

## Regulators Advisory Panel – Minutes

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| Date and time       | 10 February 2025      2:00pm – 3:30pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Meeting             | Regulators Advisory Panel meeting 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Members present     | Carmel Donnelly PSM – Chair, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)<br>Ashraf El-Sherbini – Executive Director, Water Operations and Resilience, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW Water)<br>Stephen Beaman – Executive Director, NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA)<br>Stephen Conaty – Director, Environmental Health, Health Protection, NSW Health                               |
| Staff in attendance | Andrew Nicolls PSM – CEO, IPART<br>Fiona Towers – Executive Director, Pricing and Policy, IPART<br>Kelly Kwan – Executive Director, Regulation and Compliance, IPART<br>Matthew Mansell – Director, Pricing and Policy, IPART<br>Christine Allen – Director, Regulation and Compliance, IPART<br>Eva McBride – Principal Analyst, Pricing and Policy, IPART<br>Katrina Wall – Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Health, Health Protection NSW Health |

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### Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

### Conflict of interest declarations

Kelly Kwan declared her recent employment with Local Government NSW (relevant to the Local Water Utility reform item), a conflict of interest declaration that is known and being actively managed.

### Price proposals received by IPART

IPART provided an update on its water pricing reviews. IPART noted:

- it had received pricing proposals from Sydney Water, Hunter Water, WaterNSW and WAMC for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030. All four proposals included material price increases for most customers.
- it received around 750 submissions on its Issues Papers.
- the Tribunal has extended the Sydney Water price review by three months, with new maximum prices now scheduled to apply from 1 October 2025.

As part of the discussion, the EPA noted it is collaborating with the CSIRO to identify the source and nature of debris balls recently found on some Sydney beaches.

### PFAS update

Members discussed the PFAS parliamentary inquiry.

The EPA and NSW Health provided updates on their work program regarding PFAS including an update on the NHMRC's review of its drinking water guidelines.

### Local Water Utility reform

DCCEEW provided an update on the NSW Government's response to the NSW Productivity Commission's review of funding models for local water utilities.

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## Recycled Water Roadmap

DCCEEW provided an update on the draft NSW Recycled Water Roadmap which was open for public consultation from 28 October to 10 January 2025. The NSW Government will publish a What we heard report outlining the feedback gathered during the public consultation phase and will release the final Recycled Water Roadmap later in 2025.

### Priorities of the next 6-months (All)

Items to investigate and present at future RAP meetings:

- Water pricing – IPART
- PFAS and biosolids – NSW Health & NSW EPA
- Long-term water quality – EPA
- Debris balls – EPA
- LWU reform – DCCEEW
- Recycled water roadmap – DCCEEW

### Next meeting

Tuesday 13 May 2025

Carmel Donnelly PSM

*Chair*