

Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM
Chair
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

NSW Health comments on IPART Draft Report - review of Sydney Water Prices 2025-2030

Dear Ms Donnelly

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the IPART Draft Report.

Since 2020, NSW Health has been closely involved in the response to four rain and flood incidents which threatened Sydney Water's ability to treat and provide safe drinking water. Boil water alerts were only avoided due to extraordinary operational efforts, reduction in water demand through conserve water notices for some consumers, and very careful consideration by the NSW Health Water Quality Expert Panel. NSW Health's submissions to IPART Operational Audits of Sydney Water, including in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, noted the challenges during recent extreme events.

NSW Health notes the occurrence of extreme weather events may increase in the future.

In order to manage the public health risks in the supply system, NSW Health notes the importance of pre-treatment at Cascade, Nepean, Orchard Hills and Prospect to ensure effective control of raw water quality. Some critical assets, including water filtration plants and treated water reservoirs also need renewal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Should officers of IPART require further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dr Kerry Chant.

Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM
Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health