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20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

REF: Catherine Hill Bay- Network Operator Variation

To whom it may concern

As a local resident who attends the beach at Catherine Hill Bay regularly, with my family to swim, I would formally like to object to the licence amendment that is currently up for public consultation. My reasons for this objection are detailed below.

### **Health Impacts**

Human health should be thoroughly considered with the variation application.

The treated water that is released into the environment of course is going to find its way to the sea, which means we are putting something into the water and this is a very popular patrolled swimming beach.

What studies have been conducted on this type of treated water? So often the public are told that something is safe, but as the years pass, more often than not, the information is revoked – Are we unnecessarily exposing our children to future health risks?

I know Solo Water has raised the point that the treated water will be released, but the land drainage at Catherine Hill Bay often pools in a lagoon on the beach. The comment in the local media from Solo Water that it is open to the sea for at least 73% of the time is complete nonsense. The lagoon only breaks through when there is a significant weather event, with Lake Macquarie City Council having to dig a channel to let the water out when it has become very pungent. Imagine what that will be like with the introduction of the treated water – and yes there will be more of it.

### **Environmental Impacts**

I also have concerns about what damage this treated water could have on the environment, including the creek lines of the surrounding area and the ocean. If the treated water is allowed to be discharged we are still putting something in to the environment that does not belong.

Again I see no scientific report to support how safe it actually is.

### **Significant changes to the original planning permission for the building of the estate**

The new housing development was granted permission to be built under the terms that all waste water would be treated off site and that it would have no bearing on the surrounding environment. Changing the licence as proposed in the variation a complete turnaround from the original permissions. It makes me ask the question why?

Is Solo Water very underhandedly getting what they wanted all along, as it easy to play the “we are Environmentally Friendly” card to get building development consent and then apply to change your licence a few years down the track when you are hoping no one will notice! – Very Sneaky

Is this a cost saving exercise on Solo Water’s part? One would imagine treating all waste water off site is costly so is Solo Water trying to save a few bucks at the cost of the local’s health and the environment?

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Kind regards

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