



**Don Harwin**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Resources

Minister for Energy and Utilities

Minister for the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **INDEPENDENT REVIEW TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY**

An independent review into the barriers to cost-effective recycled water initiatives will help NSW save water, save money and improve sustainability.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin announced the review today following an IPART determination which changes the way water providers pay for services from the major utilities.

“The final determination from IPART is welcomed, it provides certainty for the sector and a way forward while we undertake this review,” Mr Harwin said.

“I’ve asked for this inquiry because I want to encourage sustainable water practices, which both save water and money for communities.

“The review will look at ways to encourage cost-effective investment and innovation in water recycling, for non-drinking water purposes.

“Water bills in Sydney have gone down \$100 in the last financial year due to the NSW Government’s focus on efficiency and customer service.

“I want to make sure the water market works efficiently so our water bills remain low.”

Mr Harwin said the independent review will make recommendations on the right framework for cost-effective stormwater, sewerage and recycled water initiatives.

“This is important to support the Government’s targets on housing supply, and keep water bills low for households and businesses by avoiding costly new water infrastructure.

“The review will consider planning processes, current regulatory and pricing approaches and how they compare to similar jurisdictions in other states and countries, such as the UK.

“If the review recommends policy and regulatory changes to recycled water settings, IPART will be asked to review its current determination and take them into account.

“We will consult closely with private water providers and sustainable developers during the review, which will compare Sydney to global best practice.”

There are 17 private water infrastructure schemes in the Greater Sydney and Hunter regions, offering water and sewerage to over 6,000 customers.

Further details of the review will be announced in the coming months.

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