

# Media Release

8 August 2023

## WaterNSW Operating Licence under review

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on potential changes to the WaterNSW Operating Licence.

The current Licence sets the terms for WaterNSW to undertake its functions as Sydney's drinking water catchment manager and supplier of two-thirds of water used in NSW including to Sydney Water, local water utilities, regional towns and irrigators. WaterNSW also releases water to maintain river health and the health of the environment.

IPART audits and reports annually on WaterNSW's performance against its operating licence conditions.

IPART's Chair, Ms Carmel Donnelly, said "WaterNSW will need a new operating licence by 1 July 2024. IPART's review will consider potential improvements in the new licence. Amongst a number of other important themes, our review will examine the areas of climate risk readiness, catchment protection and river health, and water quality.

"Our focus is on setting regulation at the right level to ensure that health, environmental, customer and business objectives are met without inappropriately increasing the burden and cost of regulation which must ultimately be paid for by customers," Ms Donnelly said.

We seek feedback from all stakeholders, including customers who use WaterNSW's services, on the issues we have identified and anything else that matters to them.

Details about the review are included in the Issues Paper released today. We are inviting public and stakeholder comment on these before 13 October 2023. WaterNSW's submission is due earlier, by 29 September 2023, to allow other stakeholders time to consider WaterNSW's views when preparing their own submissions.

We plan to release a draft licence and accompanying reports in November and hold a public hearing after that.

The Issues Paper is available on our [website](#).

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