

## REVIEW OF SYDNEY'S WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER PRICES

**Embargoed until 10am 24 June 2011**

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is inviting public comment on the pricing of the services provided by Sydney Water Corporation and the Sydney Catchment Authority.

IPART today released two issues paper inviting submissions from the public before 14 October, 2011.

The issues paper for the Sydney Catchment Authority considers both the pricing of its bulk water services and a review of its operating licence. For Sydney Water the issues paper considers the pricing of water, wastewater and stormwater services in Sydney, Blue Mountains and the Illawarra.

IPART expects to release its draft reports and draft prices for Sydney Water and the Catchment Authority for public comment in March 2012. Recommendations on the terms of the next operating licence for the Catchment Authority will be conveyed to the Minister for Primary Industries in April 2012.

The new prices will apply from July 2012.

"Since IPART last reviewed the prices for Sydney Water and the Catchment Authority, there have been a number of significant developments," said IPART CEO, Mr. James Cox.

The Sydney Desalination Plant commenced supplying water in January 2010, and there has been substantial investment in recycled water schemes, water and wastewater infrastructure including the priority sewerage schemes.

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

Submissions from Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority are due to be provided to IPART by the 16 September 2011 and will be available on IPART's website.

"We are keen that stakeholder organisations and members of the public take this opportunity to share their views so that they can be taken into account in IPART's decision-making", said Mr. Cox. "After all, prices for the water, wastewater and stormwater services will affect all businesses and householders across Sydney."

In order to allow members of the public adequate time to consider the submissions of the two water agencies, public submissions are not required until 14 October 2011.

Mr. Cox said IPART will consider any potential social impacts of its pricing decisions on Sydney Water's household and business customers.

The NSW Government has asked IPART to determine the prices for water produced from the Sydney Desalination Plant. IPART is currently conducting a separate review on the desalination plant and has released a further issues paper today. This inquiry is due to be completed by the end of October 2011.

IPART is also to undertake further a separate review of the structure of charging for water and sewerage services in the Sydney Water, Hunter Water, Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council service areas, and has released a separate issues paper covering this review also.

“We are concerned that differences in charging arrangements between these water utilities have grown up and we want to ensure that pricing structures are equitable and cost reflective, Mr. Cox said. “This review will involve all 4 water utilities and be undertaken in timeframe that will allow the findings to be considered when we are making decisions on Sydney Water’s prices”.

Submissions to this review will need to be lodged by 29 July 2011.

All the Issues Papers are available on IPART’s website <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au> or by calling Emma Smith on 9290 8472.

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