

REVIEW OF PRICES FOR HUNTER WATER CORPORATION TO APPLY FROM 1 JULY 2016

30 June 2015

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has started its review of the prices that Hunter Water Corporation can charge its customers from 1 July 2016.

Hunter Water has today lodged its proposed prices for water, sewerage, stormwater drainage and other services with IPART, as the first stage of the 12-month determination process that sets prices for a period of up to 5 years.

IPART Chairman, Dr Peter Boxall, said all aspects of Hunter Water's costs would be investigated to ensure the proposal provides the best outcomes for customers in terms of both the services supplied and the prices charged.

"We will examine Hunter Water's water, sewerage and stormwater drainage functions to ensure that its proposed prices reflect the most efficient costs of providing these services at the standards required to Hunter Water's customers." Dr Boxall said.

The review is occurring a year earlier than originally scheduled following a request by Hunter Water last year.

Dr Boxall said that bringing forward the timing of Hunter Water's price review means the Hunter Water price review and the Sydney Water Corporation (Sydney Water) price review will now be conducted at the same time.

"Sydney Water and Hunter Water are the two largest metropolitan water utilities in NSW. Conducting these reviews concurrently will enable IPART's decisions to be based on the same financial market data, and will facilitate a comparison of the utilities' performance."

Dr Boxall said the review would include extensive consultation with customers and other stakeholders.

Hunter Water's pricing proposal will be available on the IPART website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>> later this week. IPART's Issues Paper for the review will be available in early September at <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

Timetable for Hunter Water's 2016 price review

Hunter Water submission (pricing proposal) due	30 June 2015
IPART releases Issues Paper	7 September 2015
Submissions to Issues Paper due	5 October 2015
Public Hearing – Hunter Water	2 November 2015
IPART releases Draft Report and Determination	March 2016
Submissions to the Draft Report due	April 2016
IPART releases Final Report and Determination	June 2016

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