

Ref: A6131815

Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM  
Chair  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop 1240

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Re: Section 13 requirements for Sydney Water and Hunter Water and price determinations

Dear Ms Donnelly,

I write regarding the upcoming price determinations for Sydney Water Corporation and Hunter Water Corporation that will commence in September 2024.

The Government understands that Sydney Water and Hunter Water will lodge their submissions shortly, which may propose increases to their customers' bills. NSW households are currently experiencing increasing cost of living pressures, including rising housing and utility expenses. These cumulative price increases may disproportionately impact vulnerable communities.

To help address these pressures, pursuant to section 13(1)(c) of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992 (IPART Act)*, I require IPART to consider the following matters:

- the cost-of-living impacts of the price determinations
- the effectiveness of existing rebates to manage the social impacts of the price determinations, including if the program will adequately support customers who may be disproportionately impacted by any price increase
- opportunities to adjust project timelines within the price determination period and over the next ten years to minimise price impacts and, if necessary, to reduce the proposed capital programs in line with least cost planning principles, and
- deliverability of the proposed capital plans based on capability and market conditions.

These directions will maintain IPART's independence, while ensuring that the NSW Government is afforded the information required to consider the impacts of IPART's draft determination.

Sincerely,



**Chris Minns MP**  
Premier of New South Wales

