



# coNEXA Projects & Operations Pty Ltd – Operator Licence and Retailer Licence application under the WIC Act

26 March 2025

The *Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (NSW)* (WIC Act) allows private entities to provide water-related services in New South Wales, including the supply, treatment, and distribution of drinking water, recycled water and wastewater services. This licensing framework is designed to ensure that new market entrants adhere to regulatory standards, offering reliable, safe, and environmentally responsible services. Under the WIC Act, private sector water utilities can apply for licences to operate in NSW as follows:

- Operator Licences: to construct, maintain and operate water industry infrastructure.
- Retailer Licences: to sell water or sewerage services through water industry infrastructure.

The Minister responsible for the WIC Act grants these licenses, while the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) plays a key role in receiving and assessing applications, providing recommendations to the Minister for Water, and enforcing the licences. As part of the licensing process, IPART evaluates an applicant's capacity to undertake the proposed activities.

Licences allow a licensee to construct and operate water industry infrastructure. However, a Scheme approval is required to construct the infrastructure for a specific scheme, and an Operational approval is required to operate the infrastructure for that scheme. IPART receives, assesses and grants these Approvals under the WIC Act.

## coNEXA Projects & Operations Pty Ltd (coNEXA) is applying for an operator and a retailer licence

coNEXA has applied for an operator licence to construct and operate up to 5 schemes that may include drinking and recycled water production and supply, sewage and stormwater management. CoNEXA has also applied for a retailer licence to sell water and sewerage services.

coNEXA is a subsidiary of coNEXA Topco Pty Ltd. Currently other subsidiaries of coNEXA Topco Pty Ltd hold three network operator licences and one retail supplier licence granted under the WIC Act. They also have experience in developing and implementing water industry infrastructure that spans multiple states and offer water and sewerage services for both residential and non-residential customers.

## About the application

Within the WIC Act's new regulatory framework, an operator licence allows for the construction and operation of certain types (classes) of water industry infrastructure and defines the maximum number and scale of authorised schemes.

coNEXA has applied for a maximum of 5 schemes for classes and scales of water industry infrastructure as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 Classes and scale of water industry infrastructure in coNEXA's operator licence application**

Class of water industry infrastructure	Maximum scale requested	Design capacity
Drinking water – supply only (on selling)	A3	25,000 kL/day
Drinking water – production or supply	B3	5,000 kL/day
Recycled water production – stormwater	C3	2,000 kL/day
Recycled water production – sewage	D3	5,000 kL/day
Recycled Water Production – further treatment of recycled water	E3	25,000 kL/day
Sewage treatment for disposal	H3	10,000 kL/day

A retailer licence under the WIC Act allows a licensed entity to sell water or sewerage services through water industry infrastructure. This means that it authorises the licence holder to provide retail services to customers, which may involve activities like billing, customer service, and managing the distribution of water and sewerage services to end users, all while ensuring that these services comply with relevant regulatory and environmental standards.

CoNEXA has applied for the scales of the retail licence as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 Maximum scale of customers in coNEXA's retailer licence application**

Scale of retailer licence requested	Maximum scale requested
> 10,000 customer premises per scheme	R3

## We invite you to make a submission

Information about the coNEXA's operator licence and retail licence application is available on our [website](#).

We will consider the application and how the applicant meets the licensing criteria and objectives of the WIC Act. We will also consider all stakeholder submissions. Our report to the Minister will summarise our assessment of the applications and any submissions.

We invite submissions on the licence applications, by using the [Have Your Say](#) button on our website. Submissions close on 28 April 2025.