

VIEWS SOUGHT ON DROUGHT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

30 October 2015

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on how best to evaluate the effectiveness of drought programs available to farmers and rural communities in NSW.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the Discussion Paper released today, *NSW Drought Program Evaluation Framework*, outlines IPART's proposed approach to developing a framework to assess NSW drought programs. The actual assessment of the programs is not included as part of this review.

"The draft framework proposes a structure to evaluate the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of drought programs at an individual level and as part of the total suite of programs available," Dr Boxall said

"We have developed a draft framework which proposes a three staged approach to evaluation, including a screening process that evaluates if the program appropriately provides drought assistance, followed by identification of individual or complementary programs to be assessed, and then a cost-benefit analysis to determine which combination of programs delivers the greatest net benefit to the community."

The Discussion Paper provides a summary of the proposed evaluation framework.

Submissions to the Discussion Paper close on 1 December 2015. A public forum to discuss the framework will be held on 24 November with webcast access to enable remote participation. The evaluation framework and Final Report will be provided to the NSW Government at the end of January 2016.

The Discussion Paper is available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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