

BROKEN HILL WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICE PRICE REVIEW DEFERRED

14 November 2016

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has agreed to Essential Energy's request to defer the scheduled price review of its water and sewerage business in Broken Hill for 12 months.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the review was scheduled to begin next year, but will now be delayed for 12 months due to uncertainties at this time associated with the operating costs of the Murray River to Broken Hill pipeline announced by the NSW Government in June 2016.

Instead of starting in July 2017, the review of Essential Energy's water and sewerage prices for Broken Hill would now commence in July 2018, with any price changes to be effective from 1 July 2019.

"Deferring the timing of Essential Energy's price review will allow the uncertainties associated with the Murray River to Broken Hill pipeline to be resolved," Dr Boxall said.

In granting the deferral, IPART requires that Essential Energy's water and sewerage prices in Broken Hill for 2018-19 remain unchanged from those applying in 2017-18.

"By deferring the review, we will be better able to understand Essential Energy's efficient costs of delivering water and sewerage services to its customers."

"IPART's 2019 determination of Essential Energy's water prices in Broken Hill will consider a range of matters, including Essential Energy's efficient costs of delivering its services and customer impacts", Dr Boxall said.

IPART's price review will include consultation with stakeholders and the community through a public hearing and written submissions in response to its issues paper and draft report.

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