



MEDIA STATEMENT

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00AM WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2007

SECOND DISCUSSION PAPER ON WATER AND WASTEWATER PRICE REVIEW RELEASED

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission today released its second discussion paper on the pricing of water and wastewater services.

“The current price direction expires on 30 June 2008 and this is the second of three discussion papers the Commission will release in which the Commission will outline its proposed approach to water and wastewater pricing regulation,” Senior Commissioner Paul Baxter said.

“The three discussion papers are aimed at increasing community involvement in the price setting process.’

“The pricing of water is a matter of general community interest and the Commission is keen to engage the community in the upcoming review,” Mr Baxter said.

The latest discussion paper focuses on the question of the rate of return that ACTEW should earn on its investment in the water and wastewater business. This is a matter that has generated a deal of public comment in the recent months reflecting public discussion on the possibility of new investment in water recycling and reuse systems.

The Commission is seeking submissions from interested parties at this time. The Commission will also be seeking submissions on this latest paper and on the third discussion paper after it is released. The due date for submissions on all three discussion papers is 15 June 2007. The Commission is asking all interested parties to register with the ICRC to ensure that they receive copies of all future Commission papers on water and wastewater pricing issues.

For a copy of the information paper contact the Commission on (02) 6205 0799. The paper is also available on the Commission’s website at www.icrc.act.gov.au.

STATEMENT ENDS 28/03/07

For further information, please contact Paul Baxter on 0418 633 396.