

REVIEW OF GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL'S AND WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL'S PRICES FOR WATER AND RELATED SERVICES

Embargoed until 10am 20 June 2012

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is starting its review of Gosford City Council's and Wyong Shire Council's prices for water, sewerage and stormwater services that will apply from 1 July 2013. At the same time, IPART is also starting its review of certain assumptions which are used to calculate developer charges by the Councils. The 2 reviews will run in parallel.

IPART today released Issues Papers for both reviews. We are inviting submissions from the public by Friday 12 October 2012.

The Issues Papers provide background information and identify the key issues that we will consider as part of the reviews. We will carefully review each Council's past and proposed expenditure programs and its forecast water sales. We will also consider the return that the Councils should earn on their assets and the impact of our decisions on customers. The key issues for developer charges are certain assumptions that are used to calculate the charges. These have not been reviewed since October 2000.

IPART expects to release its draft reports and determinations for both reviews for public comment in February 2013.

IPART CEO, Mr. James Cox, said that "The most significant development since IPART last reviewed each Council's prices in 2009 has been the establishment of the Central Coast Water Corporation. The Councils are expected to transfer many of their responsibilities for water supply and related services to the new Corporation in the future. Although IPART will not be determining prices for the new Corporation in this round of reviews, we will consider opportunities to make pricing for the 2 Councils as similar as possible".

The Councils' submissions to the reviews are due to be provided to IPART by Friday 14 September 2012 and will be available on IPART's website.

"We hope stakeholder organisations and members of the public will take this opportunity to have their say so that we can be as fully informed as possible when making our decisions", Mr. Cox said.

The Issues Papers are available on IPART's website <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au> or by calling Emma Smith on 9290 8472.

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