





26 August 2019

Public consultation on water services licence application

TMC Witchcliffe Pty Ltd

The Economic Regulation Authority is seeking public comment on TMC Witchcliffe Pty Ltd's application for a water services licence to provide non-potable water and sewerage services to the Witchcliffe Ecovillage, south of Margaret River.

TMC Witchcliffe proposes to design, construct and operate a sewerage scheme, treatment and storage facilities to provide sewerage services to approximately 414 residential and commercial lots. The collected sewage will be treated by an on-site wastewater treatment plant located with recycled wastewater used to irrigate a nine-hectare avocado plantation within the development.

A summary of the licence application is available on the ERA website.

Under section 11(1)(a) of the *Water Services Act 2012*, the ERA must grant a licence if it is satisfied that the applicant:

- has, and is likely to retain; or
- will acquire within a reasonable time after the grant, and is then likely to retain,

the financial and technical resources to undertake the activities authorised by the licence.

Section 11(1)(b) of the Act states that the ERA must grant a licence if it is satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so. Section 46 of the Act requires the ERA to take into account environmental and public health considerations (to the extent it considers them relevant) when considering section 11(1)(b).

In addition, section 26 of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003* requires the ERA to consider certain matters when performing all of its functions. These include: promoting regulatory outcomes in the public interest; the long-term interests of consumers; encouraging investment; the business interests of investors and service providers; promoting a fair and competitive markets; preventing abuse of market power; and promoting transparent decision-making processes with public consultation.

Invitation for submissions

The ERA invites interested parties to make submissions on the licence application.

Submissions close 4:00 pm (WST) Friday, 13 September 2019.

Submissions should be lodged online using the form on our website <u>www.erawa.com.au/consultation</u>.

Further information

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