



The Honourable Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Customer Service

Dr Paul Paterson
Chair, IPART
PO Box K35
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Sydney, NSW 1240

Dear Dr Paterson

Paul

Standing reference for the pricing of Water NSW's Murray-Darling Basin Services

Under section 12(1) of the IPART Act, I hereby refer to IPART, for investigation and report, the determination of the pricing for the Murray-Darling Basin Services.¹ This is a standing reference for IPART to determine the pricing for the Murray-Darling Basin Services from time to time. The reference is to remain in effect until it is withdrawn or replaced.

IPART must consider the approach under rule 29(2)(b) of the *Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010* (Cth)

Under section 13(1)(c) of the IPART Act, I require IPART, whenever it conducts an investigation pursuant to this reference, to consider the following matter: the approach to approving infrastructure charges provided for under rule 29(2)(b) of the *Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010* (Cth), as they will be upon the commencement of the *Water Charge Amendment Rules 2019* (Cth).

Background

Water NSW provides bulk water services to irrigators and other entitlement holders throughout the part of the Murray-Darling Basin that is within NSW. Those services primarily relate to storing bulk water for, and delivering bulk water to, entitlement holders, using Water NSW's dams, weirs and pipelines. These bulk water services are declared to be government monopoly services within the scope of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (Water Services) Order 2004*.

Yours sincerely

Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Customer Service

Date: 24.5.20

¹ Attachment A to this letter explains defined terms used in these terms of reference.

Attachment A

Defined terms used in these terms of reference

Infrastructure Service has the meaning given to that term under the *Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010* (Cth) as at the date of these terms of reference.

IPART Act means the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992*.

Murray-Darling Basin Services means all Infrastructure Services supplied by Water NSW as a Part 6 Operator.

Part 6 Operator has the meaning given to that term under the *Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010* (Cth) as at the date of these terms of reference.

The *Murray-Darling Basin* has the meaning given to that term under section 18A of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth).