

In undertaking the Inquiry into Water Reform will the Commission address in the final report, jurisdictional adoption of NWI principles ? In the NWI Best Practice Water Pricing and Institutional Arrangements - Outcomes - 64. The Parties agree to implement water pricing and institutional arrangements which at: iv) give effect to the principles of user-pays and achieve pricing transparency in respect of water storage and delivery in irrigation systems and cost recovery for water planning and management; v) avoid perverse or unintended pricing outcomes; Has the Commission addressed NSW Local Councils continuance in making Availability / Access Charges on Water and Sewer Services when clearly such Charges under the NWI were to be phased out in 2004 ? In addition will the Commission note that the NSW Office of Water encourages the use of "peak load" in Local Council assessment of Availability Charges on Sewer and Water Services and that this term is used by Councils to sanction the use of the full size of Water Meters in the calculation of these Availability Charges and thereby arrives at Availability Charges on both Sewer and Water that include Fire Service provision. Fire Service provision is an Essential Service provision under the NSW Essential Services Act 1988 and are not Services listed in S501 of the NSW Local Government Act which specifically enables Annual Charges only on those Services listed, but does not enable Availability Charges on any Service let alone an Essential Service such as Fire Service which are illegal to use as per s120 (2) of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2011. Such charging pays no heed to the principles of user-pays and ignores pricing transparency and have institutionalised perverse and unintended pricing structures contrary to NWI principles.

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