

Media release

Tuesday, 28 February 2017

Water NSW Operating Licences under review

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on the draft terms and conditions of the Water NSW operating licence.

The draft operating licence establishes a new framework of authorisations and conditions relating to the functions of Water NSW. It includes obligations relating to catchment management, water quality, environmental protection, customer service and stakeholder relations in providing its water services to urban and regional areas in NSW.

The draft new licence package released today for comment includes a draft Operating Licence proposing licence conditions, which would be effective from 1 July 2017.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said the proposed licence, when commenced, will replace two licences previously held by the Sydney Catchment Authority and State Water Corporation as these organisations have been amalgamated by the NSW Government. Water NSW now has water supply and water capture, store and release responsibilities across NSW and the new licence will authorise and regulate these activities.

“IPART commenced the review in 2016 and released an Issues Paper for public comment. This release of material is a continuation of that consultation process and community and stakeholder submissions are again invited” Dr Boxall said.

“We have considered the costs and benefits of a number of options and are now seeking final submissions about the right form and level of regulation to ensure that environmental, customer and business objectives are met in this water resource space, without inappropriately increasing the burden and cost of regulation.”

The proposed Water NSW operating licence and reporting manual include requirements and conditions that improve clarity, readability, and removal of duplicative, conflicting or obsolete clauses.

IPART is inviting written submissions from Water NSW, its customers, advocacy groups, Government agencies and other water utilities on the draft operating licence package released today. All stakeholder submissions are due by 7 April 2017.

The draft operating licence package is available at IPART’s website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

IPART will hold a public workshop to discuss the proposed licence conditions in Sydney on 21 March 2017. Please register your interest in attending, and contact us if you would like to make a presentation at the workshop.

IPART’s final recommendations regarding the licence will be submitted to the Minister for Regional Water in May 2017.

Media Contact: Julie Sheather ☎ 02 9290 8403 ☎ 0409 514 643

More information is available at ipart.nsw.gov.au