



Central Coast Council

Submission on Catherine Hill Bay Water Utility Licence Variation

7 February 2020



Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | **P** 02 4350 5555

Gosford Office: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford NSW 2250 | **P** 02 4325 8222

E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003

Introduction

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) issued an invitation for Central Coast Council (Council) to make a submission on a licence variation application by Catherine Hill Bay Water Utility (CHBWU) in relation to its network operator's licence for the Catherine Hill Bay scheme. This report sets out Council's response.

Background

The CHBWU current has a connection to Council's water supply system in the vicinity of Kanangra Reservoir at Crangan Bay. CHBWU then transfer water from this connection point, via their booster pump station, to their onsite reservoirs at Catherine Hill Bay.

To date CHBWU have been operating a low-pressure sewerage scheme (LPSS) that collects and transfers sewage to the onsite Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Treated effluent is then either supplied to customers through a dual reticulation scheme (following additional treatment) or disposed of at onsite irrigation areas.

During 2018, CHBWU approached Council to understand the requirements for the transfer of treated effluent to Gwandalan STP. Following the completion of initial feasibility investigations, CHBWU were advised to submit a Water Management Act (Section 305) application to allow assessment of the Water Authorities (Council) requirements in relation to this proposal. CHWBWU were also advised to seek approval for part of the proposed private rising main that would be located within the Central Coast Council Local Government Area (LGA) under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

Council's responses to IPART's questions

- 1 Do you consider that our understanding of the approvals that CHBWU has obtained and requires under the EP&A Act (as outlined in Attachment A) is correct for the activities the network operator's licence variation would authorise, if granted? If not, in your opinion, what approvals do CHWBWU have and/or what approvals do CHWBWU need to obtain?

Council's response:

Development consent has been granted under DA/1385/2018 (See Attachment B) for part of a private recycled water main. This assessment had regard for the environment. The development consent only relates to that portion of the recycled water main that is within Central Coast LGA and it is our opinion that they have the necessary development approvals under the EP&A Act. However, the proposed pipeline traverses other land that is not under the jurisdiction of Council and we are not able to confirm if the relevant approvals are in place for these other areas.



Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | **P** 02 4350 5555

Gosford Office: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford NSW 2250 | **P** 02 4325 8222

E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003

Section 306 Requirements have been issued under WMA/1863/2018 (See Attachment C). There are conditions of development consent and requirements within the Section 306 letter that need to be met that relate to the operation of the effluent discharge at Gwandalan STP.

- 2 Are you aware of any unacceptable risks to the environment posed by the activities to be licensed under the variation? If so, what are the risks?

Council's response:

Council is not able to comment on risks to the environment for activities occurring outside of its LGA. Council can however advise the treatment and disposal of the additional proposed effluent to be discharged at Gwandalan STP can be managed within acceptable risks inline with the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for the Toukley Sewerage Scheme (includes Gwandalan STP).

- 3 If granted, should the network operator's licence variation contain any specific conditions in relation to protection of the environment? If so, what conditions do you recommend?

Council's response:

The network operator will be required to comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

Conditions relating to the protection of the environment during the construction phase of the recycled water pipeline within Council's LGA are managed as part of the requirements relating to DA/1385/2018.

Conditions relating to the protection of the environment during the treatment and subsequent disposal of effluent discharged to Gwandalan STP are managed as part of the EPL for the Toukley Sewerage Scheme.

Council is not able to comment on any conditions relevant to the protection of the environment within National Parks Land, or land within Lake Macquarie LGA. Those agencies are better placed to comment on those matters.



Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | **P** 02 4350 5555

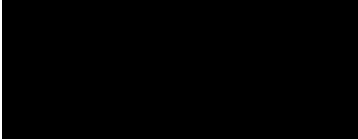
Gosford Office: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford NSW 2250 | **P** 02 4325 8222

E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003

Further details

If IPART wishes to discuss Council's submission further please contact Mr Luke Drury, Section Manager Water Services and Design via [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Jamie Loader
Director Water and Sewer
Central Coast Council

Attachments

- Attachment A – IPART Invitation to make a submission
- Attachment B – Development Consent (DA1385/2018)
- Attachment C – Section 306 Certificate (WMA/1863/2018)



Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259 | **P** 02 4350 5555

Gosford Office: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford NSW 2250 | **P** 02 4325 8222

E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003