



New South Wales

Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to make amendments to the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (the *principal Act*) to implement the recommendations of the Urban Water Regulation Review and, in particular:

- (a) to separately provide for design and operational approvals for water industry infrastructure and for licences for the operation of water industry infrastructure and the sale of water or sewerage services, and
- (b) to narrow the legislative scheme of approvals and licensing to particular classes of water industry infrastructure focusing on the risks to public health and customers and removing duplication in relation to schemes already approved under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and
- (c) to extend the application of the legislative scheme of approvals and licensing to metropolitan councils, and
- (d) to remove the requirement for entities regulated by the principal Act to obtain sufficient water other than from a public water utility while including measures to manage the degree of competition with incumbent utilities that is permitted for the provision of services to small retail customers, and
- (e) to provide for a scheme of implied contracts on standard terms and conditions to put entities regulated by the Act in the same position as public utilities, and
- (f) to extend the last resort arrangements for ensuring continuity of supply of services defined as, or determined to be, essential to cover the operation of infrastructure as well as the retail supply of water or sewerage services, and

- (g) to provide that land and infrastructure may be acquired by a public water utility if that is necessary to resolve a failure of a licensee and to ensure the continuity of an essential service, and
- (h) to review and increase penalties as appropriate, and
- (i) to include review and appeal provisions.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Water Industry Competition Act 2006 No 104

Schedule 1 [1] amends the long title to ensure that it properly captures the scope of the principal Act, including as proposed to be amended.

Schedule 1 [2] introduces an objects clause setting out matters that must be taken into account in administration of the principal Act. These are derived from relevant licensing principles currently set out in section 7 of the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [3] substitutes Part 2 of the principal Act which currently deals with licensing of network operators and retail suppliers. Proposed Part 2 establishes a scheme of approvals for certain infrastructure and licences for operators of the infrastructure and retailers of water or sewerage services provided by means of the infrastructure. The terminology is changed from “network operator” to “operator” for accuracy and “retail supplier” to “retailer” for simplicity.

Proposed Division 1 (section 5) deals with the scope of the Part.

Proposed section 5 establishes the scope of the approval and licensing scheme (a significantly narrower approach than that provided by the current scheme). It applies Part 2 to category A schemes (for providing water or sewerage services to 30 or more small retail customer premises), large drinking water facilities, large sewage treatment facilities and other prescribed water industry infrastructure. It is intended that the regulations will set out criteria for identifying high risk and other infrastructure that is to be subject to Part 2. The proposed section excludes infrastructure operated by public water utilities and infrastructure operated under approvals under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and contemplates further exclusions being set out in the regulations.

Proposed Division 2 (sections 6–9) sets out when an approval or licence is required in connection with water industry infrastructure to which Part 2 applies.

Proposed section 6 requires a design approval for the carrying out of works for construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure (including testing and commissioning of infrastructure prior to operation on a commercial basis). It is intended that the regulations will exempt from the application of this section trivial alterations of low risk.

Proposed section 7 requires an operational approval to be obtained by the owner of water industry infrastructure before commercial operation of the infrastructure commences. Proposed changes to definitions in the Dictionary mean that if there is a long term lease over the infrastructure, the lessee will be regarded as the owner and subject to this obligation.

Proposed section 8 requires a licence for operation of water industry infrastructure. In addition, there must be an arrangement in place between the holder of the operational approval for the infrastructure and the licensee. However, a person engaged to construct the works need not have an operator’s licence in order to commission and test the infrastructure in accordance with a design approval prior to the infrastructure being operated on a commercial basis. If different parts of

water industry infrastructure are operated by different corporations, each corporation would require an operator's licence.

Proposed section 9 requires a licence for the sale of water or sewerage services provided by means of a category A scheme. In addition, there must be an arrangement in place between the holder of the operational approval for the scheme and the licensee. The proposed section also requires a licence for the sale of other water or sewerage services to small retail customers (including services physically provided by a public water utility or another entity under another Act) other than by the owner or operator of the relevant infrastructure. This requirement, together with the condition imposed by proposed section 20F (1), is designed to manage the degree of competition with incumbent utilities that is permitted for the provision of services to small retail customers. It is proposed to allow a licensed retailer to provide a consolidated retail service to its customers (and a single bill) if the retailer is already providing retail services in connection with an approved category A scheme. For example, a licensed retailer may sell to small retail customers recycled water and sewerage services provided by a category A scheme approved under the principal Act. The same retailer could also sell drinking water (delivered by public water utility infrastructure), so long as the customer agrees to switch from the public water utility to the licensed retailer.

Proposed Division 3 (sections 10–12) sets out additional objects of the Part relevant to the grant of an approval or licence, a suitability test for the grant of an approval or licence and a process for determination by IPART that infrastructure is essential infrastructure for the purposes of the principal Act.

Proposed section 10 sets out additional objects of the Part. These objects reflect the licensing principles currently set out in section 7 of the Act that are not covered by the general objects of the Act set out in proposed section 2A.

Proposed section 11 is an interpretation provision for the test of whether a corporation is a suitable corporation to be granted an approval or licence under the principal Act. The test extends to issues of compliance and criminal conduct, reputation, character, solvency and capacity.

Proposed section 12 empowers IPART to designate water industry infrastructure that meets specified criteria as essential infrastructure. The designation brings the infrastructure within the requirements for last resort arrangements. Under proposed section 14 (4) (f), IPART cannot grant an operational approval in relation to infrastructure that has been designated as essential unless a last resort provider has been designated for each provider of the essential service. However, this requirement does not apply where the essential service is provided by a council. Usually the designation would be made at the design approval stage but circumstances may change and it may be necessary to make a designation at a later stage.

Proposed Division 4 (sections 13–20A) sets out various matters relating to approvals.

Proposed section 13 requires IPART to determine an application and sets out requirements for inviting submissions on an application. Decisions must be published on IPART's website. The proposed section also deals with a determination by IPART that particular water industry infrastructure for which an approval is sought is essential infrastructure.

Proposed section 14 sets out that a design approval authorises works to be carried out as specified in the approval and subject to its conditions and establishes criteria for the grant of an approval. The approval holder may not be an individual.

The requirements for a design approval include the following:

- that the applicant is a suitable corporation to be granted the approval,
- that the proposal will, if the infrastructure is constructed, installed or altered as proposed, comply with appropriate standards and water quality objectives and has been audited as approved by IPART to assess compliance with that requirement,
- that the applicant has established:
 - that it is reasonable to believe that the proposal is financially viable based on information that is reasonably available, and

- in the case of a category A scheme—that it is not reasonably foreseeable that the scheme will have significant adverse financial implications for small retail customers,

Note. This requirement reflects the licensing principle currently set out in section 7 of the principal Act. For example, there may be reasonable grounds to think that estimated charges set out in an application are unsustainably low and would need to increase significantly in order for the scheme to be viable, or no allowance may have been made in proposed charges to cover the replacement of assets and the need to impose those costs in the future could have significant adverse impacts on customers.

- that the applicant is a licensed operator of infrastructure of the relevant class and proposes to operate the infrastructure under the licence or has entered into a suitable agreement with a licensed operator for the operation of the infrastructure,
- that the applicant or other licensed operator (as the case requires) has certified (in the manner and form required by IPART) that it will have the capacity (including technical, financial and organisational capacity) to operate the infrastructure in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment.

The requirements for an operational approval include the following:

- that the applicant is a suitable corporation to be granted the approval,
- that the infrastructure has been constructed, installed or altered substantially in compliance with the design approval,
- that the infrastructure complies with appropriate standards and water quality objectives and has been audited for compliance as approved by IPART to assess compliance with that requirement,
- in the case of a category A scheme—that the applicant is a licensed retailer and proposes to sell the water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme or has entered into a suitable agreement with a licensed retailer for the sale of water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme,
- in the case of essential infrastructure—that a last resort provider has been designated for each essential service provider other than a council.

It is also provided that IPART may refuse to grant an approval if it is not satisfied as to questions of capacity in relation to the proposed licensed operator or licensed retailer. This process is additional to the assessment of capacity that occurs as part of the licensing process and enables IPART to consider whether the licensee has the capacity to undertake all the activities that it has been engaged to undertake.

Proposed section 15 sets out the scheme for conditions of approval. It contemplates that conditions may be imposed by the Act or the regulations or by IPART on the grant of the approval, subsequently under this provision or as disciplinary action. The section also makes it an offence for the holder of an approval to contravene the conditions and requires the holder to take all reasonable steps to facilitate compliance by others (for example, a construction company or licensed operator) bound by conditions of the approval.

Proposed section 16 sets out that a design approval is subject to a condition requiring the holder to maintain a suitable agreement with a licensed operator and to notify IPART of variations to the agreement. The proposed section provides examples of conditions that may be imposed by the regulations or IPART, including a condition requiring the giving of security for compliance with conditions and the completion of the project.

Proposed section 17 sets out several conditions imposed on the holder of an operational approval and provides examples of conditions that may be imposed by the regulations or IPART, including a condition requiring the giving of security for compliance with conditions and the continued operation of the infrastructure. The conditions imposed require the holder to ensure relevant licensees are involved and to ensure that there is not more than one licensed retailer for a particular service provided by means of a category A scheme. The latter limitation is supported by proposed

section 20Z. The conditions also require the holder to take all reasonable steps to prevent the need for the last resort arrangements to be brought into play.

Proposed section 18 states that an approval remains in force until it is cancelled.

Proposed section 19 contemplates an application for variation of the works authorised by a design approval. IPART may grant a variation if it is satisfied that:

- the approval as varied will be substantially the same as the original approval, and
- no prejudice will be caused to any person who made a submission concerning the application for the original approval.

If the variation amounts to a different proposal that should be the subject of further submissions, a new application for a design approval would need to be made.

Proposed section 20 establishes a scheme for periodic returns and fees for approvals.

Proposed section 20A enables the transfer of an approval with the consent of IPART.

Proposed Division 5 (sections 20B–20K) sets out various matters relating to licences for operators of water industry infrastructure to which the Part applies and retailers of water or sewerage services provided by such infrastructure.

Proposed section 20B sets out the process for determination by the Minister of an application for a licence.

Proposed section 20C sets out the criteria for the grant of a licence. The licensee may not be an individual and must meet the requirements to be considered a suitable corporation to be granted a licence. An operator's licence must specify a class of infrastructure that may be operated under the licence. A class may be described by type, capacity or any other factor or combination of factors.

Proposed section 20D sets out the scheme for licence conditions. It contemplates that conditions may be imposed by the Act or the regulations or by the Minister on the grant of the licence, subsequently under this provision or as disciplinary action. The proposed section makes it an offence for a licensee to contravene the conditions.

Proposed section 20E imposes specific conditions on an operator's licence and gives examples of other conditions that may be imposed by the regulations or the Minister, including conditions requiring security to be given for compliance with conditions. Proposed subsection (3) states that a licensed operator must comply with the conditions of the design approval or operational approval as the case requires. This reflects that the design approval governs the construction phase while the operational approval governs the subsequent operation phase (and the design approval gives way to the subsequent operational approval).

Proposed section 20F imposes specific conditions on a retailer's licence and sets out examples of conditions that may be imposed by the regulations or the Minister, including a condition requiring security to be given for compliance with licence conditions and conditions of the kind currently set out in section 13 (2) (c) of the principal Act.

Proposed section 20G provides that a licence remains in force until it is cancelled or the licence is surrendered with the consent of the Minister.

Proposed section 20H contemplates variation of the class of infrastructure that may be operated under an operator's licence on application of the licensee.

Proposed section 20I establishes a scheme for annual returns and fees for licences.

Proposed section 20J provides for surrender of licence subject to the consent of the Minister. It is contemplated that conditions may be imposed prior to surrender and, if the licensee provides an essential service, that alternative arrangements must be in place for the continuity of the service.

Proposed section 20K prevents a licence being transferred.

Proposed Division 6 (sections 20L and 20M) contains special provisions addressing risk to public health or safety.

Proposed section 20L empowers the Minister to give public health and safety directions to the holder of an approval or a licensee. The provision is similar to current section 18 of the principal Act.

Proposed section 20M imposes substantially increased penalties for an offence involving the operation of water industry infrastructure without a required approval or licence or in contravention of conditions of approval or licence if the act is intentional and the operation of the infrastructure caused actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings that is of a high impact or on a wide scale.

Proposed Division 7 (sections 20N–20U) contains enforcement provisions and provisions for the cancellation of approvals in certain circumstances.

Proposed section 20N is an interpretation provision defining “regulatory authority” and “statutory default”. The regulatory authority is IPART in relation to approvals and the Minister in relation to licences. It should be noted that a reference to the contravention of the Act by the holder of an approval or a licensee includes contravention of a condition of the approval or licence.

Proposed section 20O explains that the powers to deal with statutory default are in addition to the powers to take criminal proceedings.

Proposed section 20P empowers the regulatory authority to issue a compliance notice to remedy or mitigate the consequences of a statutory default or to prevent the continuance or recurrence of the default. It is an offence to fail to take the action required by a compliance notice. A continuing offence is provided for by proposed section 96A.

Proposed section 20Q empowers the regulatory authority to apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction to prevent a statutory default or to prevent recurrence of the statutory default.

Proposed section 20R empowers the regulatory authority to take disciplinary action for statutory default. The types of disciplinary action that may be taken are set out in proposed subsection (3) and include monetary penalties, imposition of conditions, suspension, cancellation and disqualification. They extend to disqualification of a related corporation or a person who is a director or concerned in the management of a related corporation.

Proposed section 20S gives the court additional powers when imposing a penalty for a contravention of Part 2, including power to order the recovery of costs and expenses of a public authority or a victim or of the amount of the economic benefit acquired by the person or accruing as a result of the contravention. These powers are similar to those provided in the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Proposed section 20T provides for cancellation of an approval essentially when the infrastructure is no longer to be constructed or used to provide water or sewerage services under the principal Act. There are limitations relating to continuity of any essential service. Cancellation may be accompanied by forfeiture of security if IPART considers that appropriate and may be made subject to preconditions.

Proposed section 20U empowers the Minister to cancel an approval in the public interest. The holder of the approval may apply to the Supreme Court for compensation. This provision equates to current section 19 of the principal Act, but has necessarily been made to apply to approvals rather than licences.

Proposed Division 8 (sections 20V and 20W) contains provisions for administrative review and appeal.

Proposed section 20V sets out the circumstances in which an applicant for or holder of an approval or licence may apply to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal for an administrative review. These decisions relate to applications and conditions.

Proposed section 20W sets out the circumstances in which a person may appeal to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal. These decisions relate to enforcement decisions or decisions relating to approval cancellation or forfeiture of security.

Proposed Division 9 (sections 20X–20Z) deals with miscellaneous matters.

Proposed sections 20X and 20Y deal with the mechanics of applications and notices.

Proposed section 20Z resolves what is to happen if the holder of an operational approval purports to appoint more than one licensed retailer for the same service in contravention of the conditions of approval (see proposed section 17 (1) (b) (ii)).

