



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

IM15/10864

Mr Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240



IPART	
Doc No	
File No	

Dear Mr Harmstorf

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2015 concerning Aquacell Pty Ltd's application for a network operator's licence under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*.

Aquacell Pty Ltd has applied for a network operator's licence to provide drinking water, non-potable water and sewerage services for Narara Eco-Village located near Gosford on the Central Coast. A Development Application for the community title subdivision and associated infrastructure was approved by Gosford City Council in August 2014.

Water will be sourced from an existing in-river dam, for which an access licence (WAL 16886), water supply work and use approval (20CA205551) are held; rainwater harvested from rooftops; and tankered water in case of emergencies.

Narara Ecovillage Co-operative Limited holds an unregulated river access licence for 29 ML in the Brisbane Water Water Source in the *Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources 2009* (WSP), and is also the holder of the relevant approval. The applicant should ensure that suitable agreements are in place to be able to utilise this licence and approval.

The licence and approval holder(s) must abide by any rules in that WSP, including available water determinations, accounting rules, access rules and the long-term average annual extraction limit. The holder must also abide by the conditions on their licence and approval.

IPART and the applicant should note that the water access licence is a general security licence. Even though the approved purposes include town water supply, it is not a high security entitlement, therefore if restrictions are required under the WSP, then water supply may be affected. The WSP does not allow conversion of this entitlement to a higher security.

It is recommended that the applicant should be required to develop and implement a dam safety management plan, including regular inspections by an appropriately qualified person to ensure the ongoing structural maintenance and integrity of the dam. Failure of the dam could lead to downstream safety and environmental issues, as well as lack of supply to the village.

If you have any further enquiries please contact Mitchell Isaacs, Manager Strategic Stakeholder Liaison, with the Office of Water, on (02) 8838 7529.

Yours sincerely



13 MAY 2015

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