

Our reference: 18/302

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Mr Andrew George
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Water NSW
PO Box 398
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via email

Dear Andrew

Deferred release of 2021 Water NSW and WAMC Determinations

The Tribunal has decided to defer making its determinations of:

- ▼ maximum prices Water NSW can charge for its rural bulk water services
- ▼ maximum prices for services supplied by or on behalf of WAMC.

The Tribunal will now make its determinations in mid-September 2021. As a result, the determinations will commence on 1 October 2021 (rather than 1 July 2021). Prices under the current determinations will continue to apply between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2021.

This letter explains the reasons for those decisions.

Reasons the Tribunal is unable to make its decision earlier

The Tribunal's decisions to defer relate to the costs of implementing the NSW Government's non-urban metering reform. We consulted with stakeholders on Water NSW's proposal as part of our Draft Report and received considerable stakeholder feedback. However, the Tribunal was unable to consult on draft metering prices at the Draft Report stage of our reviews as we did not have sufficient information to set prices including the proposed metering costs.

The Tribunal needs time to adequately assess and consult further on Water NSW's proposed expenditure on non-urban metering reform (including draft metering prices). The Tribunal will publish a supplementary Draft Report on non-urban metering reform at the end of June, and will seek stakeholder feedback in July 2021 before making final decisions for these reviews.

For these reasons, the Tribunal is unable to make its decision earlier than mid-September 2021.

Under the *Water Charge Rules 2010* (Cth) (**WCR**), the Tribunal must give Water NSW written notice explaining why it is unable to make its decision within 13 months of receiving Water NSW's application to approve or determine regulated charges. This letter is written notice for the purposes of the WCR, and will be published on IPART's website.

IPART's contact officer for this matter is Matthew Mansell, Director Pricing & Policy, contactable on (02) 9113 7770.

Yours sincerely

26/05/2021

X

Liz Livingstone

CEO

Signed by: Liz Livingstone