

Email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

30 September 2005 at 3.00pm

Dear Sir

Re: Water and Wastewater investigation.

Ipart have failed to make provision for environmental outcomes for the Hawkesbury Nepean River in its costing and basic principles.

What happens at the present time is people pay to pollute - the cost goes up and still no improvement or relief from the constant high nutrient STP water that enters the Hawkesbury river daily. Instead plans to put in more and with inadequate studies that evaluate the overall impacts to marine life.

The Investigation recognises environmental issues and regulatory deficiencies but prefers to leave them till a review of the regulatory system is undertaken at a later date.

This is not acceptable - Fresh oxygenated water into the Hawkesbury River when it rains is the lifeblood of the river. Many fish species have breeding cycles that are interrelated to freshwater events.

The investigation and recommendations will open the door for privatised urban water harvesting and as the Greater Sydney area grows legislation will continue to protect the needs of the human population for water over and above the needs of the Hawkesbury -Nepean River.

We had hoped that Ipart as the regulatory body would have recognised the environmental needs of the Hawkesbury Nepean River and included these.

There needs to be a basic principal written in the recommendations that requires companies to demonstrate environmental improvement outcomes for the Hawkesbury -Nepean River in their overall systems. Once the systems are up and running and have established connections it will be too late.

The Macro and Metro plans will not do this and the water sharing process likewise will not protect the river system.

Yours faithfully

Mary Howard

On behalf of Gary Howard, Geoffrey Rose, David Laughton, Graham Howard, Ricky Howard.