

Fact Sheet - Water Licensing Assessment Timeline



September 2015



WHAT

Applications for licences and variations to licences made under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (WIC Act) are assessed by IPART and granted by the Minister for Lands and Water, if approved.

We are committed to undertaking a thorough, efficient and transparent assessment of applications. To enable this we are defining a target timeline, or 'clock', of 34 weeks for our assessment.



WHY

The timeline is provided as guidance for applicants to assist them in project scheduling, and to explain the process IPART uses to assess applications. It can also serve as a guide to other stakeholders (government agencies, local councils, public water utilities and the general public) for the timing of stakeholder consultation on new applications.



WHO

The timeline is provided for the benefit of:

- ▼ licence applicants
- ▼ developers
- ▼ stakeholder agencies, and
- ▼ the public.



HOW

The timeline outlines IPART's key assessment process. It shows the expected timeframe for each part of the process, and notes where the IPART 'clock' stops on the assessment.

Notionally, the clock will stop whenever the applicant has been requested to provide additional information. Requests for additional information (RFIs) will be issued as required, with the number of RFIs issued directly related to the quality of the information supplied, the nature of the scheme, submissions from stakeholders, and the input of external experts.

Incomplete or poor quality applications will be assessed as 'incomplete' and will result in a suspension of the timeline. The 'clock' restarts when an amended application has been approved by IPART as a 'complete' application.

Our target timeline, excluding 'stop the clock' periods, is for an assessment to be completed within 34 weeks from the date of submission of the application.

This period applies to the time required for a recommendation to be made by IPART, and forwarded to the Minister.



WHAT NEXT

The *Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014* (NSW) is expected to commence in mid-2016. Until this time the existing framework for assessing licence applications will continue. Changes in the licensing process and the types of licences required under the new legislative regime will result in a changed assessment and compliance process, which will be communicated to all stakeholders prior to the commencement of the new framework.

Further information on the existing licensing regime is available on the IPART website at

http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Water/Private_Sector_Licensing_WICA/WICA_Fact_Sheets.

IPART ASSESSMENT

IPART's target is **34 weeks** 'on the clock'.

Total number of requests for information (RFIs) depends on the quality of the application.

Total assessment time depends on the timeliness of the applicant when responding to RFIs.



WIC Act applicant submits application

IPART initial assessment*

RFI issued if required

IPART review of RFI response

Public and agency consultation

IPART detailed assessment informed by submissions

RFI issued if required

IPART detailed assessment continues to completion

Tribunal assesses recommendation

IPART makes its recommendation to Minister

Minister considers IPART's recommendation

* Application 'incomplete' suspends the 'clock' until a complete application is received and approved by IPART.



IPART clock is on



IPART clock is off