Schedule 1 [4] and [5] amend the penalty provisions for access regime offences. Because the amendments propose high levels of penalty consistent with other similar legislation, the penalties in the principal Act are being presented in monetary amounts. A consistent ratio of 5:1 is being introduced for offences by corporations as compared to offences by individuals.

Schedule 1 [6] is a technical amendment to ensure that the heading to Part 5 of the principal Act refers to the water industry market to acknowledge that the Part relates to both water and sewerage services and deals with operational and retail matters.

Schedule 1 [7] inserts a new Division at the beginning of Part 5 of the principal Act. The provisions in this Division replicate certain provisions that apply to public water utilities.

Proposed section 46AA sets out definitions for the purpose of the Division.

Proposed section 46AB treats category A schemes in the same way as public water utility infrastructure in that it automatically implies a contract for connection and supply of water and sewerage services between the licensed operator and the land owner and the licensed retailer and the land owner. More than one licensed operator may be involved in the operation of a category A scheme (for example, one licensee may operate the sewage treatment plant while another operates the reticulation network). The proposed section creates an implied contract between the licensee responsible for operating the infrastructure that connects to the property, as well as an implied contract with the retailer responsible for selling services to the property owner (if these are different parties). The regulations will prescribe standard terms and conditions that will apply unless varied. The proposed section contemplates modification or exclusion of the contract by express agreement between the licensee and the customer. To ensure that prospective purchasers of land are aware of any water or sewerage services provided to the land under the principal Act, consequential amendments are included requiring that information to be disclosed in a planning certificate under section 149 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (see Schedule 2.3).

Proposed section 46AC sets out conditions relating to contract charges for category A schemes. It requires the charges to be published on the licensee's website and requires customers to be given at least 6 months' notice of any increase, although the Minister may reduce the period of notice on application of the licensee.

Proposed section 46AD provides that on a change of ownership of land the new owner becomes liable for outstanding contract charges payable to a licensee.

Proposed section 46AE empowers a lessee to pay outstanding charges owed to a licensee by a lessor and to recover the amount from the lessor. If, for example, water pressure has been reduced under a contract for non-payment of contract charges, this provision allows the lessee to remedy the situation.

Proposed section 46AF supports arrangements for the transfer of land by requiring a licensee to provide a certificate relevant to apportionment of charges for water or sewerage services between the vendor and purchaser of land.

Schedule 1 [8] and [9] amend section 47 of the principal Act to ensure that the requirement for internal dispute resolution matches the requirement for an ombudsman scheme. Any matter that may be taken to an ombudsman must first be subject to internal review by a licensee.

Schedule 1 [10] and [11] amend section 49 of the principal Act. The amendment in Schedule 1 [10] is with a view to an ombudsman scheme enabling an occupier who is a small retail customer to take a dispute to the ombudsman even if the contract for water or sewerage services is with the owner of the land. For example, an occupier who is liable to pay usage charges may wish to dispute the accuracy of metered water usage, an issue that does not impact an owner who is only paying fixed charges. The amendment in Schedule 1 [11] removes the limitation of the scheme to authorised licensed network operators since the ombudsman scheme must apply not only to operators with a right of entry under Part 6 but operators who operate infrastructure that connects a customer's land to a category A scheme.

Schedule 1 [12] and [13] amend section 50 of the principal Act as a consequence of the change in terminology and the provision for an implied contract with a licensed operator in relation to the connection point on a customer's land. The amendment ensures that relevant operators are required to be members of an ombudsman scheme and that the operator is bound by determinations of the ombudsman in relation to a dispute arising under the contract.

Schedule 1 [14] inserts a new section 50A to require an insolvency official of a licensee to facilitate the dispute resolution process in relation to complaints against the licensee and to apply the Division to the official as if the official were the licensee.

Schedule 1 [15]–[17] make consequential amendments to the provisions relating to monopoly supply. The amendments are consequential on the inclusion of approvals of water industry infrastructure. This matter is also dealt with in transitional provisions. The reference to the supply of recycled water in section 51 (2) (b) of the principal Act is altered to a reference to a water service of a kind prescribed by the regulations so that the regulations can cater for changes to the legislative scheme to which the paragraph refers.

Schedule 1 [18] substitutes Division 3 of Part 5 of the principal Act which currently deals with retailers of last resort and introduces new last resort arrangements covering retailers and operators. Retailers and operators of last resort are referred to collectively as last resort providers.

Proposed section 54 provides for designation by Ministerial order published in the Gazette of a last resort provider to take the place of an essential service provider in the event that the essential service provider is declared to have failed. The last resort provider is to be a public water utility or a licensee.

Proposed section 55 requires a designated last resort provider to prepare and review a contingency plan for the continuity of the essential service for approval by IPART and to conduct exercises to test the operation of the approved contingency plan as contemplated in the plan or required by IPART. Proposed subsection (3) enables a public water utility that has been designated as a last resort provider to identify the contract terms and charges that will apply to transferred customers in the event a failure is declared. For example, a public water utility may identify the contract terms and charges applicable to its own small retail customers (in connection with a nominated recycled water scheme) as the terms and charges applicable to transferred customers to whom a failed licensee previously provided a similar service. This approach enables public water utilities designated as last resort providers to extend their normal customer service systems to transferred customers. Alternatively, if no such terms or charges are identified, proposed section 57C states that the terms and charges applicable to transferred customers will be those terms and charges applied by the failed licensee.

Proposed section 56 requires an essential service provider and the holder of an operational approval for essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service to facilitate contingency planning by the last resort provider. A single scheme may involve multiple providers and potentially more than one last resort provider. For example, one party may provide drinking water services, a second party may provide recycled water and a third party may provide sewerage services. While it is intended that in most cases a single last resort provider will be designated in respect of all services provided by a scheme, it is possible that one last resort provider could be designated to provide one service (for example, drinking water) while another may be designated as the last resort provider in relation to other services (for example, recycled

water and sewerage services). The essential service provider is required to pay to the last resort provider the reasonable cost of compliance with section 55. If the parties cannot agree an amount, IPART is to determine the amount payable on application of the last resort provider.

Proposed section 57 empowers the Minister to declare that an essential service provider has failed in certain circumstances including insolvency. The declaration must specify a date that marks the beginning of the period of the declared failure. This date is known as the transfer date. If an essential service provider operating a number of category A schemes fails, the Minister's declaration may trigger the provision of services by a number of last resort providers in different parts of the State.

Proposed section 57A sets out the effect of a declaration of a failure, including the last resort provider taking over responsibility for the provision of the essential service formerly provided by the essential service provider declared to have failed. Proposed subsection (3) ensures that, during a declared failure, the last resort arrangements will not be undermined by a purported agreement entered into by the holder of an operational approval for the essential infrastructure.

Proposed section 57B provides for the last resort provider to take over the contracts of the essential service provider that are necessary for the provision of the essential service.

Proposed section 57C provides for the transfer of customers from the essential service provider to the last resort provider if, following the declaration of a failure, the last resort provider is a retailer or an operator of the infrastructure that connects a category A scheme to a customer's land. Relevant contracts are implied and the proposed section identifies the relevant contract charges and conditions (including the last resort supply fee currently provided for in clause 23 of the *Water Industry Competition (General) Regulation 2008*). The charges cannot be increased under proposed Division 1AA during the failure. If the last resort provider is a licensee, the contract charges payable by transferred customers are the same as those that were payable to the failed licensee (with the exception of the transfer fee, which is a one-off fee to cover the cost of transferring customers to the last resort provider). If the last resort provider is a public water utility, the contract charges are those of the failed licensee or the standard contract charges identified in the contingency plan, whichever is greater at the time the failure is declared.

Proposed section 57D contains matters relevant to the provision of the essential service by the last resort provider. The proposed section entitles the last resort provider to necessary access to infrastructure, customer data systems and other property. The contingency plan may contemplate staff of the failed licensee assisting the last resort provider to provide the service. The failed licensee, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service must facilitate the provision of the essential service, comply with the contingency plan and comply with reasonable directions given by the last resort provider. An offence of obstruction of a last resort provider is proposed.

Proposed section 57E sets out a special obligation on the holder of an operational approval for essential infrastructure to attempt to resolve a failure as quickly as possible. It contemplates that this may be by entering into an agreement with a different licensee for the provision of the service, obtaining a licence for that purpose or selling the infrastructure and transferring the operational approval to a suitable corporation.

Proposed section 57F requires IPART to review a failure at least once in each 6 months and make recommendations to the Minister about how the failure may be resolved. The proposed section contemplates that the failure may be resolved through the actions of the holder of the operational approval and the replacement of the failed licensee, by the connection of affected premises to alternative infrastructure or by a public water utility providing a service under its own Act to replace the essential service.

Proposed section 57G empowers the Minister to make a declaration that will enable a public water utility to voluntarily or compulsorily acquire essential infrastructure and land if the Minister is satisfied that the failure should be resolved by the provision of a water or sewerage service under the utility's Act rather than the principal Act. The assimilation of the scheme for acquisition of

infrastructure into the existing scheme for acquisition of land is designed to ensure that similar processes and the principles of just terms compensation apply.

Proposed section 57H enables the Minister to declare the end of a failure. The end date must not be earlier than 6 months after the transfer date unless the last resort provider consents to an earlier end date. In fixing the end date the Minister must consider matters of cost recovery for the last resort provider.

Proposed section 57I sets out the effect of a declaration of the end of the failure, including transferring customers from the last resort provider to a new licensee or public water utility, as the case may require, and providing for a new licensee to take over relevant contracts if the service is to continue to be provided under the principal Act. There is an obligation on the last resort provider, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service to facilitate this process.

Proposed section 57J provides immunity from liability for the last resort provider in the absence of negligence.

Proposed section 57K requires a last resort provider or new licensee to maintain the confidentiality of confidential or commercially sensitive information obtained under the Division.

Proposed section 57L contemplates a last resort provider applying to the Minister for a cost recovery scheme. It is contemplated that the scheme may provide for recovery from the failed licensee, recovery from the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure or, in circumstances in which it is unlikely that all the costs can be recovered from the licensee or holder, recovery from customers or the establishment of an industry contribution scheme. The proposed section deals with the mechanics of each of those possibilities and also contemplates regulations on the topic.

Proposed section 57M provides the mechanism for the enforcement of obligations under the Division on a public water utility, licensee or holder of an approval.

Proposed section 57N provides a system for the revocation of a determination of water industry infrastructure as essential infrastructure on application to IPART by an essential service provider or last resort provider or on IPART's own initiative.

Proposed section 57O sets out how applications are to be made for the purposes of the Division and enables the Minister or IPART to require further information or verification of information.

Proposed section 57P imposes obligations on an insolvency official of an essential service provider or holder of an operational approval for essential infrastructure to facilitate compliance with the Division and continuity of the provision of the essential service. The official is to be regarded as if the official were the licensee or holder.

Proposed section 57Q ensures that nothing in the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* prevents the disclosure of customer information under the Division.

Schedule 1 [20] inserts a preliminary Division at the beginning of Part 6 of the principal Act which deals with work relating to water industry infrastructure. It is proposed that Part 6 continues to apply to water industry infrastructure operated under the principal Act. The amendments ensure that the Part also allows the holder of an operational approval for the infrastructure to carry out necessary work on the infrastructure. In addition, it is contemplated that the regulations may extend the application of the Part to other water industry infrastructure for which it is not necessary to have an operational approval or operator's licence. In that way, necessary work may be undertaken on the infrastructure with the benefit of the application of the Part subject to the requirements of the regulations. These provisions are designed to ensure that, while the scope of the licensing regime has been narrowed, the facilitative measures provided by the Act remain available to infrastructure that meets the applicable criteria. For example, and pending development of the regulation, it is envisaged that a low risk industrial recycling scheme will no longer require an approval or licence under the principal Act as such schemes do not pose risks to public health and are subject to regulation under other frameworks such as the *Work Health and*

Safety Act 2011. Under the proposed provisions, such schemes will be able to seek a declaration to enable maintenance work etc to be undertaken under the provisions of Part 6. The criteria will be established in the regulations and it is intended that the regulations will have regard for the nature of the infrastructure and whether it confers public benefits such as reducing pressure on potable water supplies.

Schedule 1 [19], [21], [22] and [24] are technical amendments consequential on the insertion of the preliminary Division and introduction into the scheme of the principal Act of the requirement for the owner of water industry infrastructure to which Part 2 applies to hold an operational approval.

Schedule 1 [23] amends the penalty provision in section 65 of the principal Act for the reasons described in relation to the amendments to sections 42 and 43 of the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [25] substitutes the heading to Part 7 of the principal Act to reflect that its contents extend beyond the matter of offences to matters of enforcement generally.

Schedule 1 [26] is an amendment that is consequential on the insertion of Division 1AA into Part 7 by the next item.

Schedule 1 [27] inserts a new interpretation Division at the beginning of Part 7 of the principal Act which deals with enforcement. Proposed section 65J ensures that the Part continues to apply to a licensed operator and infrastructure operated by the licensed operator and extends the application of the Part to an operator of water industry infrastructure declared to be a WICA provider for the purposes of Part 6 of the principal Act and infrastructure to which the declaration relates.

Schedule 1 [28], [29], [31], [33], [34], [36] and [37] amend penalty provisions. The levels of penalty have been chosen with a view to internal consistency and relativities and external consistency with penalties for similar offences in other relevant Acts.

Schedule 1 [30] and [32] amend references to a licensed retail supplier and are consequential on the insertion of Division 1AA into Part 7.

Schedule 1 [35] amends the powers of inspectors in a material respect. The powers are extended to investigating whether there is a risk to public health or safety that may give rise to the issuing of public health and safety directions by the Minister. The amendment also ensures that the powers may be exercised to ascertain whether a person is committing or is about to commit an offence, rather than just whether a person has committed an offence.

Schedule 1 [38] inserts a new Division at the beginning of Part 8 of the principal Act which deals with the functions of IPART. The proposed Division deals with the register currently maintained by IPART for the purposes of the principal Act. The requirements are extended to cover approvals as well as licences and generally to reflect the proposed provisions.

Schedule 1 [39] is a technical amendment to the heading to Division 1 of Part 8 of the principal Act to reflect the expansion of IPART's responsibilities under the Part.

Schedule 1 [40] substitutes section 85 of the principal Act and expands the functions of IPART to include review of compliance with approval conditions and the continued relevance and appropriateness of the arrangements for last resort providers.

Schedule 1 [41] inserts a new requirement into section 86 of the principal Act to provide for recovery of the costs of the performance of IPART's functions from the holder of an approval equivalent to the requirement that applies to licensees.

Schedule 1 [42] is a consequential amendment.

Schedule 1 [43] enables IPART to direct approval holders to keep records and furnish information.

Schedule 1 [44], [45] and [47] are technical drafting amendments. Material that was in section 88 of the principal Act is more appropriately distributed among relevant provisions and the offences

relating to the provision of false or misleading information set out in Part 5A of the *Crimes Act 1900* are relied on.

Schedule 1 [46] amends the requirement for IPART to provide an annual report to take account of the proposed expansion of its functions.

Schedule 1 [48] inserts a new section into Part 9 (Miscellaneous) of the principal Act requiring timely determination of applications. The regulations may set out required time frames for the determination of applications by IPART and, if not met, the applicant may apply to the Minister for a direction to IPART requiring the decision to be made within a time fixed by the Minister.

