



ICRC

independent competition and regulatory commission

MEDIA STATEMENT

Response to news reports on the ACT Government's Integrated Urban Waterways Project

Today the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (the Commission) rejected suggestions made in news reports in the Canberra Times and ABC News on 4 October 2012 that figures in the Commission's report on secondary water use, reproduced in the Commission's annual report, were incorrect.

Senior Commissioner, Mr Malcolm Gray, said that "The Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project costs that are the subject of the news reports were first made public in May 2012 in the Commission's draft report into secondary water use. They were also contained in the final report that was provided to the ACT Government on 2 July 2012 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 14 August 2012".

Mr Gray stated that the project costs, which were provided to the Commission by Minister's Corbell's Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, were the most recent available at the time the secondary water use reports were compiled.

Mr Gray said that "it is important to note that the project costs presented by the Commission relate to the entire Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project. This includes the costs of constructing ponds and installing stormwater reticulation infrastructure for the three proposed stormwater reticulation pilot sites: Inner North Canberra, Weston Creek and Tuggeranong. In contrast the news reports appear to focus only on the Inner North element of the project and, in some cases, only to the storm water harvesting aspects of that project."

The Commission noted in the final secondary water use report and in its annual report that the ACT Government had decided that neither the Weston Creek nor Tuggeranong elements of the

project should proceed.

“We have not done any work on this matter since providing our final report in July. Therefore we are not in a position to comment on assertions now being made about costs of elements of the project”, Mr Gray said.

For further information, please contact Deirdre Burgess on (02) 6205-0799.