

## IPART TO INVESTIGATE PRICES FOR THE SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT

**Embargoed until 10am June 24 2011**

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is inviting public comment on the pricing of water provided by the Sydney Desalination Plant.

The NSW Government has asked IPART to separately determine the pricing of water services from the Sydney Desalination Plant. The Terms of Reference for the review require IPART to consider a number of matters in making its determination. IPART is required to complete its investigation by 6 November 2011.

IPART today released an issues paper inviting submissions from Sydney Desalination Plant Pty Ltd by 15 July 2011 and from the public and stakeholders by 29 July 2011. All submissions will be made available on IPART's website.

The prices for the Sydney Desalination Plant will cover the period to 30 June 2017.

The desalination plant commenced supplying water in January 2010. On 29 June 2010, the Sydney Desalination Plant was granted a network operator licence under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*. The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services, has recently declared that the Sydney Desalination Plant Pty Ltd is a monopoly supplier of its water supply services.

"We encourage stakeholder organisations and members of the public to take this opportunity to share their views with us so that they can be taken into account in our decision-making", IPART CEO, Mr. James Cox, said today.

IPART is currently conducting price reviews for Sydney Water Corporation and Sydney Catchment Authority. Issues papers for these reviews are also being released today.

The Issues Paper and the Terms of Reference for this review 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