Schedule 1 [49]–[51] remove unnecessary references to the Director-General who does not have particular powers under the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [52] provides for continuing offences. The daily penalty imposed is one-tenth of the maximum penalty for the offence.

Schedule 1 [53] amends the offences identified as offences attracting executive liability to cover offences of not having a required approval or licence or contravening conditions of an approval or licence. The reference to section 71 is removed since that section is just one of many that relate to interference with water industry infrastructure.

Schedule 1 [54] inserts a Corporations Act displacement provision into the principal Act. This allows the proposed provisions relating to obligations and rights of insolvency officials to have full effect and take precedence over requirements of the Corporations legislation.

Schedule 1 [55] is a technical drafting amendment designed to achieve consistency and does not make a substantive change to the law.

Schedule 1 [56] and [57] are consequential amendments ensuring that section 99 of the principal Act dealing with the recovery of monetary penalties applies to approval holders as well as licensees.

Schedule 1 [58] is a technical amendment updating section 100 of the principal Act which deals with evidentiary certificates.

Schedule 1 [59] draws various regulation-making powers together and allows the regulations to make exemptions as necessary and to provide for the payment of fees by instalments. The level of penalty that may be imposed by the regulations has been increased to reflect the proposed increases to penalties in the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [60] substitutes section 104 of the principal Act so as to require the effect of the proposed amendments to be reviewed and a report tabled in Parliament.

Schedule 1 [61] is a consequential amendment to the regulation-making powers set out in Schedule 2 to the principal Act designed to reflect that certain matters may be made the responsibility of an approval holder rather than a licensed operator.

Schedule 1 [62] inserts a regulation-making power in relation to social programs, currently provided under section 13 (3) of the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [63] inserts a regulation-making power to deal with matters relating to connecting developments to water industry infrastructure operated under the principal Act. This amendment and the amendment to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* are designed to apply an equivalent compliance certificate scheme to that which applies to the infrastructure of the Sydney and Hunter water authorities to infrastructure operated under the principal Act.

Schedule 1 [64] and [65] deal with transitional issues.

Proposed Part 4 of Schedule 4 provides that all existing licences are to be brought over into the new scheme. Consequently, it is necessary for operational approvals to be granted to the owner of the infrastructure and for appropriate licensees and persons listed on licences under the current scheme to be granted new licences. This process is to happen without application or fees but

relevant persons may be required to provide necessary information to IPART verified as IPART requires. Licensees and persons listed in licences who are not granted licences under this scheme are given 28 days following commencement to apply for a licence without payment of an application fee.

Proposed clause 10 (2) is included to allow IPART an appropriate time frame within which to bring schemes currently run by metropolitan councils and other schemes within the ambit of the principal Act.

Proposed clause 11 converts current contracts between licensees and customers into implied contracts as provided for in proposed Division 1AA of Part 5.

Proposed clause 12 converts the current monopoly supplier declaration into a form that suits the requirements of the proposed scheme.

Schedule 1 [66]–[70] make necessary modifications to the Dictionary of the principal Act. The definition of *owner of water industry infrastructure* means that a long term lessee of water industry infrastructure is regarded as the owner for the purposes of the scheme. This is designed to accommodate arrangements such as that pertaining to the Sydney desalination plant. The definition of *providing an essential service* is designed to simplify the language in proposed Division 3 of Part 5 by allowing the expression to be used both in relation to the operation of essential infrastructure and the sale of an essential service. The definition of *public water utility* ensures that there is an explanation of what is meant by the utility's Act and the utility's area of operations for each public water utility. Metropolitan councils (to the extent that their council areas are in the areas covered by the Sydney and Hunter water authorities) are removed from the definition so that the principal Act will apply to infrastructure operated by or on behalf of metropolitan councils. The definition of *small retail customer premises* is used in determining what constitutes a category A scheme. A level of flexibility is introduced by allowing the regulations to refine this definition.

Schedule 1 [71] makes global amendments to the principal Act to accommodate the proposed changes in terminology.

Schedule 2 Consequential amendments of other legislation

Schedule 2.1 amends the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* to update terminology.

Schedule 2.2 amends the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to extend the scheme requiring a developer to obtain a compliance certificate from a public water utility if it is proposed that a subdivision be connected to infrastructure of the utility to infrastructure operated under the principal Act.

Schedule 2.3 amends the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* to ensure that a planning certificate for land indicates that water or sewerage services are provided to the land under the principal Act if that is the case.

Schedule 2.4 amends the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957* to update terminology.

Schedule 2.5 amends the *Hunter Water Act 1991* to update terminology and because the matter currently dealt with in section 36 (4) of that Act relating to contracts with Hunter Water Corporation as a last resort provider is proposed to be dealt with in the provisions dealing with last resort providers in the principal Act.

Schedule 2.6 amends the *Local Government Act 1993* to update terminology and because the matter currently dealt with in section 553A (2) of that Act relating to contracts with a last resort provider is proposed to be dealt with in the provisions dealing with last resort providers in the principal Act. The amendment to section 124 empowers councils to require premises to be connected to a water or sewerage system without reference to council ownership of the system.

Schedule 2.7 amends the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* to avoid duplication and ensure that activities carried out under an approval or licence under the principal Act do not require an approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Schedule 2.8 amends the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011* to update terminology.

Schedule 2.9 amends the *Public Health Act 2010* to update terminology.

Schedule 2.10 amends the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* to link the authorisation for certain water industry infrastructure to be developed without consent on land within a prescribed zone to the holders of design approvals rather than licensees.

Schedule 2.11 amends the *Sydney Water Act 1994* to update terminology and because the matter currently dealt with in section 55 (3B) of that Act relating to contracts with Sydney Water Corporation as a last resort provider is proposed to be dealt with in the provisions dealing with last resort providers in the principal Act.

Schedule 2.12 amends the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998* to update terminology.

Schedule 2.13 amends the *Water Management Act 2000* to update terminology.



New South Wales

Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014

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New South Wales

Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014

No. , 2014

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* following the Urban Water Regulation Review and to make consequential amendments to other legislation.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:	1
1 Name of Act	2
This Act is the <i>Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014</i> .	3
2 Commencement	4
This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.	5

Schedule 1	Amendment of Water Industry Competition Act 2006 No 104	1
		2
[1] Long title		3
	Omit the long title. Insert instead:	4
	An Act to facilitate and regulate the water industry excluding certain public water utilities; to make provision for the continuity of essential services provided by that industry; to establish an access regime for significant water industry infrastructure; and for other purposes.	5 6 7 8
[2] Section 2A		9
	Insert after section 2:	10
	2A Objects of Act	11
	The objects of this Act are:	12
	(a) to protect public health and safety and the environment in connection with the water industry, including in the longer term, and	13 14
	(b) to protect the interests of consumers (particularly small retail customers) in the quality, reliability and price of water and sewerage services, including in the longer term, and	15 16 17
	(c) to facilitate the efficient, reliable and sustainable provision of water and sewerage services, having regard to financial, environmental and social considerations, and	18 19 20
	(d) to promote the sustainable use of resources in connection with the water industry, and	21 22
	(e) to facilitate competition in the water industry with a view to encouraging innovation and improved efficiency in the industry.	23 24
[3] Part 2		25
	Omit the Part. Insert instead:	26
	Part 2 Approvals and licences for certain water industry infrastructure	27 28
	Division 1 Application of Part	29
	5 Water industry infrastructure to which Part applies	30
	(1) This Part applies to each of the following:	31
	(a) water industry infrastructure comprising an integrated system for providing water or sewerage services to 30 or more small retail customer premises in an area or building, including any treatment works, pumping stations and reticulation networks that form part of the system (a <i>category A scheme</i>),	32 33 34 35 36
	(b) water industry infrastructure comprising a facility for the production of drinking water (including a filtration, treatment or desalination facility) that has a design capacity of more than 500 kilolitres each day and does not form part of a category A scheme, together with any reticulation network connected to the facility and used to convey anything to or from the facility,	37 38 39 40 41 42

- (c) water industry infrastructure comprising a facility for the treatment of sewage that has a design capacity of more than 750 kilolitres each day and does not form part of a category A scheme, together with any reticulation network connected to the facility and used to convey anything to or from the facility, 1
2
3
4
5
- (d) water industry infrastructure declared by the regulations to be water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies. 6
7
- (2) However, this Part does not apply to the following: 8
 - (a) water industry infrastructure within the area of operations of a public water utility and operated by or on behalf of the public water utility (other than as a last resort provider), 9
10
11
 - (b) water industry infrastructure that, immediately before the commencement of this subsection, was subject to an approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, while it remains subject to: 12
13
14
15
 - (i) the approval (as extended or renewed from time to time), or 16
 - (ii) a new approval (as extended or renewed from time to time) obtained by a purchaser of land on which the infrastructure is located in accordance with that Act, 17
18
19
 - (c) water industry infrastructure excluded from the application of this Part by the regulations. 20
21
- (3) For the purposes of determining whether this Part applies to water industry infrastructure: 22
23
 - (a) initial and planned future stages of development of the infrastructure are to be taken into account, and 24
25
 - (b) the design capacity of infrastructure is to be determined in accordance with guidelines issued by IPART and published in the Gazette and on IPART's website. 26
27
28

Division 2 Requirement for approvals and licences 29

6 Requirement for design approval 30

- (1) A person must not carry out works for the construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies except as authorised by a design approval. 31
32
33
Maximum penalty: 34
 - (a) in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or 35
 - (b) in the case of an individual—\$400,000. 36
- (2) A reference in this section to works for the construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure extends to anything necessary (including the operation of the infrastructure) for the commissioning and testing of the infrastructure prior to it being operated on a commercial basis. 37
38
39
40

7 Requirement for operational approval	1
The owner of water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies must ensure that the infrastructure is not operated on a commercial basis unless there is an operational approval in force for the infrastructure.	2 3 4
Maximum penalty:	5
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	6
(b) in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	7
8 Requirement for operator’s licence	8
(1) A person must not operate water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies unless:	9 10
(a) the person is a licensed operator of water industry infrastructure of the appropriate class, and	11 12
(b) a design approval or operational approval is in force for the infrastructure, and	13 14
(c) the person holds the approval or operates the infrastructure under an agreement with the holder of the approval.	15 16
Maximum penalty:	17
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	18
(b) in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	19
Note. If different parts of water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies are operated by different persons, each person will require an operator’s licence.	20 21
(2) Nothing in this section prevents a person engaged by the holder of a design approval to carry out works for the construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure from operating the infrastructure to the extent necessary for the commissioning and testing of the infrastructure in accordance with the design approval prior to it being operated on a commercial basis.	22 23 24 25 26 27
9 Requirement for retailer’s licence	28
(1) A person must not sell water or sewerage services provided by means of a category A scheme to which this Part applies unless:	29 30
(a) the person is a licensed retailer, and	31
(b) an operational approval is in force for the scheme, and	32
(c) the person holds the operational approval or sells the services under an agreement with the holder of the operational approval.	33 34
Maximum penalty:	35
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	36
(b) in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	37
(2) However, the holder of an operational approval for a category A scheme or a licensed operator of a category A scheme is not required to be a licensed retailer to sell water or sewerage services to a licensed retailer or public water utility.	38 39 40 41
(3) A person must not sell water or sewerage services provided by means of prescribed water industry infrastructure to a small retail customer unless the person is a licensed retailer.	42 43 44
Maximum penalty:	45
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	46

(b)	in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	1
	Note. A retailer's licence is subject to a condition that limits the circumstances in which a licensed retailer may sell water or sewerage services provided by means of prescribed water industry infrastructure to a small retail customer (see section 20F (1)).	2 3 4
(4)	However, the owner or operator of prescribed water industry infrastructure is not required to be a licensed retailer to sell water or sewerage services provided by means of the infrastructure.	5 6 7
(5)	In this section:	8
	<i>prescribed water industry infrastructure</i> means:	9
(a)	water industry infrastructure operated by or on behalf of a public water utility under the utility's Act, or	10 11
(b)	water industry infrastructure operated under an approval under section 68 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , or	12 13
(c)	other water industry infrastructure to which this Part does not apply, or	14
(d)	water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies other than a category A scheme.	15 16
Division 3	Objects and interpretation	17
10	Additional objects of Part	18
	The Minister and IPART must, in considering an application for an approval or licence and the conditions of an approval or licence under this Part, have regard to the objects of this Act and the following additional objects:	19 20 21
(a)	to promote policies concerning the use of water resources set out in a document prescribed by the regulations,	22 23
(b)	to mitigate the potential for adverse financial implications for small retail customers generally arising from the activities proposed to be covered by the approval or licence,	24 25 26
(c)	to promote the equitable sharing among participants in the drinking water market of the costs of water industry infrastructure that significantly contributes to water security.	27 28 29
11	Meaning of "suitable corporation"	30
(1)	Each of the following is not a <i>suitable corporation</i> to be granted an approval or licence under this Part:	31 32
(a)	a disqualified corporation,	33
(b)	a corporation that is a related corporation of a disqualified corporation.	34
(2)	Without limiting the matters that may be taken into account in determining whether a corporation is a suitable corporation to be granted an approval or licence under this Act, the Minister or IPART may take into account each of the following:	35 36 37 38
(a)	whether the corporation or a related corporation, or a director or person concerned in the management of the corporation or a related corporation has committed an offence against this Act or any other law of this State, the Commonwealth or another State or a Territory relating to the water industry, public health, environment protection, development control or consumer protection,	39 40 41 42 43 44
(b)	whether the corporation or a related corporation, or a director or person concerned in the management of the corporation or a related corporation has held a relevant statutory authorisation (whether under the law of this	45 46 47

State, the Commonwealth or another State or a Territory) that has been cancelled or suspended or has been disqualified from obtaining such an authorisation,	1 2 3
(c) whether an insolvency official has been appointed in respect of the corporation or a related corporation, or any property of the corporation or a related corporation or an order has been made for the winding up of the corporation or a related corporation, or a resolution has been passed for the winding up of the corporation or a related corporation,	4 5 6 7 8
(d) whether a director or person concerned in the management of the corporation or a related corporation is of good repute and character with particular regard to honesty and integrity,	9 10 11
(e) whether a director or person concerned in the management of the corporation or a related corporation has become, within the previous 3 years, an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> of the Commonwealth,	12 13 14 15
(f) whether a director or person concerned in the management of the corporation or a related corporation has been, within the previous 3 years, the director of a body corporate when an insolvency official has been appointed in respect of the corporation or any property of the corporation or an order has been made for the winding up of the corporation or a resolution has been passed for the winding up of the corporation,	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
(g) whether the corporation has the capacity (including, as relevant, technical, financial and organisational capacity) to comply with obligations under this Act and, in the case of a licence, to carry out the class of activities to be authorised by the licence,	23 24 25 26
(h) any other matter prescribed by the regulations.	27
(3) For the purposes of determining whether a body has the relevant capacity to be a suitable corporation to be granted an approval or licence:	28 29
(a) the following must be taken into account:	30
(i) the extent to which the body relies on arrangements with contractors or subcontractors (including related corporations) for the necessary capacity,	31 32 33
(ii) the suitability of those arrangements,	34
(iii) proposed conditions of approval or licence relating to those arrangements, and	35 36
(b) in the case of a council—any necessary financial or organisational capacity is to be assumed.	37 38
12 Meaning of “essential infrastructure”	39
IPART may, by written notice to an applicant for, or the holder of, an approval for water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies, determine that the infrastructure comprises <i>essential infrastructure</i> under this Act if satisfied that:	40 41 42 43
(a) a failure in the provision of a water or sewerage service provided by means of the water industry infrastructure would have an adverse effect on customers of the service of a nature or degree that warrants it being dealt with as an essential service, taking into account the extent to which customers may reasonably be expected to protect themselves against the effect, and	44 45 46 47 48 49

