



the voice of the industry

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Industry Welcomes Delay in Water Charge

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) has welcomed the news that proposed Icon Water charge on all new developments will not commence on 1 July 2017, with the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) yet to deliver its determination.

“It was always ambitious for such a significant increase in charging to be implemented by 1 July as Icon had planned,” said Greg Weller, Executive Director of HIA for the ACT and Southern NSW.

“It is important that the ICRC do not rush into making a decision which will have implications for housing affordability in the ACT.

“HIA remains of the view that a fairer and more effective way for this charge to be implemented is through an increase across the entire community, given that all of Canberra will benefit from upgraded infrastructure that these funds will go towards.

“It is worth noting that in last week’s determination by the ICRC for next year’s general pricing, an increase of 2.15% for inflation and other costs was projected to add only \$25 per year on the water and sewerage bill for an average household.

“With Icon estimating that a 5% increase is enough to pay for the required infrastructure upgrades for the entire city over the next 20 years, then it is clearly not a big cost if split fairly across the community to fund these upgrades that will benefit all households.

“It’s a choice of around one dollar a week for all households or a single charge of \$2,400 on every new unit in existing suburbs. That single charge will then be subject to taxes on taxes making it an upfront sting on the cost of new affordable houses across Canberra.

“If Canberra is serious about addressing the high cost of housing, then the practice of continually putting more taxes and charges on new homes has to cease.”

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