

Professor T Parry
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office **NSW** 1230

Dear Professor Parry

I am writing in relation to the review of Hunter **Water** Corporation's Operating Licence.

The NSW Department of Health considers it appropriate that the Operating Licence requirements for Hunter Water and Sydney Water **be made** consistent for health-related guidelines. The Department recommends **that** Hunter Water comply with the health-related guideline values of the **Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 1996** (the Guidelines). Hunter Water should comply with any **revisions** of the health-related aspects of the Guidelines, where specified **by** the Department.

The Department acknowledges *the* efforts of Hunter Water in catchment management. It **is** desirable that **the Operating** Licence reflects the requirements of the Guidelines in relation to minimising the risk of contamination of **water supplies**, including catchment protection and system management. It must **be noted** that some catchment protection **issues** are outside the control of Hunter Water.

The Department recommends that the requirements of the *Memorandum of Understanding Between NSW Health and Hunter Water Corporation* **be** reflected in the operating Licence.

While the Department is supportive of water conservation measures, reuse targets must be realistic. **NSW Health must** be consulted when reuse projects are developed, so that appropriate health standards and guidelines may be applied.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the review. Should officers of IPART require further information, I may be contacted on 9816 0292.

Yours sincerely



Paul Byleveld
A/Manager Water Unit

20 September 2001