

Media Release

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Improving the reliability of water supply in regional and rural NSW

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released final reports on water resource management and rural bulk water prices in NSW.

"Our decisions are aimed at supporting the long-term security of water entitlements and reliability of water supply in regional and rural NSW," said Tribunal member Deborah Cope.

"Increases in expenditure are needed to provide a sustainable water supply in areas that are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change," said Ms Cope.

The reports set out IPART's decisions on the maximum prices that the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) can charge for water management functions and that Water NSW can charge for bulk water supply services from 1 October 2021 to 30 June 2025.

WAMC's prices vary across each of the 27 water sources and will increase in all but 3 water sources. To limit bill impacts, we partially constrained the increase in WAMC's prices to 2.5% per year, before inflation.

Water NSW's rural bulk water prices will also vary by valley and will increase by about 30% on average, before inflation, in 2021-22. These prices will then increase by inflation only.

"The price increases will help sustain the effort to manage water resources and maintain dams and other infrastructure effectively for the long-term benefits of water users.

"We are mindful of how these increases may impact customers and the broader community. We consider prices are reasonable given these are in line with prices in other jurisdictions," said Ms Cope.

Water NSW will also introduce new charges to implement the NSW Government's metering reforms over the next 4 years.

"These new charges are needed to recover the efficient costs of Water NSW's metering program. This will support the long-term sustainability of water resources in NSW, which is in the interests of all water users," said Ms Cope.

The prices set by IPART will apply from 1 October 2021.

The reports are available on [IPART's website](#).

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