



## Water management charges – irrigators on unregulated rivers

In September 2006, IPART (the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal which is responsible for determining maximum prices for bulk water services in NSW) released a new water pricing determination setting out water charges effective from 1 October 2006 to 30 June 2010 (see [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au)).

To date, most water bills have been based on the licensed area of irrigation. This will change in the future, and most water bills will be calculated on the volume in megalitres. Most licensees have already been advised of their megalitre entitlement.

In unregulated river systems, irrigators who have a meter installed in accordance with Department of Water and Energy (DWE) requirements, and who supply the necessary water consumption readings to DWE, will be able to Elect to have their water bill invoiced on a Two-Part Unregulated Tariff (TPUT) – a fixed access (volume of entitlement) charge plus a charge based on measured usage – as specified by IPART in its pricing determination.

In normal circumstances, this Election would come into effect for water extracted in the 2008/09 year.

Under a two-part tariff, if your measured water consumption is less than your entitlement, the amount you're invoiced may be lower than if your bill was based solely on an access charge.

DWE policy is that all licences will eventually be required to have methods in place to record their water usage, and in the future DWE will be detailing action required by licensees to measure usage. IPART's determination allows licensees who already have a meter, apparatus or methodology in place to measure water extraction, to expedite this process.

If you are an irrigator and hold a water licence (under either the Water Act 1912, or the Water Management Act 2000) on an unregulated river and believe that you have, or intend to install, a meter which satisfies DWE's requirements, and you wish to enquire about options for having your future water management charges calculated on a two-part tariff basis, please contact the Licensing Officer at your local DWE office or access the web ([www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/water/pricing.shtml](http://www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/water/pricing.shtml)) for the Election form and more information.

Please note that if you have an enquiry regarding your 2005/06 invoice enclosed with this information sheet, you should contact State Water on the phone number shown on the invoice.

Note: This information does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this information sheet.

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