- (b) either: 1
 - (i) alternative arrangements for the provision of a replacement 2
service would not be, and could not readily be made to be, 3
reasonably available, or 4
 - (ii) it is reasonably necessary for customers of the service to be 5
automatically transferred to the provider of a replacement service 6
in the event of a failure in the provision of the service. 7

Division 4 Approvals 8

13 Process for determination of application for approval 9

- (1) IPART is to determine an application for a design approval or operational 10
approval. 11
- (2) An application for a design approval for water industry infrastructure must be 12
made by the person proposing to construct, install or alter the infrastructure 13
and not by a contractor or subcontractor engaged or proposed to be engaged 14
by that person to carry out the work. 15
- (3) An application for an operational approval for water industry infrastructure 16
must be made by the owner of the infrastructure. 17
- (4) Without limiting when an application for an operational approval for water 18
industry infrastructure may be made, an application may be made in 19
anticipation of an exemption from the application of this Part ceasing to apply 20
to the infrastructure. 21
- (5) On receiving an application for an approval, IPART must invite submissions 22
on the application from: 23
 - (a) the government sector agency assigned responsibility for the 24
administration of this Part, and 25
 - (b) the government sector agency assigned responsibility for the 26
administration of the *Public Health Act 2010*, and 27
 - (c) if the infrastructure is or is proposed to be within the area of operations 28
of a public water utility—the public water utility, and 29
 - (d) in the case of a design approval: 30
 - (i) the government sector agency assigned responsibility for the 31
administration of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment 32
Act 1979*, and 33
 - (ii) if a licence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations 34
Act 1997* is also required—the appropriate regulatory authority 35
under that Act, and 36
 - (iii) if an authorisation (however described) under the *Water 37
Management Act 2000* is also required—the government sector 38
agency assigned responsibility for the administration of 39
Chapter 3 of that Act, and 40
 - (e) the public by notice published on IPART’s website and otherwise as 41
considered appropriate by IPART, and 42
 - (f) otherwise as required by the regulations. 43
- (6) An invitation to make submissions on an application must allow at least 44
28 days for submissions to be made and must be accompanied by a copy of the 45
application or set out how a copy of the application may be obtained. 46

- (7) IPART must not accept a variation of an application after an invitation to make submissions has been given unless satisfied that:
- (a) the application as varied will be substantially the same as the original application, and
 - (b) no prejudice will be caused to any person who made a submission concerning the original application.
- Note.** If a variation is not accepted, the applicant may withdraw the application and make a new application.
- (8) If IPART proposes to refuse to grant an approval, IPART must:
- (a) give written notice of the proposed refusal to the applicant specifying the reasons for it, and
 - (b) allow the applicant at least 14 days within which to make submissions to IPART about the proposed refusal.
- (9) On making a decision on an approval, IPART must cause notice of the decision to be given to the applicant and published on IPART's website.
- 14 Grant of approval**
- (1) A design approval authorises the carrying out of works for the construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure as specified in the approval subject to the conditions of the approval.
- (2) An approval must not be granted to an individual.
- (3) A design approval must not be granted unless IPART is satisfied as to each of the following:
- (a) that the applicant is a suitable corporation to be granted the approval,
 - (b) that the proposal will, if the infrastructure is constructed, installed or altered as proposed, comply with appropriate standards and water quality objectives and has been audited as approved by IPART to assess compliance with that requirement,
 - (c) that the applicant has established:
 - (i) that it is reasonable to believe that the proposal is financially viable based on information that is reasonably available, and
 - (ii) in the case of a category A scheme—that it is not reasonably foreseeable that the scheme will have significant adverse financial implications for small retail customers,
 - (d) that the applicant is a licensed operator of infrastructure of the relevant class and proposes to operate the infrastructure under the licence or has entered into a suitable agreement with a licensed operator for the operation of the infrastructure,
 - (e) that the applicant or other licensed operator, as the case requires, has certified (in the manner and form required by IPART) that it will have the capacity (including technical, financial and organisational capacity) to operate the infrastructure in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment,
 - (f) other matters specified by the regulations,
 - (g) other matters IPART considers relevant having regard to the public interest.

- (4) An operational approval must not be granted unless IPART is satisfied as to each of the following:
- (a) that the applicant is a suitable corporation to be granted the approval,
 - (b) if there is a relevant design approval—that the infrastructure has been constructed, installed or altered substantially in compliance with the design approval,
 - (c) that the infrastructure complies with appropriate standards and water quality objectives and has been audited as approved by IPART to assess compliance with that requirement,
 - (d) if there is no relevant design approval (for example, because the infrastructure had been constructed before the commencement of this section):
 - (i) that the applicant is a licensed operator of infrastructure of the relevant class and proposes to operate the infrastructure under the licence or has entered into a suitable agreement with a licensed operator for the operation of the infrastructure, and
 - (ii) that the applicant or other licensed operator, as the case requires, has certified (in the manner and form required by IPART) that it will have the capacity (including technical, financial and organisational capacity) to operate the infrastructure in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment,
 - (e) in the case of a category A scheme—that the applicant is a licensed retailer and proposes to sell the water or sewerage services provided by means of the infrastructure or has entered into a suitable agreement with a licensed retailer for the sale of water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme,
 - (f) in the case of essential infrastructure—that a last resort provider has been designated for each essential service provider other than a council,
 - (g) other matters specified by the regulations,
 - (h) other matters IPART considers relevant having regard to the public interest.
- (5) IPART may refuse to grant an approval if it is not satisfied that:
- (a) the proposed licensed operator of the infrastructure has the capacity to comply with conditions of its licence having regard to all the infrastructure it operates or is to operate under the licence, or
 - (b) in the case of a category A scheme—the proposed licensed retailer of water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme has the capacity to comply with conditions of its licence having regard to all the water and sewerage services it sells or is to sell under its licence.
- (6) IPART must publish, in the Gazette and on IPART’s website, guidelines as to appropriate standards and water quality objectives for water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies.
- 15 Conditions of approval—imposition, variation and revocation**
- (1) An approval is subject to conditions imposed:
- (a) by this Act or the regulations, or
 - (b) by IPART:
 - (i) on the grant of the approval, or

(ii)	subsequently under this Act, or	1
(iii)	as disciplinary action.	2
(2)	As far as is reasonably practicable, IPART must, when granting a design approval, give an indication of the conditions likely to be imposed on the operational approval for the infrastructure.	3 4 5
(3)	However, IPART is not bound by an indication it gives as to conditions of an operational approval.	6 7
(4)	IPART may, by written notice to the holder of an approval, subsequently impose further conditions or vary or revoke conditions (other than conditions imposed by this Act or the regulations) on the application of the holder or on its own initiative.	8 9 10 11
(5)	If IPART proposes to impose further conditions, or vary or revoke conditions, of an approval on its own initiative, IPART must:	12 13
(a)	give written notice of the proposal to the holder of the approval specifying the reasons for it, and	14 15
(b)	allow the holder at least 14 days within which to make submissions to IPART about the proposal.	16 17
(6)	If IPART considers that it is appropriate to invite submissions on a proposal or application to impose further conditions or vary or revoke conditions of an approval because of the importance or effect of the conditions, IPART may invite submissions on the proposal or application as if it were an application for an approval.	18 19 20 21 22
(7)	Regulations that impose conditions of approval or vary or revoke conditions of approval imposed by the regulations apply, subject to the expression of a contrary intention, to approvals whether granted before or after the regulations are made.	23 24 25 26
(8)	The holder of an approval must:	27
(a)	comply with the conditions of the approval that apply to the holder, and	28
(b)	take all reasonable steps to facilitate compliance with conditions of the approval by other persons to whom they apply.	29 30
	Maximum penalty:	31
(a)	in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	32
(b)	in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	33
16	Conditions of design approval	34
(1)	A design approval is subject to the condition that the holder must maintain a suitable agreement with a licensed operator and must notify IPART of any material variations in, or substitution of, the agreement.	35 36 37
(2)	However, a suitable agreement need not be maintained if the holder decides not to proceed with, or to cease, works under the design approval.	38 39
(3)	Without limiting the conditions of a design approval, the conditions imposed by the regulations or by IPART may:	40 41
(a)	require the holder of the approval to give and maintain security (in an amount and form determined by IPART) for compliance with the conditions of approval and the completion of the construction, installation or alteration of the water industry infrastructure, or	42 43 44 45

- (b) require the holder of the approval to maintain an appropriate level of insurance, or 1
2
- (c) require completion of the construction, installation or alteration of the infrastructure in accordance with specified plans and specifications, or 3
4
- (d) require the completed infrastructure to meet specified standards and water quality objectives, or 5
6
- (e) require individual meters to be installed for each household or business, or 7
8
- (f) require testing, certification or auditing of the infrastructure at specified intervals, following specified incidents or before operation on a commercial basis, or 9
10
11
- (g) require submission to IPART of incident reports, financial reports or other reports relating to the infrastructure. 12
13

17 Conditions of operational approval 14

- (1) An operational approval is subject to the following conditions: 15
 - (a) the holder of the approval must ensure that the infrastructure is not operated on a commercial basis except by a licensed operator, 16
17
 - (b) the holder of the approval must, in the case of a category A scheme: 18
 - (i) ensure that a water or sewerage service provided by means of the scheme is not sold except by a licensed retailer, and 19
20
 - (ii) ensure that there is not more than one licensed retailer for each type of water or sewerage service provided by means of the scheme (as identified in the approval), 21
22
23
 - (c) the holder of the approval must maintain: 24
 - (i) a suitable agreement with a licensed operator for the operation of the infrastructure, and 25
26
 - (ii) in the case of a category A scheme—a suitable agreement with a licensed retailer for the sale of water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme, 27
28
29
 - (d) the holder of the approval must notify IPART of any material variations in, or substitution of, an agreement with a licensed operator or licensed retailer, 30
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 - (e) the holder of the approval must, in the case of essential infrastructure, take all reasonable steps to prevent circumstances arising that permit a declaration of a failure of a provider of the essential service under Division 3 of Part 5. 33
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- (2) Without limiting the conditions of an operational approval, the conditions imposed by the regulations or by IPART may: 37
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 - (a) require the holder of the approval: 39
 - (i) to have a program for the maintenance and renewal of the water industry infrastructure, or 40
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 - (ii) to give and maintain security (in an amount and form determined by IPART) for compliance with the conditions of the approval and the continued operation of the infrastructure, or 42
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 - (iii) to maintain an appropriate level of insurance, or 45
 - (b) require the licensed operator of the infrastructure: 46
 - (i) to give and maintain security (in an amount and form determined by IPART) for compliance with the conditions of the approval, or 47
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(ii)	to have the infrastructure tested, certified or audited at specified intervals or following specified incidents, or	1 2
(iii)	to have an audit and compliance program to ensure appropriate standards and water quality objectives are met, or	3 4
(iv)	to obtain an approval before specified changes in process are undertaken, or	5 6
(v)	to have a plan of action to be taken in the event of a failure that might arise out of the operation of the infrastructure, or	7 8
(vi)	to have a plan of action to be taken in the event of the cessation of operation of the infrastructure, or	9 10
(vii)	to submit to IPART incident reports, financial reports or other reports relating to the infrastructure.	11 12
18	Duration of approval	13
(1)	An approval remains in force until it is cancelled.	14
(2)	The holder of an approval may not surrender the approval but may apply for the cancellation of the approval under Division 7.	15 16
19	Variation of works authorised by design approval	17
(1)	The holder of a design approval may apply for a variation of the works authorised by the approval.	18 19
(2)	IPART may, by written notice to the applicant, vary the works authorised by the approval if it is satisfied that:	20 21
(a)	the approval as varied will be substantially the same as the original approval, and	22 23
(b)	no prejudice will be caused to any person who made a submission concerning the application for the original approval.	24 25
(3)	If IPART proposes to refuse to vary the works authorised by a design approval, IPART must:	26 27
(a)	give written notice of the proposed refusal to the holder of the approval specifying the reasons for it, and	28 29
(b)	allow the holder at least 14 days within which to make submissions to IPART about the proposed refusal.	30 31
(4)	If IPART varies the works authorised by a design approval, the varied approval replaces the original approval as from the date specified by IPART in the notice.	32 33 34
	Note. If IPART refuses to vary the works authorised by a design approval, the holder of the approval may apply for cancellation of the approval and make a new application for a design approval.	35 36 37
20	Periodic fees and returns	38
(1)	The holder of an approval must, for each period specified by condition of the approval and before the date fixed for that purpose by condition of approval:	39 40
(a)	pay to IPART the periodic approval fee determined by IPART, and	41
(b)	lodge with IPART a return containing the information required by IPART by condition of approval or by written notice.	42 43
(2)	IPART may, by condition of approval or by written notice, require the holder of the approval to have information in a return verified in a specified manner.	44 45

(3)	If the holder of an approval fails to pay a fee or lodge a return as required, IPART may, by written notice, require the holder to make good the default and, in addition, pay to IPART the amount fixed by the regulations as a penalty for default.	1 2 3 4
20A	Transfer of approval	5
(1)	Subject to this section and any condition of the approval excluding or limiting the right of transfer under this section, IPART must, on application of the holder of the approval, consent to the transfer of the approval.	6 7 8
(2)	IPART may refuse to consent to the transfer of an approval if the transferee would not be entitled to the grant of the approval or if a suitable agreement has not been entered into between the transferee and a licensed operator or, in the case of an operational approval for a category A scheme, licensed retailer.	9 10 11 12
Division 5	Licences	13
20B	Process for determination of application for licence	14
(1)	The Minister is to determine an application for a licence.	15
(2)	On receiving an application for a licence, IPART must:	16
(a)	give a copy of the application to the Minister, and	17
(b)	invite submissions on the application from persons as required by the regulations, and	18 19
(c)	invite submissions on the application from the public by notice published on IPART's website and otherwise as considered appropriate by IPART.	20 21 22
(3)	An invitation to make submissions on an application must allow at least 28 days for submissions to be made and must be accompanied by a copy of the application or set out how a copy of the application may be obtained.	23 24 25
(4)	After considering an application for a licence and any submissions, IPART must provide a report on the application to the Minister.	26 27
(5)	The report must include recommendations as to whether or not a licence should be granted and as to the licence conditions.	28 29
(6)	The Minister must consider, but is not bound to accept, IPART's report and recommendations and may seek further advice from IPART on an application.	30 31
(7)	If the Minister proposes to refuse an application, the Minister must:	32
(a)	give written notice of the proposed refusal to the applicant specifying the reasons for it, and	33 34
(b)	allow the applicant at least 14 days within which to make submissions to the Minister about the proposed refusal.	35 36
(8)	On making a decision on an application, the Minister must cause notice of the Minister's decision to be given to the applicant and published on IPART's website.	37 38 39
20C	Grant of licence	40
(1)	An operator's licence must specify the class of water industry infrastructure that the licensee may operate under the licence.	41 42
(2)	A licence must not be granted to an individual.	43

