



**Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Climate Action

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism

Member for Kurrajong

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Mr Joe Dimasi  
Senior Commissioner  
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission  
[Joe.dimasi@act.gov.au](mailto:Joe.dimasi@act.gov.au)

Dear Mr Dimasi 

The ACT Government wishes to engage the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (the Commission) to undertake a review of the methodology for setting the ACT Government's fees and charges for water. This follows a report recently received by the Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), which raised several issues surrounding the current water abstraction charge (WAC) that warrant further consideration. A copy of the review undertaken by EPSDD is enclosed for your information.

The intended outcome of the review is to ensure that the Territory's water charges are set at an appropriate level while also supporting the Territory to achieve its desired water policy outcomes and adhere to its obligations under a number of intergovernmental agreements entered into since the Commission developed a methodology for setting the WAC in 2003.

Please find enclosed a scope of work for the project, which I provide under the provisions of Section 12 of the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Act 1997*. The Commission will be required to undertake an investigation into the WAC, and to submit a report containing the Commission's advice on the matter to the Treasurer and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction by 29 February 2024.

ACT Government officials have engaged with your staff in developing the scope of work and are available to assist the Commission as appropriate.

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I thank the Commission in advance for assisting the Government on this matter, and I look forward to the outcomes of your work in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'A'.

Andrew Barr MLA  
Treasurer

30 October 2023