am Manila / 11:00am Sydney / 12:00pm Suva

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Water utilities provide services to most households in urban areas across the Pacific region. The diversity of Pacific Island Country geographies, histories, cultures and economies has resulted in a range of approaches to the provision of water services, including regulation and tariff setting.

The Pacific Water and Wastewater Association's [benchmarking of Pacific utilities](#) shows water pricing varies significantly across member utilities, from having no tariffs or very low tariffs (less than 1USD per m³) to very high tariffs (over USD100 per m³). Tariff setting requires regulatory authorities and governments to balance between the provision of water to meet basic needs, while at the same time ensuring adequate cost recovery of service providers to ensure sustainable operations. Targeted pro-poor tariffs are often needed to ensure that vulnerable groups receive basic services. As urban populations continue to grow, water financing arrangements must also account for future infrastructure needs and asset replacement, including measures to build resilience to climate change.

Join the Asian Development Bank and Pacific Water and Wastewater Association on Wednesday 28 February for a panel discussion with water regulation and tariff specialists from Fiji and the Federated States of Micronesia to discuss water tariff structures, how these are set, and how regulators work with governments and utilities to ensure adequate access to water and sanitation services for all. We will also explore the challenges and opportunities that affect water utilities' business viability, and the design of pro-poor tariffs.

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