(3)	A licence must not be granted unless the Minister is satisfied as to each of the following:	1
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(a)	that the applicant is a suitable corporation to be granted the licence,	3
(b)	other matters specified by the regulations,	4
(c)	other matters the Minister considers relevant having regard to the public interest.	5
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20D	Licence conditions—imposition, variation and revocation	7
(1)	A licence is subject to conditions imposed:	8
(a)	by this Act or the regulations, or	9
(b)	by the Minister:	10
	(i) on the grant of the licence, or	11
	(ii) subsequently under this Act, or	12
	(iii) as disciplinary action.	13
(2)	The Minister may, by written notice to a licensee, impose further conditions, or vary or revoke conditions, of the licence (other than conditions imposed by this Act or the regulations) on the application of the licensee or on the Minister's own initiative.	14
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(3)	Nothing in Part 3 (Access to infrastructure services) limits the power of the Minister to impose licence conditions.	18
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(4)	If the Minister proposes to impose further conditions, or vary or revoke conditions, of a licence on the Minister's own initiative, the Minister must:	20
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(a)	give written notice of the proposal to the licensee specifying the reasons for it, and	22
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(b)	allow the licensee at least 14 days within which to make submissions to the Minister about the proposal.	24
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(5)	If the Minister considers that it is appropriate to invite submissions on a proposal or application to impose further licence conditions or vary or revoke licence conditions because of the importance or effect of the conditions, IPART must, at the request of the Minister, invite submissions on the proposal or application as if it were an application for a licence.	26
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(6)	Regulations that impose licence conditions or vary or revoke licence conditions imposed by the regulations apply, subject to the expression of a contrary intention, to licences whether granted before or after the regulations are made.	31
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(7)	If a licence condition is contravened, the licensee is guilty of an offence.	35
	Maximum penalty:	36
(a)	in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	37
(b)	in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	38
20E	Operator's licence conditions	39
(1)	It is a condition of an operator's licence that, if the licensed operator proposes to commence or commences to operate particular water industry infrastructure under the licence, the licensed operator must:	40
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(a)	give to IPART, within the period required by the regulations, written notice of that fact, and	43
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- (b) certify to IPART, within the period required by the regulations, that it has the capacity (including technical, financial and organisational capacity) to operate the infrastructure in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment. 1
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- (2) Subsection (1) (b) does not apply if the licensed operator has already given such a certification to IPART for the design approval for the infrastructure and there has been no material change in the capacity of the licensed operator. 5
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- (3) It is a condition of an operator's licence that the licensed operator comply with the conditions of the design approval or operational approval that applies to the infrastructure operated by the licensed operator (as the case requires). 8
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- (4) It is a condition of an operator's licence that the licensee must take all reasonable care to operate infrastructure under the licence in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment. 11
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- (5) It is a condition of an operator's licence that the licensed operator has and maintains the capacity (including technical, financial and organisational capacity) to operate all the infrastructure operated by the licensed operator under the licence in a manner that does not present a risk to public health or a significant risk of harm to the environment. 15
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- (6) It is a condition of an operator's licence that, if the licensed operator proposes to cease or ceases to operate particular water industry infrastructure under the licence, the licensee must give written notice to IPART of that fact within the period required by the regulations. 20
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- (7) Without limiting the conditions that may be imposed on an operator's licence, the regulations or the Minister may impose conditions: 24
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- (a) requiring the licensee to give and maintain security (in an amount and form determined by the Minister) for compliance with licence conditions, or 26
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- (b) requiring the licensee to maintain an appropriate level of insurance taking into account all the infrastructure operated by the licensed operator under the licence, or 29
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- (c) requiring the licensee to obtain the approval of the Minister or IPART before entering into an agreement with the holder of an operational approval for water industry infrastructure for the operation of further infrastructure under the licence. 32
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- 20F Retailer's licence conditions** 36
- (1) It is a condition of a retailer's licence that the licensed retailer must not sell a water or sewerage service provided by means of prescribed water industry infrastructure to a small retail customer unless: 37
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- (a) the water or sewerage service is provided to the same premises as a water or sewerage service provided by means of a category A scheme to which this Part applies, and 40
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- (b) the customer has a contract with the licensed retailer for both services. 43
- (2) It is a condition of a retailer's licence that, if the licensed retailer proposes to commence or cease, or commences or ceases, to provide retail services under the licence for a particular category A scheme or prescribed water industry infrastructure, the licensed retailer must give written notice to IPART of that fact within the period required by the regulations. 44
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(3)	It is a condition of a retailer's licence that the licensed retailer has and maintains the capacity (including financial and organisational capacity) to provide all the retail services provided by the licensed retailer under the licence.	1 2 3 4
(4)	Without limiting the conditions that may be imposed on a retailer's licence, the regulations or the Minister may impose conditions:	5 6
(a)	requiring the licensee to give and maintain security (in an amount and form determined by the Minister) for compliance with licence conditions, or	7 8 9
(b)	requiring the licensee to maintain an appropriate level of insurance taking into account all the retail services provided by the licensed retailer under the licence, or	10 11 12
(c)	requiring the licensee to obtain the approval of the Minister or IPART before entering into an agreement with the holder of an operational approval for a category A scheme for the sale of further water or sewerage services under the licence, or	13 14 15 16
(d)	limiting the fees and charges that may be applied to a water or sewerage service provided by means of prescribed water industry infrastructure to a small retail customer, or	17 18 19
(e)	if the licence authorises the sale of drinking water—that the Minister is satisfied promote the equitable sharing among public water utilities and licensed retailers of drinking water of the costs of water industry infrastructure that significantly contributes to water security, including, for example, the following:	20 21 22 23 24
(i)	a condition requiring the licensee to obtain a specified proportion of the water that it supplies under the authority of its licence by means of specified water industry infrastructure,	25 26 27
(ii)	a condition requiring the licensee to contribute to the costs of specified water industry infrastructure (whether or not it is used to provide the licensee with the water that it is authorised to supply under the licence) calculated in a manner specified in the regulations or by condition and payable to a person or persons specified in the regulations or by condition.	28 29 30 31 32 33
(5)	In this section: <i>prescribed water industry infrastructure</i> has the same meaning as in section 9.	34 35 36
20G	Duration of licence	37
(1)	A licence remains in force until it is cancelled or the licensee surrenders the licence with the consent of the Minister.	38 39
(2)	A licence does not have effect for the purposes of Division 2 while it is suspended.	40 41
	Note. The effect of subsection (2) is to prohibit the licensee from doing what the licence would otherwise authorise, but without affecting any obligations to which the licensee is subject under this Act, the regulations or licence conditions.	42 43 44
20H	Variation of class of infrastructure that may be operated under licence	45
	A licensed operator may apply for a variation of the class of infrastructure that the licensee may operate under the licence in the same manner as for an application for a licence, and this Act applies, subject to any modifications	46 47 48

	prescribed by the regulations, to the application as if it were an application for a licence.	1 2
20I	Annual fees and returns	3
(1)	A licensee must, in each year before the date fixed for that purpose by the Minister:	4 5
(a)	pay to the Minister the annual licence fee determined by the Minister, and	6 7
(b)	lodge with IPART an annual return containing the information required by the Minister by licence condition or by written notice.	8 9
(2)	The Minister may, by licence condition or by written notice, require the licensee to have information in an annual return verified in a specified manner.	10 11
(3)	If a licensee fails to pay a fee or lodge a return as required, the Minister may, by written notice, require the licensee to make good the default and, in addition, pay to the Minister the amount fixed by the regulations as a penalty for default.	12 13 14 15
20J	Surrender of licence	16
(1)	Subject to this section, a licence may be surrendered with the consent of the Minister.	17 18
(2)	Subject to this section, the Minister may, on application for consent to the surrender of a licence:	19 20
(a)	consent to the surrender of the licence, or	21
(b)	if satisfied that it is necessary for the protection of public health or safety, the protection of the environment or the protection of small retail customers:	22 23 24
(i)	impose further licence conditions, and	25
(ii)	consent to the surrender of the licence on the licensee satisfying the Minister that the conditions have been fulfilled or that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their fulfilment.	26 27 28
(3)	If the licensee provides an essential service under the licence, the Minister must not consent to the surrender of the licence unless the Minister is satisfied that satisfactory arrangements are in place for the continued provision of the service.	29 30 31 32
20K	Licence cannot be transferred	33
	A licence is not transferable.	34
Division 6	Special provisions addressing risk to public health or safety	35 36
20L	Public health and safety directions	37
(1)	The Minister may, if of the opinion that it is necessary to do so in order to deal with a risk to public health or safety arising from the construction, installation, alteration or operation of water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies, give directions (<i>public health and safety directions</i>) to:	38 39 40 41
(a)	the holder of an approval, or	42
(b)	a licensee, or	43

	(c) a person required to hold, or act as authorised by, an approval or licence under this Part,	1
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	requiring specified action to be taken to reduce or eliminate the risk.	3
(2)	Without limiting the public health and safety directions that may be given, if in the opinion of the Minister the risk is sufficiently serious to warrant it, the directions may require cessation of operation of the infrastructure.	4
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(3)	Before giving a public health and safety direction, the Minister must, unless the urgency of the circumstances preclude it, consult with the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Public Health Act 2010</i> or that Minister's nominee.	7
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(4)	If a person contravenes a public health and safety direction, the Minister may arrange for the required action to be taken by a person authorised by IPART to take the action.	11
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(5)	A person who contravenes a public health and safety direction must pay to the Minister an amount equal to the reasonable cost of action taken under subsection (4).	14
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(6)	It is a condition of an approval or licence that public health and safety directions must be complied with.	17
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20M	Increase in penalties if operation of infrastructure causes harm to public health or safety	19
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(1)	If, in a prosecution for an offence against this Act, the prosecution proves:	21
(a)	that water industry infrastructure to which this Part applies was operated without the required approval or licence or in contravention of the conditions of an approval or licence, and	22
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(b)	that act was intentional, and	25
(c)	the operation of the infrastructure caused (directly or indirectly) actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings that is of a high impact or on a wide scale,	26
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	the maximum penalty for the offence is increased, in the case of a corporation, to \$5 million or, in the case of an individual, to \$1 million.	29
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(2)	This section does not apply unless the court attendance notice or application commencing the proceedings alleges that those factors apply to the commission of the offence.	31
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Division 7	Enforcement and cancellation of approvals	34
20N	Regulatory authority and statutory default	35
(1)	In this Division:	36
	<i>regulatory authority</i> means:	37
(a)	for an approval or a matter related to an approval—IPART, and	38
(b)	for a licence or a matter related to a licence—the Minister.	39
(2)	A <i>statutory default</i> occurs if:	40
(a)	the holder of an approval contravenes this Act or the regulations, or	41
(b)	a licensee contravenes this Act or the regulations, or	42
(c)	an approval or licence is improperly obtained, or	43

(d)	an event occurs or circumstances come to light that mean that the holder of an approval or licence would not be granted the approval or licence if an application for the approval or licence were now to be made.	1 2 3
(3)	Action may be taken against a person under this Division for statutory default even though the person has since ceased to hold an approval or licence.	4 5
200	Effect of criminal proceedings	6
(1)	The regulatory authority may exercise its powers under this Division in relation to statutory default whether or not criminal proceedings have been, or are to be, taken for the default and even though a penalty may have already been imposed for the default.	7 8 9 10
(2)	However, the regulatory authority must, in imposing a monetary penalty, take into account any fine that has already been imposed in criminal proceedings.	11 12
20P	Compliance notice	13
(1)	If a statutory default occurs, the regulatory authority may give written notice (a <i>compliance notice</i>) to the alleged defaulter specifying the default and requiring the alleged defaulter to take specified action, within a period specified in the notice, to remedy or mitigate the consequences of the default or to prevent the continuance or recurrence of the default.	14 15 16 17 18
(2)	Without limiting the action that may be specified, a compliance notice may:	19
(a)	require a notice to be given to customers or to be published, or	20
(b)	require an audit and compliance program to be undertaken, or	21
(c)	require a training program to be undertaken.	22
(3)	If the alleged defaulter fails to take the specified action within the time allowed in the notice, the alleged defaulter is guilty of an offence.	23 24
	Maximum penalty:	25
(a)	in the case of a corporation—\$2 million, or	26
(b)	in the case of an individual—\$400,000.	27
20Q	Injunctive remedies	28
(1)	If a statutory default occurs or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a statutory default may occur or be attempted, the Supreme Court may, on application by the regulatory authority, grant an injunction to prevent the statutory default or to prevent recurrence of the statutory default.	29 30 31 32
(2)	The injunction may be granted on terms the Court considers appropriate.	33
(3)	An injunction may be granted under this section whether or not:	34
(a)	there has been some previous statutory default of the same or a similar nature, or	35 36
(b)	there is imminent danger of substantial damage to any person.	37
(4)	No undertaking as to damages can be required of the regulatory authority in proceedings under this section.	38 39
20R	Disciplinary action	40
(1)	If a statutory default occurs, the regulatory authority may give written notice to the alleged defaulter specifying the default and requiring the alleged defaulter to show cause, within a period specified in the notice, why disciplinary action should not be taken against the alleged defaulter.	41 42 43 44

- (2) The regulatory authority must allow at least 14 days for written submissions to be made, or provide for a hearing at which oral submissions may be made, to the regulatory authority by:
- (a) the alleged defaulter, and
 - (b) if an allegation in relation to the statutory default is made against:
 - (i) a related corporation of the alleged defaulter, or
 - (ii) a person who is a director or person concerned in the management of the alleged defaulter or a related corporation of the alleged defaulter,the related corporation or person.
- (3) After considering any submissions made by the alleged defaulter, the regulatory authority may, by order, take disciplinary action as follows:
- (a) the authority may censure the alleged defaulter,
 - (b) the authority may impose a fine on the alleged defaulter of up to:
 - (i) in the case of a corporation—\$500,000, or
 - (ii) in the case of an individual—\$100,000,
 - (c) the authority may order the forfeiture to the Crown of the whole or part of any security given under this Act by the alleged defaulter,
 - (d) in the case of an approval:
 - (i) the authority may impose further conditions or vary conditions of the approval, or
 - (ii) the authority may suspend the approval for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions or until further order of the authority, or
 - (iii) the authority may cancel the approval,
 - (e) in the case of a licence:
 - (i) the authority may impose further licence conditions or vary the licence conditions for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions or until further order of the authority (including by imposing a condition that prohibits the licensee from providing a particular service under the licence despite the licensee being the holder of the operational approval for the infrastructure to which the service relates or having an agreement with the holder of the operational approval for the provision of the service), or
 - (ii) the authority may suspend the licence for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions or until further order of the authority, or
 - (iii) the authority may cancel the licence,
 - (f) the authority may declare that the alleged defaulter, or a related corporation of the alleged defaulter, is a disqualified corporation for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions or until further order of the authority,
 - (g) the authority may declare that a person who is a director or concerned in the management of the alleged defaulter or a related corporation of the alleged defaulter is a disqualified individual for a specified period, or until the fulfilment of specified conditions or until further order of the authority.

