



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

***STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00AM FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2006***

# **ICRC FLAGS POSSIBLE WATER PRICE INCREASES IN 2006-07**

ACTEW Corporation has requested the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission to consider water price increases to allow it to recover the costs of recent major augmentation works.

The works include a scheme to transfer water from the Cotter River west of Canberra to Googong Dam, the major storage south of Queanbeyan, and remediation of forest areas in the Cotter catchment that were damaged in the 2003 bushfires.

Senior Commissioner Paul Baxter said today the Cotter-Googong bulk transfer scheme is designed to provide better use of the Googong Dam storage facilities at times when they are underused and there is a surplus of water flowing in the Cotter system.

“The simple intention is to provide greater security of water supply for domestic use in the ACT and surrounding region,” he said.

“Meanwhile, the remediation work at the Cotter is helping to reduce erosion and soil runoff problems that were impacting on the quality of water in the Cotter Dam.”

Mr Baxter said the ACTEW proposal to recover its costs via water price increases will be considered by the Commission in accordance with the current 2004-08 price direction.

“The Commission is required to consider issues such as whether the projects themselves are the best options to meet the desired objectives and whether the costs incurred are efficient.”

The Commission will release a discussion paper on the ACTEW proposal later in February, at which time public submissions on the plan and associated issues will be invited.

Copies of the ACTEW proposal can be obtained from the Commission and will be available on the Commission’s website at [www.icrc.act.gov.au](http://www.icrc.act.gov.au).

STATEMENT ENDS 03/02/06

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