

## REVIEW OF WATER AND WASTEWATER PRICES FOR GOSFORD AND WYONG

**Embargoed until 10am 18 July 2008**

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) will invite public comment on the implications for the pricing of Gosford City Council's and Wyong Shire Council's water and wastewater services of recent developments such as the increased capacity of the pipeline between the Hunter and Central Coast systems and the proposed Mardi to Mangrove link and other major issues.

IPART today released its issues paper with public submissions due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008.

IPART expects to release its draft Report with price determinations for further public comment in February, 2009, with the final report due May, 2009.

New prices will take effect from July, 2009.

"Since IPART last reviewed Gosford City Council's and Wyong Shire Council's prices in 2006, there have been a number of significant developments" said IPART CEO, Mr. Jim Cox.

"The Government has announced the construction of the Tillegra Dam and has also increased the capacity of the pipeline between Hunter and the Central Coast water systems to from 27 to 35 megalitres a day. The Councils have released their *Water Plan 2050*, which includes a proposal to construct a link between the Mardi and Mangrove Creek Dams to increase water extractions from the Wyong River."

"Each of these developments has implications that need to be considered in determining future prices," Mr Cox said.

Submissions from the Councils are due to be provided to IPART by the 12<sup>th</sup> of September and will be available at the IPART web site.

"We are keen that stakeholder organisations and members of the public take up this opportunity to share their views so that they can be taken into account in IPART's decision-making," said Mr. Cox.

"After all, water and wastewater prices and future investments by the Gosford and Wyong Councils in the delivery of these services are issues that affect all businesses and households across the Central Coast."

The Issues Paper is available on line at [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au) or by calling Jody Thorton on 92908478.

For further information, contact: James Cox, Chief Executive Officer and Full Time Member  
T (02) 9290 8411