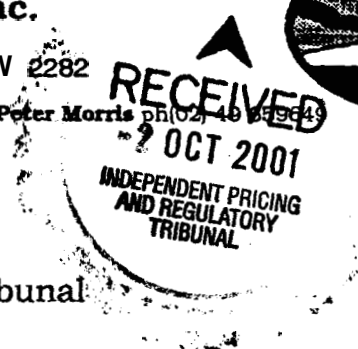


**The United Residents Group for the Environment
of Lake Macquarie Inc.**

PO Box 500 WARNERS BAY NSW 2282

President - Jack Shield ph(02) 49 574213

Secretary - Peter Morris ph(02) 49 574213



25 September 20001

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290 QVB Post Office
Sydney NSW 1230

Submission on Hunter Water Corporation Operating Licence

Dear Sir/Madam

We considered this matter at our August meeting and much of the discussion concerned Hunter Water Corporation's inability thus far to provide adequate and safe sewerage *in* the Swansea area. It is obvious to all observers that surcharges have occurred to an unsatisfactory extent, yet by averaging these occurrences over the Corporation's total operations they meet the relevant standard.

1► We consider it an essential improvement that the operating licence should consider sensitivity of the locations and the local environments of surcharges **so** that there are no unjustifiable impacts on neighbourhoods or ecosystems.

In fact the HWC has **far** exceeded its standards for surcharges.

2► We feel that there should be new standards which will in future ensure this level of performance, regardless **of** economic **or** other pressures.

3► Further, we feel that the Corporation's infrastructure should be improved and monitored **so** that ingress of stormwater can be reduced and eventually eliminated. **As** a point for comparison, the gas reticulation system **does** not allow for significant entry or **losses** of fluids.

4► We request HWC to pursue further industrial reuse of effluent as an alternative to using clean water.

5► We would like to see ongoing cooperation between the HWC and **local** councils **so** that there can be coordinated or joint management of stormwater in order to reduce effectson ecosystems

.../2

6► We feel that the operating licence should include a target for odours from the wastewater transportation system and that...

7► it should include greater efforts to minimise odour impacts from treatment works.

8► We feel that provision of water should be subject to a demand-management target to help reduce consumption and perhaps eliminate the need for more dams.

9► We feel that the Corporation should make more efforts to manage its landholdings, particularly by removal of weeds and feral **animals**.

10► We request that the HWC adopts bush regeneration methods in the management of its lands. We **also** support the ongoing availability of land for community use, such as by the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.

11► Further, we would like to **see** the Corporation support and sponsor landcare groups on its own and adjoining properties

12► The HWC should take a more active role in environmental education, **so** that the public can be more aware of their role in the collection, treatment, use and disposal of water **so** that there will be acceptance of the need to regulate usage in order to minimise impacts. Such education should **also** target impacts of human activity in the catchments of dams.

We request that **all** of the twelve points we raise here are included in the conditions of the HWC's operating licence with targets and performance criteria attached to them.

Yours sincerely,



Peter **Morris**, Secretary