



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

IM16/21664

Your ref: D16/19987; 16/2-5

Mr Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35, Haymarket Post Shop
SYDNEY NSW 1240

Dear Mr Harmstorf

Thank you for your invitation of 3 August 2016 to make a submission on the application by Narara Eco Village Co-operative Ltd (NEV) for a network operator's licence and a retail supplier's licence under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (WICA).

It is understood that the WICA licence applications are proposed for the construction, maintenance and operation of water infrastructure to supply water and sewerage services to the Narara Eco Village.

The Narara Eco Village development is located within the boundaries of the Brisbane Water Water Source in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources 2009*.

It is also understood that a temporary supply connection from Gosford will be used to supply potable water for a period of up to 18 months after the first 30 houses are constructed and occupied. This supply will then be replaced by a permanent potable water system sourced from an existing onsite reservoir known as Narara Dam with a proposed take of 45 ML and supplemented with rainwater harvested from rooftops.

Under the *Water Management Act 2000* (WMA), water extractions from a water source must be covered by an appropriate water access licence and approval, a basic landholder right, or a licence and approval exemption. The taking of treated effluent (wastewater from households) and harvesting rainwater from rooftops falls outside the definition of State's water rights in the WMA and therefore does not need to be covered by basic landholder right, a water access licence, an approval or exemption under the WMA.

However, the taking of water from a dam does fall within the definition of State's water rights. NEV currently holds a water access licence for 29 ML (water access licence 16886). The harvestable right volume that NEV have access to is 6.93 ML, giving them access to a total of 35.93 ML.

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As NEV does not currently have access to any other entitlement under the WMA they will be required to obtain an additional water access licence for 9.07 ML to access a total of 45 ML once the permanent potable water supply system comes online.

NEV holds a combined water supply work and use approval (20CA205551) for Narara Dam which is linked to the water access licence 16886. No other approvals are required for existing or proposed infrastructure under the WMA.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

7 SEP 2016



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