- (4) If the alleged defaulter owns essential infrastructure or provides an essential service, the regulatory authority must, in determining the appropriate disciplinary action to take and the date when it is to take effect, consider whether there are suitable arrangements in place for the continuity of the service. 1
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- (5) If disciplinary action is taken against a licensee, the regulatory authority must give written notice of the action and the reasons for it to each holder of an approval with whom the licensee has an agreement for the provision of services under the licence. 6
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- (6) Disciplinary action takes effect on the date of service of the order on the alleged defaulter or on a later date specified in the order. 10
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- (7) If a statutory default comprises an offence for which a penalty notice may be issued and a penalty notice has been issued for the default and the penalty has been paid, no disciplinary action may be taken for the default. 12
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- 20S Court orders in addition to penalty** 15
- (1) If, in proceedings under this Act, the court finds that the defendant contravened this Part, the court may, in addition to any penalty it may impose, do one or more of the following: 16
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- (a) order the person to take specified action to remedy or mitigate the consequences of the contravention or to prevent the continuance or recurrence of the contravention, 19
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- (b) order the person to take specified action to publicise the contravention and its consequences and any compliance notice or other order made against the person, 22
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- (c) order the person to pay to a public authority reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the authority in taking action to remedy or mitigate the consequences of the contravention, 25
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- (d) order the person to pay to a person (other than a public authority) reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the person, or compensation of an amount determined by the court for injury, loss or damage suffered by the person, as a result of the contravention, 28
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- (e) order the person to pay reasonable costs and expenses incurred during the investigation of the contravention for taking samples or conducting inspections, tests, measurements or analysis, or transporting, storing or disposing of evidence, 32
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- (f) order the person to pay an amount not exceeding the court's estimation of the amount of the economic benefit acquired by the person, or accrued or accruing to the person, as a result of the contravention. 36
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- (2) An economic benefit obtained by delaying or avoiding costs is to be taken to be an economic benefit acquired by the person, or accrued or accruing to the person, as a result of a contravention if the contravention can be attributed (in whole or in part) to that delay or avoidance. 39
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- (3) The court may, by an order under this section, fix a period for compliance and impose other requirements the court considers necessary or expedient for enforcement of the order. 43
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- (4) The Local Court: 46
- (a) may not make an order under subsection (1) (e), and 47

(b)	may not make an order under this section for the payment of an amount that exceeds in total the amount for which an order may be made by the court when exercising jurisdiction under the <i>Civil Procedure Act 2005</i> .	1 2 3
20T	Cancellation of approval and forfeiture of security	4
(1)	There are grounds for cancellation of an approval under this section if:	5
(a)	in the case of a design approval:	6
(i)	5 years have elapsed and the construction, installation or alteration of the infrastructure has not substantially commenced, or	7 8 9
(ii)	there is no longer an intention to construct, install, alter or bring into operation water industry infrastructure as proposed, or	10 11
(b)	in the case of an operational approval—operation of the infrastructure under this Act has ceased on a permanent basis or it is intended that operation of the infrastructure under this Act cease on a permanent basis.	12 13 14 15
(2)	However, an approval for essential infrastructure cannot be cancelled:	16
(a)	in circumstances that may result in a declared failure or in which a failure of a provider of the essential service may be declared, or	17 18
(b)	during a declared failure of a provider of the essential service, or	19
(c)	in circumstances in which directions may be given to an insolvency official under Division 3 of Part 5 in relation to a provider of the essential service.	20 21 22
(3)	The holder of an approval may apply to IPART for cancellation of the approval.	23 24
(4)	IPART may, by written notice to the holder of an approval, require the holder to show cause, within a period specified in the notice:	25 26
(a)	if IPART is acting on its own initiative—why the approval should not be cancelled and any security given by the holder forfeited, or	27 28
(b)	if the holder has applied for cancellation—why any security given by the holder should not be forfeited.	29 30
(5)	IPART must allow the holder of the approval at least 14 days to make submissions in writing to IPART or provide for a hearing at which the holder may make oral submissions to IPART.	31 32 33
(6)	After considering any submissions made by the holder of the approval, if IPART is satisfied that there are grounds for the cancellation of the approval:	34 35
(a)	IPART may:	36
(i)	cancel the approval, or	37
(ii)	impose further conditions of the approval and cancel the approval on the holder of the approval satisfying IPART that the conditions have been fulfilled or that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their fulfilment, and	38 39 40 41
(b)	IPART may order the forfeiture to the Crown of the whole or part of any security given by the holder under this Act.	42 43
20U	Cancellation of approval in public interest	44
(1)	The Minister may, by written notice to the holder of an approval, cancel the approval if the Minister considers the cancellation to be in the public interest.	45 46

- (2) The notice must specify whether the cancellation is on the Minister's own initiative or on the written recommendation of another Minister. 1
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- (3) Cancellation may be with respect to the whole or a specified part of the water industry infrastructure to which the approval relates. 3
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- (4) Cancellation takes effect on the day specified in the notice of cancellation. 5
- (5) In determining when cancellation is to take effect, the Minister is to consider the public interest and, if cancellation arises from the recommendation of another Minister, that Minister's reasons for the recommendation. 6
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- (6) The holder of an approval may bring proceedings for compensation in the Supreme Court: 9
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 - (a) if cancellation was on the Minister's own initiative—against the Minister, or 11
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 - (b) if cancellation was on the written recommendation of another Minister— against that Minister. 13
14
- (7) The Supreme Court is to hear the proceedings and determine whether it is just that compensation be paid to the plaintiff by reason of the cancellation. 15
16
- (8) If the Supreme Court determines that it is just that compensation be paid, the Supreme Court must determine the amount of compensation and give judgment accordingly. 17
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Division 8 Administrative review and appeal 20

20V Administrative review by Civil and Administrative Tribunal 21

The following applications may be made to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal for an administrative review under the *Administrative Decisions Review Act 1997* of a decision under this Part: 22
23
24

- (a) an applicant for an approval may apply for review of a decision of IPART: 25
26
 - (i) refusing to grant an approval, or 27
 - (ii) refusing to accept a variation of an application after an invitation to make submissions has been given, or 28
29
 - (iii) fixing conditions of an approval, 30
- (b) the holder of an approval may apply for review of a decision of IPART: 31
 - (i) refusing to vary the works authorised by the approval, or 32
 - (ii) refusing to vary or revoke conditions of the approval, or 33
 - (iii) refusing to give a consent or grant an approval required by conditions of the approval, or 34
35
 - (iv) varying or imposing further conditions of the approval, or 36
 - (v) refusing to consent to the transfer of the approval, or 37
 - (vi) refusing to cancel the approval on application, 38
- (c) an applicant for a licence may apply for review of a decision of the Minister: 39
40
 - (i) refusing to grant a licence, or 41
 - (ii) fixing conditions of a licence, 42
- (d) a licensee may apply for review of a decision of the Minister: 43
 - (i) refusing to vary the class of infrastructure that may be operated under the licence, or 44
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	(ii) refusing to vary or revoke licence conditions, or	1
	(iii) refusing to give a consent or grant an approval required by licence conditions, or	2 3
	(iv) varying or imposing further licence conditions, or	4
	(v) refusing to consent to surrender of the licence.	5
20W	Appeal to Civil and Administrative Tribunal	6
(1)	The following appeals may be made to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal against a decision under this Part:	7 8
(a)	a person to whom a compliance notice is issued by the Minister or IPART may appeal against the decision to issue the notice,	9 10
(b)	a person against whom disciplinary action is taken by the Minister or IPART may appeal against the decision to take that action,	11 12
(c)	the holder of an approval that is cancelled on the initiative of the Minister or IPART may appeal against the decision to cancel the approval,	13 14 15
(d)	a person against whom an order for forfeiture of security is made may appeal against the decision to make the order or as to the amount to be forfeited.	16 17 18
(2)	An appeal is to be dealt with by way of a new hearing, and fresh evidence or fresh information may be given on the appeal.	19 20
Division 9	Miscellaneous	21
20X	Applications	22
(1)	An application under this Part:	23
(a)	must be made in the manner and form approved by the Minister, and	24
(b)	must comply with any requirements set out in the regulations, and	25
(c)	must be accompanied by the fee determined by the Minister, and	26
(d)	must be lodged at the office of IPART.	27
(2)	The Minister or IPART may, by written notice to an applicant, require the applicant:	28 29
(a)	to give the Minister or IPART additional information reasonably required to decide the application, or	30 31
(b)	to have information in the application or additional information verified in a specified manner.	32 33
20Y	Notices	34
	A notice required to be given to the Minister or IPART under this Part must be given in the manner and form approved by the Minister and be accompanied by the material required by the Minister.	35 36 37
20Z	Later agreement with licensed retailer for same service of no effect	38
	If the holder of an operational approval for a category A scheme purports to enter into an agreement with more than one licensed retailer for the sale of the same water or sewerage service provided by means of the scheme (as identified in the operational approval), the agreement that is made later in time is of no effect while the agreement that is made earlier in time remains in effect.	39 40 41 42 43 44

[4] Section 42 Service providers to have approved cost allocation manuals	1
Omit the penalty provision from section 42 (10). Insert instead:	2
Maximum penalty:	3
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$55,000, or	4
(b) in the case of an individual—\$11,000.	5
[5] Section 43 Hindering access to certain services	6
Omit the penalty provision from section 43 (1). Insert instead:	7
Maximum penalty:	8
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$55,000, or	9
(b) in the case of an individual—\$11,000.	10
[6] Part 5, heading	11
Omit “ retail ”. Insert instead “ industry ”.	12
[7] Part 5, Division 1AA	13
Insert before Division 1:	14
Division 1AA Customer contracts for category A schemes	15
46AA Definitions	16
In this Division:	17
<i>category A scheme licence</i> means:	18
(a) an operator’s licence under which the licensee operates infrastructure that connects a category A scheme to a customer’s land, or	19
(b) a retailer’s licence.	20
<i>contract charge</i> means a fee or charge payable by a customer under a contract with a licensed operator or licensed retailer for water or sewerage services.	21
<i>lease</i> means a lease, licence, permit or other agreement under which a person (the <i>lessor</i>) parts with possession of land to another (the <i>lessee</i>).	22
<i>standard contract charges</i> of a licensed operator or licensed retailer means the contract charges of the licensee referred to in section 46AC.	23
46AB Implied customer contracts for category A schemes	24
(1) An owner of land to which water or sewerage services are provided by means of a category A scheme to which Part 2 applies is taken to have entered into a contract for the services with:	25
(a) the licensed operator of the infrastructure that connects the scheme to the land, and	26
(b) the licensed retailer of the services,	27
in each case, on the terms and conditions set out in the regulations and for the standard contract charges of the licensee.	28
(2) However, a contract is not implied:	29
(a) if the connection of the land to the scheme:	30
(i) was not authorised by the owner of the infrastructure or the licensed operator or a predecessor of the owner or operator, and	31

	(ii) has not since been approved by the owner of the infrastructure or the licensed operator or a predecessor of the owner or operator, or	1 2
	(b) to the extent that it would conflict with an order in force under section 83.	3 4
	(3) Subject to the regulations, the implied contract may be modified or excluded by express agreement between the licensee and the owner of the land.	5 6
46AC	Standard contract charges for category A schemes	7
(1)	It is a condition of a category A scheme licence that the licensee must, for each category A scheme for which the licensee provides services under the licence:	8 9
(a)	publish on its website in a manner conspicuous to customers:	10
(i)	the contract charges payable for the services, and	11
(ii)	if the contract charges are to be varied—the date from which the charges as varied become payable, and	12 13
(b)	cause written notice of the contract charges, and of any variation, to be given to IPART.	14 15
(2)	It is a condition of a category A scheme licence that the licensee must give each customer at least 6 months' written notice (or such shorter period of notice as is approved by the Minister on application) of an increase in a contract charge payable by the customer.	16 17 18 19
(3)	In the case of a licensed retailer, it is a condition of the licence that the notice must be sent with, or included in, an account or invoice for a service provided under the licence.	20 21 22
(4)	No amount of an increase in a contract charge may be recovered by the licensee from a customer if notice of the increase has not been given to the customer as required by this section.	23 24 25
(5)	Subsection (2) does not apply to a variation of contract charges to the extent that:	26 27
(a)	the variation does not exceed a consumer price index increase as contemplated by the regulations, or	28 29
(b)	the variation is in accordance with a determination under Division 2.	30
46AD	New owner liable for unpaid charges under customer contract on change of ownership of land	31 32
	On a change of ownership of land to which water or sewerage services are provided by means of a category A scheme to which Part 2 applies, the new owner of the land is liable for the amount of any unpaid contract charges for the services owed to a licensed operator or licensed retailer as if the new owner had entered into the contract under which the charges are owed.	33 34 35 36 37
46AE	Lessee may pay and recover charges under customer contract	38
	If water or sewerage services are provided to land by means of a category A scheme to which Part 2 applies and a lease of the land provides, expressly or impliedly, that the lessor of the land is to pay contract charges to a licensed operator or licensed retailer, the lessee may pay to the licensed operator or licensed retailer any charges that are due but unpaid by the lessor and may:	39 40 41 42 43
(a)	recover the amount paid from the lessor as a debt due to the lessee, or	44
(b)	deduct the amount paid from any rent, licence fee or other occupation fee payable by the lessee to the lessor.	45 46

