



# Notice

8 January 2026

## Indian Ocean Territories licensing

### Water services licence application – invitation for submissions

The Economic Regulation Authority is seeking public comment on an application from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts for a water services licence. The application is for the provision of potable water and sewerage services in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT).

The IOT is the collective name for Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The Water Corporation supplies potable water and sewerage services in the IOT through a service delivery arrangement with the Department. The services provided by the Water Corporation in the IOT intentionally fall outside [WL32](#), the Water Corporation's licence for servicing mainland Western Australia.

A [summary of the licence application is on the ERA website](#).

Licensing water services in the IOT will subject the Department to the same legislative and compliance framework as services provided on mainland Western Australia. This includes regular audits and reviews, and access to the [Energy and Water Ombudsman WA](#) for customers in the IOT.

If the ERA grants a licence to the Department, it is likely that the Water Corporation will continue to provide the services in the IOT under a service delivery arrangement. The Department will be responsible for replacement of failed or aging infrastructure, such as water or wastewater mains.

The grant of a licence is subject to the ERA being satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so and that the applicant has, or will acquire within a reasonable time after the grant, and is likely to retain, the financial and technical ability to provide the service. When considering the licence application, the ERA must also have regard to section 26 of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003*, which includes considering the long-term interests of consumers.

### Invitation for submissions

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

Submissions close 4:00pm (WST) Friday, 30 January 2026.

Submissions can be lodged online using the form on our [Current Consultation webpage](#).

### Further information

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