



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVT TO DELIVER \$44M CARBON TAX REFUND TO SYDNEY WATER AND HUNTER WATER CUSTOMERS

Sydney Water and Hunter Water customers slugged with Labor's carbon tax will be handed back \$44 million in rebates, Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water Kevin Humphries announced today.

Rebates will be back-dated to 1 July 2014, the date the Federal Coalition repealed the tax, and will appear on customers' water bills under the title 'Carbon Tax Refund'.

Mr Humphries said Hunter Water and Sydney Water would provide rebates for customers for the carbon tax the utilities are no longer paying in the November and January billing quarters respectively.

"Since being elected the NSW Liberals & Nationals have been looking at how we can address the cost of living pressures left by Labor," Mr Humphries said.

"Hunter Water prices increased by 40 per cent in Labor's final four years in office, while Sydney Water's real average bill increase between 2008/09 and 2011/12 was 30 per cent.

"The carbon tax contributed to those increases, but the lazy approach to Government synonymous with Labor did even more to drive prices up.

"Since coming to office in March 2011, the Coalition has ensured water utilities operate more efficiently, purring downward pressure on prices.

"As a result this year water prices for Sydney Water and Hunter Water are now among the very lowest of any Australian water utility."

Mr Humphries said that in light of the carbon tax repeal refunding customers was the right thing to do.

"The carbon tax failed to deliver significant reductions in emissions but succeeded in cutting jobs, increasing pressure on families and driving business overseas," Mr Humphries said.

"The NSW Government has instructed Sydney Water and Hunter Water to refund 100 per cent of the carbon tax they passed on to customers, equating to \$44 million in total.

"This directive will see the increases in water bills generated under Labor reversed."

MEDIA: Jeremy Scott – 0467 741 200