



The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage



MD12/1363

Mr James Cox
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 8, 1 Market St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cox

Thank you for your letter regarding the application made by Central Park Water Factory to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a licence under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*.

In relation to the capacity of the applicant, I can advise that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has not initiated any prosecutions against any of the corporations listed under section 1 (e) or 3(b) of the application.

The application states that the expected volume of sewage to be extracted, treated, collected and/or distributed is up to 1000kL/day. As specified in Schedule 1 of the *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997*, an environment protection licence is required to undertake sewage treatment works where the activity has a processing capacity that exceeds 750kL/day if the system involves the discharge or likely discharge to land or waters. The EPA understands that discharges of waste will be into the existing Sydney Water sewer system and Central Park Water Factory will not be discharging waste to the environment. Therefore an environment protection licence will not be required for this activity.

I am unable to provide significant comment on the project in relation to the adequacy of the applicant's proposed measures to protect the environment from any significant risk of harm, as an Environmental Assessment for this project has not been provided with this application. However, it appears from the application that the risk of harm to the environment will be mitigated by the arrangement with Sydney Water to accept both the wastes from the Central Park Water Factory processing of sewage, as well as untreated sewage from the entire development during an emergency event, into the existing sewerage system. The waste will be treated in accordance with Sydney Water's existing Environment Protection Licence for the Bondi sewerage system.

If you or your staff wish to further discuss the issues raised in this letter, please feel free to contact Ms Bernie Brompton, Regional Operations Officer, Environment Protection Authority on (02) 9995 6844 or e-mail bernie.brompton@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Parker MP 22/4/12
Minister for the Environment