46AF	Certificates as to amounts due under customer contract	1
(1)	It is a condition of a category A scheme licence that the licensee must, on application and payment of the fee fixed by the licensee and approved by IPART, issue to the applicant a certificate:	2
		3
		4
(a)	containing particulars of any contract charges payable to the licensee for water or sewerage services provided to specified land as at a specified date, or	5
		6
		7
(b)	to the effect that there are no such amounts.	8
(2)	An application for a certificate must:	9
(a)	be in writing, and	10
(b)	specify the name and address of the applicant, and	11
(c)	identify the land to which the application relates.	12
(3)	A certificate of a licensee is conclusive proof, in favour of a purchaser in good faith and for value of the land to which the certificate relates, that, at the date specified in the certificate, no contract charges were payable to the licensee for water or sewerage services provided to the land other than the amounts specified in the certificate.	13
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[8]	Section 47 Internal review of certain decisions disputed by small retail customers	18
	Omit section 47 (1). Insert instead:	19
(1)	A small retail customer may apply to a licensed operator or licensed retailer for a review of any of the following:	20
		21
(a)	a matter arising under a contract for water or sewerage services provided to the customer,	22
		23
(b)	the exercise or proposed exercise of powers under Division 2 of Part 6 by or on behalf of the licensed operator,	24
		25
(c)	any other matter prescribed by the regulations.	26
[9]	Section 47 (2) (b)	27
	Omit “retail suppliers”.	28
[10]	Section 49 Approved ombudsman scheme	29
	Omit section 49 (1) (a). Insert instead:	30
(a)	disputes and complaints under contracts for water or sewerage services provided to small retail customers, and	31
		32
[11]	Section 49 (2) (a) and (c) and (5)	33
	Omit “authorised” wherever occurring.	34
[12]	Section 50 Licence conditions relating to approved ombudsman scheme	35
	Omit “supplies water or provides sewerage services (or both)” from section 50 (1).	36
	Insert instead “provides water or sewerage services”.	37
[13]	Section 50 (2)	38
	Omit the subsection. Insert instead:	39
(2)	If an operator’s licence is a category A scheme licence within the meaning of Division 1AA or a licensed operator is an authorised WICA provider within	40
		41

	the meaning of Division 1AA of Part 6, it is a condition of the operator's licence that:	1
		2
	(a) the operator must be a member of an approved ombudsman scheme, and	3
	(b) the operator is bound by, and must comply with, any decision of the ombudsman under the scheme relating to a dispute or complaint involving the operator and a small retail customer or entitled person.	4
		5
		6
[14]	Section 50A	7
	Insert after section 50:	8
	50A Obligations of insolvency official	9
	If an insolvency official has been appointed in respect of a licensed operator or licensed retailer, or any property of a licensed operator or licensed retailer, the following provisions apply:	10
		11
		12
	(a) a dispute or complaint about the licensee may, or may continue to, be dealt with under this Division,	13
		14
	(b) the insolvency official must facilitate the resolution of the complaint or dispute,	15
		16
	(c) the insolvency official is bound by this Division as if the insolvency official were the licensee.	17
		18
[15]	Section 50B	19
	Insert before section 51:	20
	50B Definitions	21
	In this Division:	22
	<i>monopoly service</i> means a water or sewerage service declared to be a monopoly service under section 51.	23
		24
	<i>monopoly supplier</i> means:	25
	(a) a licensed operator that operates infrastructure by means of which a monopoly service is provided, or	26
		27
	(b) a licensed retailer that sells a monopoly service to a customer.	28
[16]	Section 51 Declaration of monopoly service	29
	Omit section 51 (1). Insert instead:	30
	(1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare that a specified water or sewerage service provided by means of water industry infrastructure to which Part 2 applies in a specified area to a specified class of customers is a monopoly service.	31
		32
		33
		34
[17]	Section 51 (2) (b)	35
	Omit "in the case of a water supply service for recycled water,".	36
	Insert instead "in the case of a water service of a kind prescribed by the regulations—".	37

[18] Part 5, Division 3	1
Omit the Division. Insert instead:	2
Division 3 Continuity of essential services	3
54 Designation of last resort providers of essential service	4
(1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, designate a person as a last resort provider to take the place of a provider of an essential service in the event that the provider of the essential service is declared to have failed.	5 6 7
Note. The declaration of a failure is made under section 57.	8
(2) The last resort provider must be a public water utility or a licensee.	9
(3) IPART must investigate and make a recommendation to the Minister as to the person to be designated as the last resort provider, giving primary consideration to any public water utility in whose area of operations the essential infrastructure is located and secondary consideration to licensees who have consented to act as last resort providers.	10 11 12 13 14
(4) If a recommendation is to be made following an application for a design approval, IPART need not commence the necessary investigation until works for the essential infrastructure have substantially commenced under the design approval.	15 16 17 18
(5) The Minister must consider, but is not bound to accept, IPART's recommendations and may seek further advice from IPART on the designation of last resort providers.	19 20 21
(6) Without limiting the terms of a designation of a last resort provider, a public water utility may be designated as the last resort provider of all essential services provided within its area of operations in the event that any provider of an essential service is declared to have failed.	22 23 24 25
(7) Before designating a person as a last resort provider, the Minister must, unless the urgency of the circumstances preclude it:	26 27
(a) give written notice of the proposed designation to:	28
(i) the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, and	29 30
(ii) the provider of the essential service for which the last resort provider is to be designated, and	31 32
(iii) the person proposed to be designated as the last resort provider, and	33 34
(iv) any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service, and	35 36
(b) allow them at least 14 days within which to make submissions to the Minister about the proposed designation.	37 38
(8) The regulations may provide for additional matters relating to the designation of last resort providers.	39 40
55 Contingency planning by last resort providers	41
(1) A last resort provider of an essential service must:	42
(a) submit, within 4 months after becoming the last resort provider of the service (or such longer period as is approved by IPART), a plan (a <i>contingency plan</i>) to IPART for its approval for the continued provision of the essential service in the event of a declared failure of the	43 44 45 46

- essential service provider for which the last resort provider is designated, and 1
2
- (b) review and resubmit, at intervals determined by written notice to the last resort provider by IPART, the contingency plan for the approval of IPART, and 3
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- (c) conduct exercises to test the operation of the approved contingency plan as contemplated by the plan or as required by IPART by written notice to the last resort provider. 6
7
8
- (2) A contingency plan must: 9
- (a) comply with the requirements of the regulations, and 10
- (b) be prepared in accordance with guidelines published by IPART in the Gazette and on IPART's website, and 11
12
- (c) be prepared in conjunction with the providers of the essential service, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and any other last resort provider of the service. 13
14
15
- (3) If the last resort provider is a public water utility and customers of a failed licensee will be transferred to the last resort provider in the event of a declared failure, the contingency plan may: 16
17
18
- (a) identify the fees and charges for a specified service provided by the utility to its small retail customers by means of its water or sewer mains (being a service that is, as far as reasonably practicable, equivalent to the essential service) as the utility's standard contract charges, and 19
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22
- (b) identify the terms and conditions that apply to a contract for a specified service provided by the utility to its small retail customers by means of its water or sewer mains (being a service that is, as far as reasonably practicable, equivalent to the essential service) as the utility's standard contract conditions. 23
24
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- (4) Without limiting the matters that may be provided for in a contingency plan, a contingency plan may: 28
29
- (a) set out how customers to be transferred to the last resort provider in the event of a declared failure are to be notified of the transfer, and 30
31
- (b) contemplate an arrangement under which staff of the essential service provider assist the last resort provider to provide the essential service during a declared failure. 32
33
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- (5) A contingency plan may be modified and resubmitted to IPART for its approval at any time. 35
36
- (6) IPART may, by written notice to a last resort provider, approve a contingency plan with or without specified modifications. 37
38
- 56 Obligations to facilitate and pay for contingency planning 39**
- (1) An essential service provider for which a last resort provider has been designated must: 40
41
- (a) facilitate preparation and review of the contingency plan by the last resort provider, including by: 42
43
- (i) providing information reasonably required in a timely fashion, and 44
45
- (ii) allowing the last resort provider a reasonable opportunity to inspect infrastructure and computing systems and their operation as reasonably required, and 46
47
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- (b) notify the last resort provider of any change in systems or processes that may require modification of the contingency plan or of which the last resort provider reasonably needs to be aware, and 1
2
3
 - (c) facilitate the conduct by the last resort provider of required exercises to test the operation of the approved contingency plan, and 4
5
 - (d) pay the last resort provider an amount determined in accordance with this section to be the reasonable cost of compliance with section 55, within 28 days after the determination or such other period as is agreed between the essential service provider and last resort provider. 6
7
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9
 - (2) The reasonable cost of compliance with section 55 by the last resort provider is to be determined: 10
11
 - (a) by agreement between the essential service provider and last resort provider, or 12
13
 - (b) if the essential service provider and last resort provider are unable to come to an agreement within 28 days after the last resort provider submits a written request to the essential service provider for payment—by IPART on the application of the last resort provider. 14
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 - (3) IPART must publish, in the Gazette and on IPART’s website, guidelines as to how the reasonable cost of compliance with section 55 by the last resort provider is to be determined. 18
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 - (4) The holder of an operational approval for essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service must facilitate preparation and review of the contingency plan by the last resort provider and the conduct by the last resort provider of required exercises to test the operation of the approved contingency plan. 21
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- 57 Declaration of failure of essential service provider** 26
- (1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare that an essential service provider has failed if the Minister is satisfied that: 27
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 - (a) the essential service provider has ceased or is about to cease providing an essential service, or 29
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 - (b) an insolvency official has been appointed in respect of the essential service provider or any property of the essential service provider, or 31
32
 - (c) an order has been made for the winding up of the essential service provider or a resolution has been passed for the winding up of the essential service provider, or 33
34
35
 - (d) other criteria specified in the regulations have been met, 36
and no other arrangement is in place for the continued provision of the service under this Act. 37
38
 - (2) The order must specify: 39
 - (a) the essential service affected by the failure, and 40
 - (b) the reason for the declaration, and 41
 - (c) the essential service provider who is declared to have failed (the *failed licensee*), and 42
43
 - (d) the last resort provider who is to replace the failed licensee for the provision of the essential service, and 44
45
 - (e) the date, or the manner of fixing the date, that is to be the transfer date of the failure (which must not be a date before the date of publication of the order). 46
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(3)	A single order may relate to more than one essential service and, in that case, this Division applies separately to each essential service to which the order relates.	1 2 3
(4)	The Minister must ensure that a copy of the order is given to:	4
(a)	the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, and	5 6
(b)	the failed licensee, and	7
(c)	the last resort provider, and	8
(d)	any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service.	9
(5)	The Minister must cause the order to be made available on IPART's website.	10
57A	Effect of declaration of failure	11
(1)	On the transfer date of a declared failure, despite any other provision of this Act:	12 13
(a)	the licence of the failed licensee (if then in force) becomes subject to a condition prohibiting the licensee from providing the essential service under the licence, and	14 15 16
(b)	if the last resort provider is a public water utility—the utility is taken to have been assigned the function of providing the essential service formerly provided by the failed licensee, and	17 18 19
(c)	the last resort provider is taken to have notified IPART that the licensee is the operator or retailer of the essential service as required under Division 5 of Part 2.	20 21 22
(2)	If the last resort provider is a public water utility, the utility is, for the duration of a declared failure, to be regarded as the licensed operator or licensed retailer (as the case requires) of the essential service for the purposes of this Act and bound by licence conditions imposed by this Act or the regulations.	23 24 25 26
(3)	An agreement entered into between the holder of the operational approval for essential infrastructure and a person other than the last resort provider (whether before or after the declaration of a failure) is of no effect to the extent that it provides for a person other than the last resort provider to be, at any time during a declared failure:	27 28 29 30 31
(a)	if the last resort provider operates the essential infrastructure—the licensed operator of the essential infrastructure, or	32 33
(b)	if the last resort provider sells the essential service—the licensed retailer of the essential service.	34 35
57B	Relationship between last resort provider and holder of operational approval and others during failure	36 37
(1)	On and from the transfer date of a declared failure, the last resort provider is to be taken to be a party (in substitution for the failed licensee) to any agreement necessary for the provision of the essential service between the failed licensee and the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, another licensee, a public water utility or any other person, as in force immediately before the transfer date, subject to the regulations and any modifications agreed between the parties.	38 39 40 41 42 43 44
(2)	If the last resort provider proposes a modification to such an agreement on the basis that the modification is reasonably necessary for the efficient provision of the essential service by the provider (including a modification relating to a	45 46 47

	payment to be made by the provider), the other party to the agreement must not unreasonably withhold agreement to the modification.	1 2
(3)	A dispute between the last resort provider and another person as to the application of subsection (1) or subsection (2) is subject to arbitration under the <i>Commercial Arbitration Act 2010</i> .	3 4 5
57C	Relationship between last resort provider and category A scheme customers during failure	6 7
(1)	This section applies to a last resort provider that, following the declaration of a failure:	8 9
	(a) operates essential infrastructure that connects a category A scheme to a customer's land, or	10 11
	(b) is a retailer of the essential service.	12
(2)	On the transfer date of a declared failure, each person who was a customer of the failed licensee for the essential service immediately before the transfer date ceases to be a customer of the failed licensee and becomes a customer of the last resort provider of the essential service (a <i>transferred customer</i>).	13 14 15 16
(3)	Rights and obligations that have accrued under a contract between the failed licensee and a transferred customer before the transfer date are not affected and no early termination charge becomes payable.	17 18 19
(4)	Division 1AA applies to transferred and new customers of a last resort provider subject to the following modifications:	20 21
	(a) a reference to terms and conditions set out in the regulations is to be read as a reference to the last resort contract conditions,	22 23
	(b) a reference to standard contract charges is to be read as a reference to the last resort contract charges,	24 25
	(c) the last resort contract charges may not be increased as contemplated by that Division.	26 27
	Note. The last resort contract charges may, in certain circumstances, be increased under a cost recovery scheme.	28 29
(5)	This section applies to a last resort provider that is a public water utility despite any provision of the utility's Act and despite the <i>Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992</i> .	30 31 32
(6)	In this section:	33
	<i>last resort contract charges</i> means a transfer fee not exceeding an amount determined by the Minister on the recommendation of IPART, and:	34 35
	(a) the standard contract charges (within the meaning of Division 1AA) of the failed licensee, or	36 37
	(b) if, in the case of a last resort provider that is a public water utility, the standard contract charges of the utility as identified in the contingency plan are greater than the standard contract charges of the failed licensee—the standard contract charges of the utility as identified in the contingency plan.	38 39 40 41 42
	Note. For certain public water utilities, the standard contract charges of the utility are subject to a maximum price determined by IPART, which may be varied from time to time.	43 44 45
	<i>last resort contract conditions</i> means:	46
	(a) the terms and conditions that would have applied if the service were provided by the failed licensee, or	47 48

(b)	if, in the case of a last resort provider that is a public water utility, the contingency plan identifies terms and conditions as standard contract conditions of the utility—the standard contract conditions of the utility as identified in the contingency plan.	1 2 3 4
57D	Provision of essential service by last resort provider	5
(1)	The last resort provider must, for the duration of a declared failure, provide the essential service as contemplated by the contingency plan and, for that purpose, may have access to infrastructure and customer data systems and other property as reasonably required.	6 7 8 9
(2)	During a declared failure, the failed licensee, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service must:	10 11 12
(a)	facilitate the provision of the essential service by the last resort provider, and	13 14
(b)	take action as required by the approved contingency plan or the regulations, and	15 16
(c)	comply with reasonable directions given by the last resort provider in providing the essential service.	17 18
(3)	A person must not obstruct the last resort provider’s access to property, or the provision of the essential service by the last resort provider, during a declared failure.	19 20 21
	Maximum penalty:	22
(a)	in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	23
(b)	in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	24
57E	Obligation of holder of operational approval to endeavour to resolve failure	25
	It is a condition of an operational approval for essential infrastructure that, in the event of a declared failure, the holder of the approval must take all reasonable steps to resolve the failure as quickly as possible, including by:	26 27 28
(a)	entering into a suitable agreement with a person to take the place of the last resort provider, or	29 30
(b)	obtaining a licence with a view to taking the place of the last resort provider, or	31 32
(c)	seeking to sell the infrastructure and transfer the operational approval to the last resort provider or to a person who could take the place of the last resort provider or who has made a suitable agreement with a person who could take the place of the last resort provider.	33 34 35 36
57F	Review of failure by IPART	37
(1)	IPART must, at least once in each 6 months, review a declared failure with a view to making recommendations to the Minister about how the failure may be resolved as quickly as possible.	38 39 40
(2)	In conducting a review, IPART must consider:	41
(a)	whether there has been an adequate opportunity for the holder of the operational approval to resolve the failure, and	42 43
(b)	whether there is a reasonable likelihood of a licensee replacing the last resort provider for the continued provision of the essential service under this Act, and	44 45 46

