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**ECONOMIC REGULATION  
AUTHORITY, ERA**

**ABCO WATER SYSTEMS  
APPLICATION FORM**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

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**THE GREEN RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

**WASTE WATER TREATMENT SERVICES**

## 4.1.Application Summary

### 4.1.1. Identity of applicant and a description of its structure and key organisational relationships

ABCO Water steps forward as the applicant for the licence, backed by a robust history spanning over five decades in the water treatment sector. Founded in 1971, the company has transitioned from its origins as a plumbing and hardware store to become a leading provider of innovative water treatment solutions. Anchored by a structured organisational hierarchy led by industry veterans Michael Harnett, Kyle Matthews, and Brendan Doherty, ABCO Water maintains a steadfast focus on technological advancement and operational efficiency.

Integral to ABCO Water's operations are its strategic partnerships and organisational relationships, particularly with regulatory bodies like the Department of Health (DoH) and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). Through proactive engagement and collaboration, ABCO Water ensures compliance with regulatory standards while driving the development and implementation of cutting-edge water treatment infrastructure projects. Brendan Doherty's expertise in navigating regulatory frameworks enhances the company's ability to seamlessly integrate solutions that meet both regulatory and client requirements.

Moreover, ABCO Water's extensive network includes key industry players such as Rio Tinto, BHP, FMG, and Newmont. These partnerships are grounded in a shared commitment to quality, reliability, and innovation. By leveraging these relationships, ABCO Water solidifies its position as a trusted supplier within the mining and resources sector, delivering tailored solutions that address the unique challenges faced by its clients.

In conclusion, ABCO Water's application for the licence is underpinned by its proven track record, technical expertise, and strategic relationships. With a focus on operational excellence and regulatory compliance, ABCO Water is poised to continue its legacy of providing cutting-edge water treatment solutions that meet the evolving needs of its clients and industry standards.

### 4.1.2. A description of the proposed services or service mode

For this licence, ABCO Water will focus on providing maintenance services tailored specifically to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). ABCO Water's customer will be the strata (who we will charge) and the households/ dwellings will be the customers of the strata who they will charge and look after accordingly.

Our offerings include:

- **Maintenance Services:** ABCO Water will develop and implement proactive maintenance programs designed to ensure the ongoing integrity and performance of the WWTP. This includes regular inspections, preventive maintenance measures, and prompt repairs to address any issues that arise.
- **Plant Operation Support:** We will provide assistance with the day-to-day operation of the WWTP, including monitoring system performance, optimizing process parameters, and troubleshooting operational challenges as they arise.
- **Regulatory Compliance Assistance:** ABCO Water will work closely with regulatory authorities to ensure that the WWTP remains compliant with all relevant standards and regulations. This includes conducting regular audits, preparing regulatory documentation, and implementing any necessary upgrades or modifications to meet compliance requirements.
- **Sampling Services:** Our sampling services will include routine monitoring of effluent quality to ensure that it meets required discharge standards. We will conduct regular sampling, analysis, and reporting to document compliance with regulatory requirements.

- **Strata Support:** ABCO Water will offer dedicated support services to the strata community, including communication with stakeholders, coordination of maintenance activities, and provision of technical expertise to address any concerns related to the WWTP.
- **Asset Planning:** We will work with the client to develop long-term asset management plans for the WWTP, including assessments of asset condition, lifecycle cost analysis, and strategic planning for future upgrades or replacements.
- **Long-Term Operation:** ABCO Water will assume responsibility for the long-term operation and maintenance of the WWTP, providing ongoing support to ensure continued reliability and performance.

In summary, ABCO Water's suite of services for this licence is tailored specifically to the maintenance and operation of the wastewater treatment plant. With our expertise and commitment to excellence, we are dedicated to ensuring the efficient and compliant operation of the WWTP while providing ongoing support to meet the needs of our clients.

#### 4.1.3. A description of service infrastructure/works involved

At this stage, ABCO Water's involvement in the maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) does not entail plans for infrastructure development. However, our commitment extends beyond routine maintenance tasks. While there are no immediate plans for infrastructure works, ABCO Water stands ready to assist in equipment upgrades and enhancements as required to optimize the performance and efficiency of the WWTP.

Our role primarily focuses on ensuring the operational integrity of existing infrastructure through proactive maintenance measures, equipment inspections, and troubleshooting. Should the need arise for equipment upgrades or modifications to improve process efficiency or meet regulatory standards, ABCO Water will leverage its expertise and industry partnerships to facilitate the implementation of these enhancements.

In summary, while ABCO Water's current scope of involvement does not include infrastructure development, our commitment to providing comprehensive maintenance services extends to assisting in equipment upgrades and improvements as necessary to ensure the continued reliability and compliance of the wastewater treatment plant.

#### 4.1.4. A description of the licence operating areas for the proposed licenced services

ABCO Water is seeking a licence for sewerage services and non-potable water supply services. The proposed licence area, as delineated in plan OWR-OA-312, specifically includes the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and the housing lots directly connected to it. This area covers all infrastructure and facilities essential for receiving raw sewage from the housing lots and performing the necessary treatment processes within the WWTP.

The defined operating area ensures clear jurisdiction over the entirety of the wastewater treatment operations, facilitating effective maintenance services and regulatory compliance within this designated zone.

ABCO Water is responsible for providing comprehensive maintenance services for the WWTP. Our duties include the seamless reception of raw sewage from each housing lot and the subsequent treatment of wastewater, adhering strictly to the requirements set by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Department of Health (DoH). Through meticulous maintenance protocols, adherence to industry best practices, and continuous monitoring, ABCO Water ensures the optimal functionality and regulatory compliance of the WWTP, thereby facilitating efficient and environmentally sound wastewater treatment.

#### 4.1.5. Information on the status of other essential regulatory and contractual approvals required to commence operation under the licence

ABCO Water will facilitate the transfer of the existing Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) licence to the strata company from the existing service provider, which ABCO will manage to ensure compliance. This transfer process involves securing approval from DWER to transfer the licence holder from the current entity to the strata company. Additionally, ABCO Water will ensure that all other essential regulatory and contractual approvals required to commence operation under the licence are obtained and in compliance with regulatory standards. This includes any necessary permits, agreements, or certifications needed for the lawful operation of the wastewater treatment plant under the management of ABCO Water on behalf of the strata company

#### 4.1.6. Information on how the licenced activities will be funded

ABCO Water's funding for the licenced activities will rely on existing operational revenue streams, given that the company will be taking over an established asset that is already in operation.

#### 4.1.7. Information about why the grant of a licence would not be contrary to the public interest

By granting ABCO Water a licence to provide maintenance services, the regulatory authority would not only support the strata's decision to seek a more reliable service provider but also contribute to the overall enhancement of public welfare and safety. ABCO Water's extensive track record, spanning back to 1971, underscores its experience and reliability in the industry. Furthermore, all directors of ABCO Water are well-known and respected within the industry, further affirming the company's credibility and commitment to excellence.

#### 4.1.8. If you are applying for a water services licence to supply potable (drinking) water, information on the source of the potable water and if it will be covered by a drinking water source protection plan.<sup>41</sup>

Not applicable