



13 August 2014

Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory
Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Contact: Scott Christie
Our Ref: DOC2014/033993
Your Ref: 14/151

Dear Mr Harmstorf

Huntlee Water network operator licence application

I refer to your invitation for submissions dated 9 July 2014 (Ref no. 14/151) concerning the Huntlee Water network operator licence application for drinking water, recycled water and sewerage services under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*.

Although Cessnock City Council (Council) is not the appropriate regulatory authority assessing the application, it is considered that Council's concerns should be known and suitably addressed prior to its determination.

Concerns associated with the Huntlee Water network operator licence include:

- Additional information is required on the method of trade waste collection and disposal from the connection of commercial premises to the sewerage system;
- Any reference to recycled water needs further explanation and clarification;
- What is the intended method of collection and disposal of recycled water prior to phase 2 being completed and recycled water from phase 1 and phase 2 becoming available for general use within the development at that time;
- Further information is required concerning the intended use of recycled water in residential washing machines and commercial cooling towers;
- Council has concerns over the discharge of excess recycled water into a natural watercourse;
- Further information is requested concerning the end destination for dewatered screenings and waste activated sludge extracted from the waste treatment facility;
- Additional information is required on the method and infrastructure to be used for the return of recycled sewage for end use at undisclosed locations in Stage 1;
- Provide and identify the legislation available which permits the recycled water to be used in such diverse uses as toilet flushing, washing machines, irrigation, car washing and cooling towers;

- Provide additional information on how to achieve irrigation of public open space dust suppression during construction and storage of recycled water; and
- Provide theory and determination of the designated extent of odours emanating from the sewage treatment facility whereby it is claimed odours will not extend to the nearby residential properties.

Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal and looks forward to your response. I note that a copy of this submission will also be sent to Huntlee Water Pty Ltd and Flow Systems for their information.

Council's interests are in protecting the wellbeing of the existing and future community of the Cessnock Local Government Area.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone 02 4993 4168.

Yours faithfully

Scott Christie
Strategic Land Use Planner