



# Katrina Hodgkinson MP

**Shadow Minister for Natural Resource Management  
State Member for Burrinjuck**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **More Bad News for Hunter Water Users: Thank You (not) Premier Rees**

Shadow Minister for Natural Resource Management, Katrina Hodgkinson, said State Labor's wrong priorities mean that Hunter Water customers will have to pay massive water increases to fund the Tillegra Dam that is not necessary and has not yet received environmental approval.

"The IPART determination of water prices in the Hunter, released today, will see households in the region facing massive hikes in the cost of water, sewerage and stormwater charges brought about by State Labor's incompetence and failure to save for future infrastructure needs," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"IPART's determination will force up the cost of water for the average Hunter Region residential household, using 200 kilolitres of water p.a. by 31% in real terms over today's prices, in four years.

"This will rake in about an extra \$221 from every Hunter household," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"The major portion of this increase will go to pay for the Tillegra Dam and other infrastructure projects such as sewerage projects and treatment plant upgrades and water supply system development upgrades that State Labor should have budgeted for years ago.

"Since 2001, the State Labor government has used Hunter Water as a cash cow, taking \$273.9 million in dividends from the authority," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"After 14 years, State Labor has shown that it is incapable of dealing with NSW's problems and its wrong priorities are focusing on expensive white elephants like the Tillegra Dam and the desalination plant, rather than better management and more recycling of water.

"In the end it is the hard working families and cash strapped pensioners of the Hunter who are being forced to pay the price for State Labor's money hungry dividends over the past decade," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

(ends)

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