

WATERNSW OPERATING LICENCE CONDITIONS UNDER REVIEW

24 June 2016

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on the terms and conditions of a new operating licence (or licences) to be developed for WaterNSW.

Formed through the effective merger of the former State Water Corporation (State Water) and Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA), WaterNSW constructs, operates and maintains water management infrastructure; manages catchments; delivers raw water to towns and customers in rural NSW including irrigators; supplies raw water to Sydney Water and other suppliers of drinking water; and releases environmental flows to protect the health of riverine environments.

The WaterNSW operating licence (or licences) will set the terms and conditions under which WaterNSW must undertake its functions throughout NSW. WaterNSW currently undertakes these functions under the provisions of the existing State Water and SCA operating licences.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said that the review will investigate what licence structure most appropriately authorises the diverse functions of WaterNSW and subsequently what terms and conditions are appropriate to enable WaterNSW to fulfil its authorised functions in the most effective and efficient way.

“The new operating licence will be purpose-built for the new organisation and detail the terms and conditions relating to the capture, storage and release of water to downstream water users and for environmental flows,” Dr Boxall said.

“We will also investigate whether and what performance standards should be set in relation to water delivery, water quality, service interruptions or other matters.”

Dr Boxall said the new operating licence (or licences) will clarify WaterNSW’s regulatory obligations and reduce any regulatory burden resulting from duplicative or conflicting obligations in the existing State Water and SCA operating licences.

“WaterNSW is subject to a number of Acts, Regulations and government policies at both the federal and state level. The operating licence is just one component of this framework and, as such, we are mindful of the need to minimise any conflicting requirements or duplication.” he said.

An Issues Paper highlighting key areas for investigation has been released for stakeholder comment. WaterNSW is required to provide its response by 2 August 2016, with public submissions closing on 16 August 2016.

Further consultation will be undertaken once the draft operating licence (or licences) is released in early 2017.

The Issues Paper is available at IPART’s website:

http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Water/Reviews/Licensing_-_WaterNSW.

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