



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

# **Commission releases draft report on secondary water in the ACT**

***STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00AM MONDAY, 14 MAY 2012***

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission released its draft report into secondary water use in the ACT today.

‘The ACT has now emerged from one of its worst droughts on record. Based on the major investments that are underway currently and the actions of the ACT community in reducing their water consumption, the ACT has achieved a high level of water security that could last for the next 20 years,’ announced Senior Commissioner, Mr Malcolm Gray.

On 21 September 2011 the ACT Treasurer asked the Commission to undertake an inquiry into the role of secondary, or recycled, water in the ACT. Secondary water includes greywater, stormwater, treated wastewater and rainwater.

‘This inquiry into the role of secondary water is timely. The water security outlook for the ACT has improved markedly, and while the current arrangements have gotten us to this point, now is an appropriate time to ensure that the best possible arrangements are in place for the future.’

‘A key finding in the draft report is a proposal that a fully integrated and adaptive approach to water planning be adopted. It is within this context that secondary water options should be considered for their economic, environmental and social contribution to the water system as a whole,’ said Mr Gray.

In addition to proposing an integrated and adaptive water planning framework, the draft report contains a range of specific recommendations including:

- completing the Inner North component of the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project pilot, while postponing the Weston and Tuggeranong elements
- undertaking a review of rebates and subsidies to ensure they are delivering value to the ACT community
- development of a clear approvals pathway for the private sector in order to facilitate schemes such as third-pipes, stormwater harvesting and greywater reuse
- reviewing the Water Sensitive Urban Design guidelines
- development of a third party access regime to allow for additional competition in service development.

The Commission is seeking comments in response to the draft report.

'I would like to encourage all members of the ACT community with an interest in the ACT's long-term water planning arrangements to make a submission,' Mr Gray said.

Submissions are due by 12 June 2012. The Commission is required to present its final report to the Treasurer by 30 June 2012.

The draft report is available on the Commission's website at [www.icrc.act.gov.au](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au).

STATEMENT ENDS 14/05/2012

For further information, please contact the Commission on 02-6205-0799.