

WATERNSW BULK WATER PRICES FOR 2018-19

WaterNSW's bulk water prices in the Murray Darling Basin and for rural customers in the Fish River Water Supply Scheme would remain the same as previously set by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), under a draft decision released for feedback today.

IPART is proposing to not change the prices WaterNSW can charge for its bulk water services for 2018-19 from the regulated prices set in the 2017 Determination.

The 2017 Determination allowed for adjustments to prices to account for inflation for each year of the Determination period (ie, the four years from 2017-18 to 2020-21).

Under the Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010, IPART is required to consider whether it is reasonably necessary to vary regulated prices through its Annual Review process to account for changes in demand and consumption forecasts while balancing the objective of price stability.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said the draft decision seeks to maintain price stability for WaterNSW's customers.

"We have weighed up the benefits of updating regulated prices to account for changes in demand against the benefits of maintaining price stability, and consider that under the current circumstances there is greater merit in maintaining price stability," Dr Boxall said.

IPART is seeking comments from stakeholders on its Draft Report and Draft Determination. Submissions are due by 14 May 2018 and will be considered by IPART before final regulated prices are released in June 2018, to apply from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.