

Fact Sheet – Water Industry Competition Act Licence Application Assessment Timeline

August 2017



WHAT

IPART assesses applications for licences and variations to licences made under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (WIC Act). The Minister for Energy and Utilities grants licences, if approved, after considering our assessment.

We aim to assess applications thoroughly, efficiently and transparently. To enable this we have set a target timeline, or 'clock', of 34 weeks for our assessment.

Our target timeline, excluding 'stop the clock' periods, is for us to complete an assessment within 34 weeks from the date of submission of the application.

Key factors that could extend the target timeline are listed on the next page. We will liaise with the applicant to review the timeline if these influencing factors arise during the assessment.

This 34 week period applies to the time required for us to make a recommendation to the Minister.



WHY

We provide the timeline as guidance for applicants to assist them in project scheduling, and to explain the process we use to assess applications. It can also serve as a guide to other stakeholders (government agencies, local councils, public water utilities and the general public) for the timing of stakeholder consultation on new applications.



WHAT NEXT

The Department of Planning & Environment has advised that the *Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014* is scheduled to commence in late 2018. Until this time the existing framework for assessing licence applications will continue. Further information on the existing licensing regime is available on the IPART website at:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Water/Alternate-water-utilities-WICAWICA-Fact-Sheets-FAQs>



HOW

The timeline outlines our key assessment process. It notes when the IPART 'clock' stops on the assessment.

Notionally, the clock will stop whenever we request that the applicant provide additional information. We will issue requests for additional information (RFIs) as required.

WIC Act licence application assessment

IPART's target is **34 weeks** 'on the clock'. To achieve 34 weeks we require good quality information and allow for only two requests for information (RFIs).

Key factors that could extend the target timeline include:

- ▼ poor quality or incomplete information
- ▼ complex schemes
- ▼ complex financial arrangements
- ▼ complex company structures
- ▼ insufficient planning approvals
- ▼ change in scope during assessment, and
- ▼ long applicant response times to RFIs.



WIC Act applicant submits application

IPART initial assessment

IPART issues a RFI if required

IPART review of RFI response

Public and agency consultation

IPART detailed assessment informed by submissions

IPART issues a RFI if required

IPART detailed assessment continues to completion

Tribunal assesses recommendation

IPART makes its recommendation to the Minister

The Minister considers IPART's recommendation



IPART clock is on



IPART clock is off