

Media Release

17 September 2019

Feedback sought on Sydney Water and WaterNSW prices in the Greater Sydney area

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking customer and community views about Sydney Water's and WaterNSW's proposals to increase expenditure over the next four years.

IPART Chair Dr Paul Paterson said the focus will be ensuring that any expenditure provides worthwhile benefits for customers.

"Both Sydney Water and WaterNSW are proposing significant increases in capital expenditure, up by 68% for Sydney Water and about 150% for WaterNSW, driven by a combination of population growth and the need to improve system reliability and environmental performance," Dr Paterson said.

"WaterNSW is also proposing that new projects such as those required for drought response be passed directly through to customers. Sydney Water is basing its proposed expenditure on 'average' weather conditions, which assumes that current drought conditions will not continue through 2020 and future years. We will need to consider how these different proposals sit together to form a consistent view about what customers should pay.

"We are interested in hearing what the people of Greater Sydney think about those proposals, which could have long-term impacts on water bills."

"The proposed increases in capital expenditure may have long-term impacts on bills, which could worsen if interest rates rise," Dr Paterson said.

"While providing value-for-money to customers is critical to our review, we also need to strike a balance so that Sydney Water and WaterNSW promote better environmental outcomes, encourage the efficient conservation of water and effectively plan for the future," Dr Paterson said.

Dr Paterson encouraged customers to provide feedback on the [Sydney Water](#) and [WaterNSW](#) reviews by making a submission or writing a comment on the IPART website. To help customers understand the impact of the two proposals, we have also released a bills calculator on the IPART website for the Sydney Water review.

IPART will consider all customer feedback and comments made in submissions, and at the public hearing, before making its draft decisions on WaterNSW's and Sydney Water's prices.

Submissions to IPART are due by 21 October 2019. A public hearing will be held in Sydney on 26 November 2019. A Draft Report will be released for further comment in March 2020, before new prices come into effect from 1 July 2020.

IPART's Issues Papers, Sydney Water and WaterNSW's pricing proposals, the bill calculator and opportunities for stakeholders to have their say are available on IPART's website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

Media Contact: Julie Sheather ☎ 02 9290 8403 ☎ 0409 514 643

More information is available at ipart.nsw.gov.au