

3rd May 2018

Erin Cini
Director, Regulation and Compliance
IPART
Level 15, 2-24 Rawson Place, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box K35, Haymarket Post Shop, NSW 1240

Dear Ms Cini,

Department of Industry Water comments on the IPART Draft Public Water Utility Audit guideline

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Public Water Utility Audit Guideline. The Department of Industry Water (DoI Water) works closely with Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) on the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan. DoI Water also regulates Hunter Water Corporation take from the Williams and Paterson Rivers and the Tomago and Tomaree Sandbeds.

Roles and Responsibilities Protocol

As part of the Lower Hunter Water Plan, DoI Water and HWC maintain a roles and responsibilities protocol. This is recognised within the HWC Operating Licence in section 5.10. The purpose of the protocol is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two organisations, ensure open communication and effective exchange of all relevant materials for developing the Lower Hunter Water Plan. Establishing the protocol also meets the requirements of Hunter Water's Operating Licence.

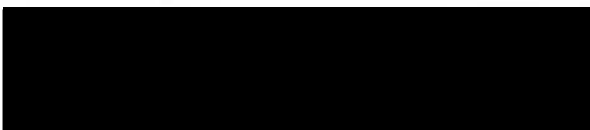
The Roles and Responsibilities protocol is currently under review to reflect the intent of the organisations to work co-operatively together to develop and implement the next iteration of the plan for 2020. This includes the development of a Triparty Agreement between HWC, Central Coast Council, and DoI Water. This reflects the requirement that long term planning between the Hunter and Central Coast areas recognise the linkages between the two systems.

LHWP Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan

Each year, DoI Water evaluates implementation actions set out in the LHWP and whether the plan is delivering on its assumptions and objectives according to the LHWP Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan. The evaluation for 2016-17 has been completed and is now available. These annual reports may provide a valuable source of information to inform any Audits of HWC undertaken under the proposed guideline, as they consider changes to yield and demand estimates, as well as reporting on the progress of activities required under the LHWP.

Please contact Mark Simons on [REDACTED] if you require any further information

Yours faithfully,



Mark Simons
Manager, Regional Coastal Planning