

LOCAL VIEWS SOUGHT ON WATER PRICES

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) will be in Newcastle on Tuesday 19 November 2019 to seek community views about the prices Hunter Water is proposing to charge for its water, wastewater, stormwater and related services from 1 July 2020.

Hunter Water is proposing to increase expenditure over the next five years, with further increases possible if the drought continues, based on a supplementary submission received by IPART from Hunter Water on 6 November. The increase would place upwards pressure on prices over time.

IPART Acting Chair, Ms Deborah Cope, said the public hearing is an important part of IPART's community consultation in its review of Hunter Water's proposed prices, before a draft determination is made in March 2020.

"Hunter Water has proposed increases in capital expenditure, operating expenditure and depreciation costs, as well as funding to continue water conservation initiatives and reduce leakage," Ms Cope said.

"While low interest rates mean those impacts wouldn't be immediately felt, there would be bill impacts if interest rates rise again in the future.

"We are interested in hearing what people in the Hunter region think about these proposals, and also the Hunter community's views on the water, wastewater and stormwater services they receive and proposals to tackle the drought."

The public hearing will run from 10am to 2.30pm. Hunter Water will present its proposal and IPART will provide the opportunity for questions and issues to be raised from the public.

Public feedback is a vital part of the IPART process. To ensure that business and community customers can provide input, a drop-in session between 2.30pm and 7pm will be held to enable stakeholders to find out more and have their say. Customers who cannot attend during business hours can talk directly with IPART staff during these times.

Attending the Public Hearing – 10am to 2.30pm, Tuesday, 19 November

Harbourview Function Centre, Newcastle, NSW 2300

Register to attend on the IPART website [here](#).

Attending the customer drop-in feedback session – 2.30pm to 7pm, Tuesday 19 November

Harbourview Function Centre, Newcastle, NSW 2300

There is no need to register to participate at the customer drop-in feedback sessions.

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

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

Media note: Any media wishing to attend the public hearing are requested to register online. To avoid interrupting proceedings, cameras are permitted at the back of the room only.

Media questions will not be taken as part of the forum to enable as many customers as possible to have their say. Please contact Julie Sheather on 0409 514 643 in advance to arrange a time to interview Acting Chair Ms Cope.