



## Community Environment Network Inc.

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*An alliance of community and environment groups from Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford.*

Avril Lockton  
Deputy Chair  
Community Environment  
Network

### **Submission re: Granting of a Network Operator and Retail Supplier License to Catherine Hill Bay Water Utility Pty. Ltd.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Community Environment Network operates on the Central Coast of NSW. CEN promotes ecologically sustainable development and is active in defending any threats to ESD.

**CEN OBJECTS** to the proposed waste water treatment plan for the following reasons:

1. The technology is outdated and is inappropriate in such an environmentally sensitive area.
2. Open storage lakes above and adjacent to homes are a risk to community health.
3. The 8 metre dam walls that will be cut into the hills will destroy fragile coastal ecosystems and will be visually intrusive.
4. The odour resulting from open sewage ponds and green algal blooms will be intrusive and a health risk to residents and visitors.
5. In heavy rain overflow from these ponds will be a health risk to residents living in the vicinity.

The company Catherine Hill Bay Water Utility Pty Ltd has never previously applied for a licence in New South Wales. In the past the managers of this company have worked in Victoria, providing sewerage systems for caravan parks and golf courses.

The town of Catherine Hill Bay is a State Heritage Listed town - only the second town in New South Wales to be placed on the register. Any infrastructure needs to be respectful of the town's natural and cultural heritage, the high volume of tourists visiting the town and its coastal zone and its location within a State Conservation Area.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant site is located on the western edge of the Rose group site, adjacent to Montefiore Street. Part of the heritage and tourism experience is the rural tree-lined entry into the town. The wastewater treatment site adjacent to Montefiore Street is inappropriately sited. It was never part of the approval by the Planning Assessment

Commission. Nor has there been an environmental impact study that looks at how the site can accommodate recycled sewage as well as grey water. A previous study only looked at recycled grey water. Sewage was to be pumped back to Swansea.

If the proposed sewage treatment plant is allowed to proceed Moonee Beach and the lagoon at the base of the 'pocket parks' will be impacted. 40% of the wastewater generated will be managed by "controlled irrigation of public open space". There is very little public space in this tightly packed 1970s style subdivision with tiny pocket parks adjacent to a lagoon close to the sea.

In summary:

- **The proposed technology will lead to poor environmental and community health outcomes.**
- **Sewage needs to be pumped to Swansea as originally planned.**
- **The regulator must ensure that best practice technology be used in this area of significant cultural heritage and environmental sensitivity.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Yours sincerely,  
Avril Lockton

Deputy Chair – Community Environment Network