



<b>IPART</b>	
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Review of NSW Government radio services  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

By email: [mobileradio@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mobileradio@ipart.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Issues Paper: Pricing NSW Government mobile radio services**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of pricing of government mobile radio services.

Sydney Water is a minor user of the Government Radio Network (GRN). Our maintenance teams use the GRN as an emergency backup to the Telstra G3 network. We currently have 128 radios and pay about \$9,000 a month to retain the GRN service. The monthly charges comprise a \$65 connection fee per unit and about \$50 in usage charges for all units.

Our response to some of the questions in the Issues Paper, together with the requested details of our GRN expenditure, is set out in an attachment to this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Stuart Wilson**  
Manager, Regulatory Strategy and Pricing

20.4.11

**IPART review - Pricing NSW Government mobile radio services  
Sydney Water's response to Issues Paper**

*Q5 Should we allocate costs (of the GRN) between categories of users primarily on an impactor pays or a beneficiary pays approach, or on an approach that blends the two or on some other approach altogether?*

As a minor user, Sydney Water would support the 'impactor pays' approach whereby those agencies who drive most of the GRN's costs, such as emergency services, pay most of the cost and minor users pay only the marginal cost of their joining the GRN.

*Q6 What is the appropriate balance between fixed and variable charges?*

The GRN's fixed connection charges are high and Sydney Water pays a significant amount simply for the right to connect. As a minor user, Sydney Water would prefer a lower fixed connection charge.

*Q7 What is the most appropriate unit of consumption?*

Sydney Water would prefer charges to be based on the number of bases/sites required at peak times.

*Q10 What was the size of (Sydney Water's) charges and bills for access to the GRN in 2009/10 and 2010/11, and what proportion of the total business operating costs (excluding depreciation and interest) did the bills represent in those years?*

<b>Year</b>	<b>GRN expenditure</b>	<b>Core operations expenditure</b>	<b>% of core operations expenditure</b>
2009-10	\$113,638	\$229,769,014	0.049%
2010-11 (to Feb)	\$80,615	\$139,218,956	0.058%