

James Cox Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
Queen Victoria Building
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cox,

I refer to the recent draft Water Report in relation to "Pricing arrangements for recycled water and sewer mining covering Sydney Water Corporation, Hunter Water Corporation, Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council. I firstly wish to thank you for the copy provided.

Although I have read the report with great interest, there is still a lot more that can be done with wastewater recycling and stormwater harvesting. As previously stated we need a major revolution to occur in our thinking upon how we as a society meet our Coastal Cities future water needs. In effect we need to turn our coastal Cities into catchments, collect and process our stormwater, recycle our sewage wastewater and send the excess water produced back to our inland dams. In effect create an actual man made water cycle and not rely upon nature to constantly clean up our mess.

Secondly we need a mini revolution in how Government agencies (State and Local) account for their projected capital expenditure on infrastructure. A prelude to this concept has already been provided to the IPART under prior submissions. So what is the major stumbling block to large scale reform of the water industry within NSW? Unfortunately it remains a bureaucratic culture more interested in protecting individual power bases and revenue streams then focusing attention upon what could be done to fix our problem issues.

That said I am not going to now pull apart the report and highlight any of the spin detected, as there are too many positives contained within the report. In effect the reports findings are a good first step. However I will highlight one point and leave its interpretation up to those "innovative" few to consider what effect this change could now do.

On page 9 of the report you will find a diagram reflecting the proposed water cycle flow chart.

What's missing is "Local Government". If you add Local Government to the diagram and connect it to the "recycled water network", then you will have literally created the provision for the generation of a spider's web. Local Councils have parks, gardens and more importantly playing fields, school ovals and major sporting complexes. Think what would happen if a single Council built a pipeline to one oval to enable the use of recycled watering. Assuming that each adult size oval can absorb nearly half a mega litre of wastewater per week, it makes you wonder about the possibilities. In addition would not this mushroom into a multitude of opportunities for locals to connect to each main pipeline and obtain recycled water?

So could such pipelines be build in established suburbs?

What about costs?

I am sure that both you and Dr Keating would no longer be surprised with the actual answers to these questions. Hence I truly hope that these comments maybe of some assistance. As for the likelihood of this eventuating I think prayer maybe our best option for now.

Yours sincerely

Rodney Edwards (The Cid)
25th July 2006
P.S. The war continues.