



Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 8
1 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

March 24, 2014

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT REPORT AND DRAFT DETERMINATION OF THE 2014 REVIEW OF PRICES FOR ESSENTIAL ENERGY'S WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES IN BROKEN HILL

This is a submission on the Draft Determination of the 2014 Review of prices for Essential Energy's water and sewerage services in Broken Hill, on behalf of the Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce.

On March 10, 2014 the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) wrote to the Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce inviting the Chamber to comment on the draft determination. The Chamber of Commerce has received feedback from members on one issue relating to the pricing structure in regard to meter size charges for non-residential customers.

Chamber members have requested that consideration be given to charging non-residential users in the same manner as residential users. That is, the standard 20mm residential service charge is applied to all residential customers regardless of meter size. As outlined in the report, the consistency in charge regardless of meter size for residential customers is because there are some residential customers who require a larger meter size to ensure water pressure is adequate and it is a more cost effective option for the water utility than upgrading the water mains.

The Chamber suggests that the infrastructure is not renewed every year and that customers with larger meters are ultimately charged for their higher water usage, regardless of meter size.

Recommendations

That IPART consider standardising the meter cost for non-residential customers.

In Conclusion

The Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce congratulates IPART on a well-considered determination and thanks IPART for taking the views of Chamber members seriously in the draft determination.

Should you require any further information please contact the Executive Officer, Ms Anne Bransdon, on Mobile 0400 872 236, email: execofficer@bhchamberofcommerce.com.au.

On behalf of the Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce I would like to thank the Tribunal for accepting this submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Rogers', is written over a light grey horizontal line.

Ann Rogers
President
Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce