

## CENTRAL VALLEYS DRAFT BULK WATER PRICES RELEASED

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on its draft determination of prices that WaterNSW can charge for its monopoly water management services in the Lachlan and Macquarie valleys, and the Fish River Water Supply from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said the draft determination means significant reductions in the overall revenue that WaterNSW can collect from its customers, with bill impacts depending on location and the type of licence held.

“Most WaterNSW customers in the central valleys would expect a decrease, up to 5.8% per year (with inflation) for high security customers in the Macquarie valley, or no change to bills from 1 July 2017 under the draft decisions”, Dr Boxall said.

“These savings are largely due to falling operating costs in the Macquarie valley and the Fish River Water Supply Scheme. We have included a lower volatility allowance in prices for the Macquarie Valley, so prices for this valley are lower than those proposed by WaterNSW.”

“However, in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme, bills would increase by 5.1% per year for EnergyAustralia and 2.2% for Lithgow Council, with inflation, as a result of our draft decision to shift the revenue burden from usage to fixed charges.”

IPART is seeking comments from stakeholders on its Draft Report and Draft Determination. Submissions are due by 17 April 2017 and will be considered before final prices are released in June, to apply from 1 July 2017.

A public hearing will also be held in Sydney on 4 April 2017.