

Media Release

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Broken Hill water prices to remain stable from 1 January 2023

IPART is seeking feedback on its draft decisions on the prices Essential Water can charge for water and wastewater services in Broken Hill and the surrounding areas of Menindee, Sunset Strip and Silverton from 1 January 2023.

Under IPART's draft decisions, prices for water and wastewater services would remain stable for most customers, before inflation. Taking inflation into account, a typical household would pay an annual water and wastewater bill of \$1,527 in 2022-23.

"Our draft decisions aim to minimise customer bill impacts while still providing Essential Water with enough funding to maintain good quality services in Broken Hill and its surrounds.

While the quality and security of water has improved since the WaterNSW Pipeline became operational in 2019, Essential Water needs to invest in renewing and maintaining its network to support ongoing safe, reliable and secure services in Broken Hill," said IPART Tribunal Member Deborah Cope.

IPART recognises that affordability of water services is a key concern for Broken Hill customers. It has identified opportunities to reduce Essential Water's proposed costs and hold draft prices constant over the next 4 years, before inflation.

"Under our draft prices, water bills would continue to be a small portion of median household income and would be comparable with what similar households pay in other regional areas in NSW."

IPART encourages customers and the community to participate in our public hearing on 30 August 2022 and make submissions on the Draft Reports by 9 September 2022. The Draft Reports, Draft Determination, and registration for the public hearing are available on IPART's [website](#).

We are also seeking feedback on the prices WaterNSW can charge for water transportation services provided by the Murray River to Broken Hill Pipeline.

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