



Health

Ms Michelle Coco
A/Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

Your ref D22/19930
Our ref M22/8711

Dear Ms Coco

Thank you for writing about the application to vary the network operator's licence for Altogether Huntlee Water Pty Ltd and retail supplier's licence for Altogether Group Pty Ltd. Minister Hazzard has asked me to respond.

The proposed variation is to expand the area where sewage is collected and recycled water is supplied from the existing recycled water treatment plant. NSW Health understands that no changes to the recycled water treatment process are proposed. However, the application states there will be additional end uses (ornamental water features, general washdown, street cleaning and use of process water at the recycled water treatment plant). The application also states that four recycled water storage tanks will be built. NSW Health notes that drinking water is sourced from Hunter Water and the variation will also expand the area supplied and build additional drinking water storage tanks.

The risk assessments for drinking water, sewage and recycled water should be reviewed in consultation with stakeholders including NSW Health, IPART and EPA. NSW Health also advises that the management plans for drinking water, sewage and recycled water will need to be updated if details of the scheme change, including an assessment of the capacity of the systems to service the expanded area. I request, as noted previously, that NSW Health is consulted during risk assessments, development of management plans and development of incident notification protocols.

NSW Health's response should not be considered an approval or endorsement of the applicant's documentation. NSW Health's review has focused on potential public health issues. NSW Health expects that the audit process will confirm the adequacy of the drinking and recycled water management plans and compliance with the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* and *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling*.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Should officers of IPART require further information, please contact Dr Paul Byleveld, Manager Water Unit on (02) 9391 9939. Should the applicant require further information, they may contact Mr Philippe Porigneaux, Hunter New England Health on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

13 January 2023
Jeff Standen
A/Director Environmental Health Branch

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