

Application for a WIC Act retail supplier's licence for the Ashbourne scheme

26 July 2023

1 Topic

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is the NSW Government body responsible for assessing applications for network operator and retail supplier's licences for private water utilities in NSW.

True Water DTR Pty Ltd (True Water) has previously applied for a network operator's licence for the Ashbourne scheme and is now applying for a retail supplier's licence under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (NSW) (the WIC Act).

The licence applications are for the Ashbourne scheme to be developed in Moss Vale. The network licence, if granted, will authorise the provision of sewerage infrastructure in the form of an interim sewage treatment plant to collect, treat and dispose of treated effluent by irrigation (the scheme). The retail licence will authorise True Water to provide retail services to the residents of the Ashbourne scheme, for the collection and disposal of sewage.

IPART is seeking comments from stakeholders as part of our assessment of True Water's retail licence application.

2 Scheme description

True Water DTR Pty Ltd is an Australian company that provides specialist wastewater infrastructure for a variety of projects. Prime Moss Vale Pty Ltd (PMV) is the developer of the Ashbourne development, a residential development located in Moss vale. The site is not currently serviced by the municipal sewerage network.

The site consists of two separate and adjoining allotments comprising a total area of 125.7 hectares. The legal description of the site is Lot 3 in DP 706194 (No. 32 Lovelle Street, Moss Vale) and Lot 12 in DP 8660366 (No. 141 Yarrowa Road, Moss Vale). The proposed scheme is in the Wingecarribee Shire Council local government area.

The proposed scheme is a temporary measure until the Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plant's capacity is expanded. The purpose is to facilitate release of the first stage of the development, being 178 housing lots, to market ahead of municipal sewer services becoming available.

The wastewater treatment plant will employ Media Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) technology. MBBR treatment is reliable and efficient while limiting mechanisation and power consumption.

Effluent from the interim wastewater treatment plant will be dispersed via irrigation within a nominated restricted access area. Suitable offsets and buffers will be applied, and sustainable irrigation rates applied. Treated effluent will be dispersed via spray irrigation at a rate of less than 1mm/m²/day within the nominated and DA approved Effluent Dispersal Area.

As the interim wastewater scheme is a temporary measure, the developer will cover all capital and operational costs for the scheme, through True Water as licensee. There will be no charges, levies, or fees to the residential property owner relating to the delivery or operation of the scheme infrastructure. All operational expenditure will be funded by the developer, through the provision of funds into a trust account (or similar vehicle) covering the first 5 years of operation, if necessary. It is expected that the Moss Vale Treatment Plant upgrade works will be completed by mid 2026.

3 Submissions

Information about the scheme is available on our website.

Tell us what you think about the licence application, by using the [Have your say](#) link on our website. Submissions close on 25 August 2023.

General information including information about the Applicant, the scheme and its technical and organisational capacity can be found in Attachment A.1. More specific information can be found in the relevant attachments.

We will consider the licence applications and how they meet the licensing criteria and principles of the WIC Act. We will also consider all stakeholder submissions. Our report to the Minister will summarise our assessment of the variation applications and any submissions.

4 Attachments to the application

To help you focus on the information in the (public) application that we consider to be most relevant, we refer you to the following attachments:

1. Application form
2. A.1- Application information
3. A.8 - Area of operations
4. A.9 – Infrastructure (drawings)
5. A.11 – Infrastructure schedule
6. B.1 – Effluent management plan
7. B.2 - Risk management plan

Attachment - Area of operations





