

Under the current REF 3.1 General Summary clearly states “Stage 3 of the proposal is not included or assessed as part of this REF and is mentioned for information purposes only. Stage 3 will be subject to separate approval.” Considering Stage 3 is not included or assessed in the original proposal and considering the magnitude of the operator’s variation, an Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken before any further approvals are considered. As listed in the REF 3.5.5 Water Quality, Total Nitrogen Mean of 10 is considered high and could negatively impact upon natural eco systems, according to comment received from an Environmental Scientist.

Can Solo Water prove beyond a measure of doubt the proposed discharge of up to 162,000 litres/day of treated waste water will NOT negatively impact the creek/lagoon system and surrounding natural flora?

Can Solo Water prove with the expected high levels of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in the “typical water quality” that a significant imbalance in the water body affected will not produce constant outbreaks of Algae Blooms?

Does Solo Water have risk measures in place to deal with major overflows of waste water into the creek and lagoon in times of extreme weather and heavy rain?

With the new proposal to dispose of treated effluent outside of the Beaches subdivision boundaries, an Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken. Solo Water must prove their waste water releases will NOT adversely affect the natural water eco system. It is totally unacceptable for Solo Water to apply for this variation without providing Scientific evidence that it will not be polluting the environment.

The company advises the treated waste water is not suitable for drinking or bathing. The lagoon the water will drain into is constantly used approximately 8 months of the year by families with small children for swimming and recreation, particularly when the seas are rough or the ocean presents dangerous conditions. Can Solo Water prove beyond doubt that if a small child in the process of swimming and playing in the lagoon, was to ingest treated waste water, there would be NO negative side effects which would be detrimental to the child’s health? With an average adult’s tolerance to toxins much higher than that of a small child, Solo Water must be made to show scientifically this possibility of human contamination would not occur.

Can Solo Water prove beyond doubt the waste water that will flow into the creek and lagoon will not be toxic or contain potentially dangerous levels of nutrients/chemicals, heavy metals and minerals etc?

Solo Water MUST be accountable and not simply push for the cheapest option of dumping their excess waste water into a fragile eco system, particularly when there is already infrastructure in place to dispose of the excess waste without affecting the environment.

In summary, as a resident of both Catherine Hill Bay & neighbouring Nords Wharf for the past 48years, I and the public deserve the right to demand that several independent and scientifically based studies, including an Environmental Impact Assessment, addressing all aspects of this issue are carried out PRIOR to any approval for a Variation to the network operator’s licence and results of such tests are published and made accessible to the public.

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