

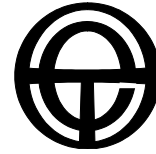
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6 September 2010

2010 review of the Sydney Catchment Authority Operating Licence
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Governor Macquarie Tower
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Sydney Catchment Authority Operating Licence Review

Dear Sir / Madam,

Total Environment Centre (TEC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of the Operating Licence for Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA).

TEC notes the Metropolitan Water Plan, Water Sharing Plan and operating rules for the Kurnell desalination plant had not been finalised in time for consideration in this review. In view of this we accept the Tribunal's proposal to make mostly minimal changes to the existing licence. We support the proposal to set a short licence term of 15 months ahead of a more comprehensive review to set a new 5-year licence.

TEC supports inclusion of the issues raised in Appendix of the Issues Paper for inclusions in this comprehensive licence review.

There is, however, a pressing issue affecting both the quality and quantity of water available from SCA catchments that must be urgently addressed and should not wait until this more comprehensive review.

TEC believes that urgent action is required to address the threat of damage to the catchments from longwall mining. We recommend that given the number of longwalls being mined each year, the SCA be required to monitor and publicly report every six months upon the effects of longwall mining in catchment areas (we understand that monitoring is a development consent requirement but analysis and full public reporting at a sufficient level is not).

Yours sincerely

Leigh Martin
Water Campaigner