

Objection to the Cooranbong Water License

The Sewer Treatment Plant/ water treatment facility proposed by Cooranbong water (CW), Flow Systems and Johnson Property Group at 617 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong, for the North Cooranbong Residential precinct should be rejected.

~ Lake Macquarie Council DA 714/2014

This facility should be located in the original North Cooranbong Residential Precinct boundaries OR connected to Hunter Water, as originally proposed by Johnson Property Group and approved by council in 2008.

This STP should NOT be located in the middle of Cooranbong, next to pre-existing, residential housing and close to community facilities such as a pre-school, community centre, church and the business centre of Cooranbong.

This infrastructure will not be of any benefit to the existing Cooranbong community, as they will not be able to access the facility's services. If any thing should happen at the facility affecting pre-existing residents, who are not connected to CW, they will have no recourse or compensation rights from Cooranbong Water. This information was confirmed at the community meeting on the 7th May, 2014 by JPG and Flow Systems representatives.

The Cooranbong community does NOT want this facility in their "backyard". They opposed the developers' first proposal to put the facility at 60 Avondale Road, Cooranbong. The developer withdrew this DA due to strong community objections. The new position proposed at 617 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong, is only a short distance from Avondale Rd, had over 130 OBJECTIONS sent to council. This is TRIPLE the number of objections than the first proposal! The reasoning behind the new proposed location appears to be financial, as it would cost more to connect to Hunter Water, as originally proposed.

Other smaller facilities of this kind such as Pitt Water and Wyee have NOT been placed in the town centre or near dense residential areas, as proposed by CW.

Please note and investigate my concerns regarding Cooranbong waters application for a water license.

In relation to **3.6 Monopoly Supply**

3.6.1 In your opinion, will the supply of water and/sewerage services to customers be a monopoly service? If yes, please specify whether the monopoly service is in relation to:

- * a specified water supply or sewerage service, and**
- * a specified area, and**
- * a specified class of customers.**

Your response to this question will be used to determine whether the Minister should consider declaring the licensee a monopoly supplier in accordance with section 51 of the WIC Act.

ANSWER:

No. The supply of drinking water, recycled water and sewerage services by CW is not a monopoly service. The licence area proposed by CW is already served by Hunter Water for drinking water and sewerage. All customer classes have the ability to chose who will provide their drinking water, recycled water and sewerage service.

This is a concern as the above answer implies that all new residents in the Watagan Park Estate and North Cooranbong Residential Precinct will have a choice to use Cooranbong Water or another provider such as Hunter Water. Hunter Water has confirmed that this is not true and new residents will only be able to connect to Cooranbong Water.

Is this a MONOPOLY service????

I believe monopoly means ~ the exclusive possession or control of or trade in a commodity or service.

UNFORTUNATELY, Cooranbong Water's answer of NO to being a Monopoly service appears to be UNTRUE. Does this mean that JPG and Cooranbong Water have incorrectly and dishonestly completed this licensee application form?

This developer and Cooranbong Water, have shown themselves as untrustworthy and deceptive in their dealings. They have been untruthful in their communications, when providing information to the Cooranbong community in the past.

Is saving money more important than morals, ethics, integrity and honesty?

Another concern, considering the extensive flooding, storm damage such as fallen trees causing damage and the lengthy power outages in Cooranbong, some residents are yet to get their power back after 6+ days, is how this facility would or wouldn't be able to handle such circumstances. We continued to have water and sewer services through Hunter water, would CW have been able to provide the same services? Or do residences close to this facility have cause for alarm and concern regarding their health and over flow from the facility, as Hunter Water cannot guarantee support for CW in such circumstances. What are the risks should a disaster befall the plant?

As the closest residential house to the facility, which is also at a lower elevation to the facility, the issues mentioned above especially the risk of overflow and the health of our family, are of major concern to us.

I trust that you take all concerns and issues that we have and the Cooranbong community have, into consideration before you make your decision regarding this water license.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.