





18 May 2016

## Water Licence Review 2016 Decision

The Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) proposes to amend the water services licence template (**water licence**). The ERA's Decision is available on the ERA <u>website</u>.

On 11 February 2016, the ERA released its Water Licence Review Discussion Paper with a draft water licence for public comment. The ERA published three submissions received on 14 March 2016, and subsequently accepted and published two late submissions on 5 April 2016.

After consideration of the submissions, the ERA's decision makes additional amendments to the water licence:

- Two amendments to increase flexibility associated with memoranda of understanding between licensees and the Department of Health (proposed licence clause 6).
- Amendments to clarify the definitions of customer and potable water (proposed licence clause 7).
- Two amendments to the obligations associated with pressure and flow exemptions including a requirement to notify customers affected by pressure and flow exemptions (Schedule 2 of proposed licence, clause 1.2).
- An amendment to remove licence clause 5.1.3 (see marked-up water licence)<sup>1</sup>, which required irrigators to notify customers annually that water supplied for irrigation purposes is not suitable for drinking.

In addition, the water licence includes a number of minor drafting changes such as edits to ensure consistent and clarity.

The ERA has given all licensees 15 business days to provide submissions on the ERA's proposed licence amendments, prior to the ERA issuing new licences by substitution in accordance with section 17 of the *Water Services Act 2012* (Water Act).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Clause 5.3 (Schedule 3) in affected current water services licences.

## For further information contact:

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