(c)	whether it is practicable to resolve the failure by connection of affected premises to alternative infrastructure, and	1 2
(d)	whether the failure should be resolved by a public water utility providing a service under the utility's Act to replace the provision of the essential service under this Act.	3 4 5
(3)	In conducting a review, IPART must invite submissions from:	6
(a)	the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, and	7 8
(b)	the last resort provider, and	9
(c)	the failed licensee, and	10
(d)	any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service.	11
(4)	IPART must provide a report on a review to the Minister including recommendations as to the resolution of the failure.	12 13
(5)	The Minister must consider, but is not bound to accept, IPART's report and recommendations and may seek further advice from IPART on the resolution of the failure.	14 15 16
57G	Resolution of failure by acquisition by public water utility	17
(1)	If the Minister is satisfied that a declared failure should be resolved by a public water utility providing a water or sewerage service under the utility's Act to replace the provision of the essential service under this Act on a permanent basis, the Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare that this section applies to the declared failure.	18 19 20 21 22
(2)	If this section is declared to apply:	23
(a)	any statutory power of the utility to acquire land by negotiation or compulsorily is to be read as extending to a power to acquire essential infrastructure and land for the purposes of the declaration, and	24 25 26
(b)	the statutory power to acquire land and the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i> are to be read subject to the modification that a reference to land includes a reference to essential infrastructure and subject to other modifications prescribed by the regulations.	27 28 29 30 31
57H	Declaration of end of failure	32
(1)	The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare the end of the failure if:	33 34
(a)	arrangements are in place for the essential service subject to a declared failure to be provided by another licensee in place of the last resort provider, or	35 36 37
(b)	the essential service subject to a declared failure is no longer to be provided under this Act, or	38 39
(c)	the Minister is satisfied that the failure has otherwise been resolved or is about to otherwise be resolved.	40 41
(2)	The order must specify:	42
(a)	the essential service for which the failure is at an end, and	43
(b)	if the service is to continue to be provided under this Act:	44
(i)	the last resort provider who is to be replaced, and	45

- (ii) the licensee who is to replace the last resort provider (the *new licensee*), and 1
2
 - (c) if the service is to be replaced by a service provided under a public water utility's Act—the replacement service and the public water utility that is to provide it, and 3
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 - (d) the date, or the manner of fixing the date, that is to be the end date of the failure (which must not be a date before the date of publication of the order). 6
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 - (3) A single order may relate to more than one essential service and, in that case, this Division applies separately to each essential service to which the order relates. 9
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11
 - (4) The end date must not be earlier than 6 months after the transfer date unless the last resort provider consents to an earlier end date. 12
13
 - (5) In fixing the end date, the Minister must consider the extent to which the last resort provider has been able, or is expected to be able, to recover its costs and expenses from the failed licensee, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, customers of the essential service or otherwise. 14
15
16
17
 - (6) The Minister must ensure that a copy of the declaration is given to: 18
 - (a) the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, and 19
20
 - (b) the last resort provider, and 21
 - (c) the new licensee, and 22
 - (d) the failed licensee, and 23
 - (e) any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service. 24
 - (7) The Minister must cause the order to be made available on IPART's website. 25
- 57I Effect of end of failure** 26
- (1) On the end date of a declared failure: 27
 - (a) if the last resort provider is a public water utility—the utility ceases to have the function of providing the essential service under this Act, and 28
29
 - (b) if the last resort provider is a licensee—the licensee is taken to have notified IPART that the licensee has ceased to provide the essential service as required under Division 5 of Part 2, and 30
31
32
 - (c) if the essential service is to continue to be provided under this Act: 33
 - (i) in circumstances in which section 57C applied to the last resort provider: 34
35
 - (A) each person who was a customer of the last resort provider for the essential service immediately before the end date ceases to be a customer of the last resort provider and becomes a customer of the new licensee for the essential service, and 36
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 - (B) the contract for the essential service ceases to be implied with the last resort provider under Division 1AA as modified by this Division and is implied with the new licensee under Division 1AA, and 41
42
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 - (C) any modifications of the implied contract expressly agreed between the last resort provider and a customer continue to apply as if they had been agreed under Division 1AA 45
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	between the new licensee and the customer, subject to further modification by express agreement under that Division, and	1 2 3
(ii)	the new licensee is taken to be a party (in substitution for the last resort provider) to any agreement necessary for the provision of the essential service between the last resort provider and the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure, another licensee, a public water utility or any other person, as in force immediately before the end date, subject to any modifications agreed between the parties, and	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
(d)	if the essential service is to be replaced by a service provided under a public water utility's Act and section 57C applied to the last resort provider:	11 12 13
(i)	each person who was a customer of the last resort provider for the essential service immediately before the end date ceases to be a customer of the last resort provider under this Act and becomes a customer of the public water utility for the replacement service under the utility's Act, and	14 15 16 17 18
(ii)	the contract for the service ceases to be implied under Division 1AA as modified by this Division and is instead implied under the public water utility's Act, and	19 20 21
(iii)	any modifications of the implied contract expressly agreed between the last resort provider and a customer continue to apply as if they had been agreed under the public water utility's Act, subject to further modification by express agreement under that Act.	22 23 24 25 26
(2)	Rights and obligations that have accrued under a contract between the last resort provider and a customer before the end date are not affected and no early termination charge becomes payable.	27 28 29
(3)	The last resort provider, the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and any other provider or last resort provider of the essential service must:	30 31 32
(a)	facilitate the provision of the essential service by the new licensee or the provision of the service to replace the essential service by a public water utility, and	33 34 35
(b)	take action as required by the approved contingency plan or the regulations.	36 37
57J	Immunity from liability for last resort provider	38
(1)	A last resort provider assumes no financial or other liability of a failed licensee that accrued before the transfer date.	39 40
(2)	A last resort provider is not liable for loss, damage or injury arising from:	41
(a)	an act or omission of the failed licensee, or	42
(b)	the condition of the essential infrastructure,	43
	except to the extent to which the loss, damage or injury arises as a consequence of the negligence of the last resort provider.	44 45

57K Confidentiality requirement	1
A last resort provider or new licensee must not use or disclose any confidential or commercially sensitive information obtained under this Division other than for the purpose for which it is given unless:	2
(a) the use or disclosure is authorised by the person to whom the information belongs, or	3
(b) the last resort provider or new licensee is required by law to disclose the information.	4
57L Cost recovery scheme	5
(1) In the event of a declared failure, the Minister may, on the application of the last resort provider and subject to the regulations:	6
(a) cause IPART to assess the reasonable costs and expenses of the last resort provider arising from:	7
(i) dealing with or remedying an act or omission of the failed licensee or the condition of the essential infrastructure, or	8
(ii) providing the essential service as a last resort provider, as known or reasonably able to be estimated at the date of the application, and	9
(b) provide, by order published in the Gazette, for a cost recovery scheme as set out in this section or as otherwise prescribed by the regulations.	10
(2) More than one application may be made under this section and a cost recovery scheme may be provided for progressively during and after the declared failure.	11
(3) Subject to the regulations, a cost recovery scheme may provide as follows:	12
(a) for the recovery of the whole or a part of the amount assessed from the failed licensee,	13
(b) for the recovery of the whole or a part of the amount assessed from the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure,	14
(c) in circumstances in which it is unlikely that the whole of the amount assessed can be recovered from the failed licensee or holder of the operational approval:	15
(i) for the recovery of a portion of the amount assessed from customers of the last resort provider for the essential service through an increase in last resort contract charges approved by IPART,	16
(ii) for the recovery of any outstanding amount through an industry contribution scheme.	17
(4) If a cost recovery scheme provides for the recovery of an amount from the failed licensee or the holder of the operational approval for essential infrastructure, the amount may be recovered in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt owed to the last resort provider by the failed licensee or the holder of the operational approval for the infrastructure or jointly and severally from the failed licensee and holder, according to the terms of the scheme.	18

(5)	If a cost recovery scheme provides for the recovery of an amount from customers:	1
		2
(a)	IPART may, on application of the last resort provider and subject to the regulations, approve a specified increase in last resort contract charges from a specified date, and	3
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(b)	the last resort provider must ensure that the increased last resort contract charges are published on its website in a manner conspicuous to customers, and	6
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		8
(c)	this section applies despite Division 1AA and, in the case of a last resort provider that is a public water utility, despite any provision of the utility's Act and the <i>Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992</i> .	9
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(6)	If a cost recovery scheme provides for an industry contribution scheme, the following provisions apply, subject to the regulations:	13
		14
(a)	the scheme may provide for the Minister to require, as the Minister considers just and reasonable in the circumstances, contributions to be made to IPART (for payment to the last resort provider) by a licensee, the holder of an operational approval or a public water utility,	15
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		18
(b)	the Minister must:	19
(i)	give written notice of the proposed scheme to each proposed contributor specifying how the contributors have been selected and the amount of the contributions calculated, and	20
		21
		22
(ii)	allow the proposed contributors at least 28 days within which to make submissions to the Minister about the proposed scheme,	23
		24
(c)	contributions are to be imposed by written notice to the contributor,	25
(d)	if IPART determines a maximum price for a water or sewerage service provided by a public water utility required to make a contribution—the requirement to make the contribution is to be treated for the purposes of section 16A of the <i>Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992</i> as a requirement with which the utility must comply in providing the service.	26
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		28
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		31
(7)	In this section:	32
	<i>last resort contract charges</i> has the same meaning as in section 57C.	33
57M	Enforcement	34
(1)	A public water utility is under a statutory duty to comply with requirements imposed on it under this Division.	35
		36
(2)	It is a condition of a licence that the licensee must comply with requirements imposed on it under this Division.	37
		38
(3)	It is a condition of an operational approval that the holder must comply with requirements imposed on it under this Division.	39
		40
57N	Revocation of determination of essential infrastructure	41
(1)	IPART may, on application by an essential service provider or last resort provider or on its own initiative, revoke the determination of water industry infrastructure as essential infrastructure if satisfied that the determination would not now be made.	42
		43
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(2)	On receiving an application for revocation of a determination, IPART must invite submissions on the application from each provider or last resort provider of the essential service other than the applicant.	1 2 3
(3)	An invitation to make submissions on an application must allow at least 28 days for submissions to be made and must be accompanied by a copy of the application or set out how a copy of the application may be obtained.	4 5 6
(4)	If IPART proposes to refuse an application or to revoke the determination on its own initiative, IPART must:	7 8
	(a) give written notice of the proposed refusal to each provider or last resort provider of the essential service specifying the reasons for it, and	9 10
	(b) allow them at least 14 days within which to make submissions to IPART about the proposed refusal.	11 12
(5)	On making a decision on an application or revoking a determination on its own initiative, IPART must cause notice of the decision to be given to the Minister and each provider or last resort provider of the essential service and publish the decision on IPART's website.	13 14 15 16
(6)	If IPART revokes the determination, the designation of a last resort provider for the former essential infrastructure is of no further effect.	17 18
(7)	In this section, a reference to an essential service provider is to be read as including a reference to the holder of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure.	19 20 21
57O	Applications	22
(1)	An application under this Division:	23
	(a) must be made in the manner and form approved by the Minister, and	24
	(b) must comply with requirements set out in the regulations, and	25
	(c) must be accompanied by the fee determined by the Minister, and	26
	(d) must be lodged at the office of IPART.	27
(2)	The Minister or IPART may, by written notice to an applicant, require the applicant:	28 29
	(a) to give the Minister or IPART additional information reasonably required to decide the application, or	30 31
	(b) to have information in the application or additional information verified in a specified manner.	32 33
57P	Obligations and rights of insolvency official	34
(1)	If an insolvency official has been appointed in respect of an essential service provider or holder of an operational approval for essential infrastructure, or any property of the essential service provider or holder, the following provisions apply:	35 36 37 38
	(a) the insolvency official must take all reasonable steps to facilitate compliance with the conditions of the operational approval for the essential infrastructure and continuity of the provision of the essential service,	39 40 41 42
	(b) a document required to be given to the provider or holder under this Division must also be given to the insolvency official,	43 44
	(c) an invitation to make submissions extended to the provider or holder under this Division must also be extended to the insolvency official,	45 46

(d)	any requirements imposed under this Division on the provider or holder are, subject to necessary modifications, also imposed on the insolvency official, and, in particular, during a declared failure the insolvency official must:	1 2 3 4																		
(i)	facilitate the provision of the essential service by the last resort provider, and	5 6																		
(ii)	take action as required by the approved contingency plan or the regulations, and	7 8																		
(iii)	comply with reasonable directions given by the last resort provider in providing the essential service,	9 10																		
(e)	the insolvency official must comply with directions of the Minister designed to ensure compliance with the obligations of the insolvency official under paragraph (a) or (d).	11 12 13																		
(2)	An insolvency official to whom directions are given under this section incurs no liability for loss, damage or injury arising out of compliance with the directions except to the extent to which the loss, damage or injury arises as a consequence of the negligence of the insolvency official.	14 15 16 17																		
57Q	Disclosure of customer information	18																		
	Nothing in the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> prevents the disclosure of customer information under this Division.	19 20																		
[19]	Part 6 Work relating to water industry infrastructure	21																		
	Omit each term or expression set out in Column 1 below wherever occurring in Part 6 (except in section 65 but including in the heading to Division 2).	22 23																		
	Insert instead the term or expression set out opposite in Column 2:	24																		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Column 1</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Column 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>licensed network operator</td> <td>WICA provider</td> </tr> <tr> <td>licensed network operators</td> <td>WICA providers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>licensed network operator's</td> <td>WICA provider's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The network operator</td> <td>The WICA provider</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the network operator</td> <td>the WICA provider</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the network operator's</td> <td>the WICA provider's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the operator</td> <td>the provider</td> </tr> <tr> <td>that operator</td> <td>that provider</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Column 1	Column 2	licensed network operator	WICA provider	licensed network operators	WICA providers	licensed network operator's	WICA provider's	The network operator	The WICA provider	the network operator	the WICA provider	the network operator's	the WICA provider's	the operator	the provider	that operator	that provider	
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[20]	Part 6, Division 1AA	25																		
	Insert before Division 1:	26																		
	Division 1AA Preliminary	27																		
57R	Interpretation	28																		
(1)	In this Part:	29																		
	<i>authorised agent</i> of an authorised WICA provider means a person appointed by the provider under section 65F.	30 31																		

<i>authorised WICA provider</i> means:	1
(a) a WICA provider that is a prescribed authority within the meaning of section 88A of the <i>Conveyancing Act 1919</i> , or	2 3
(b) a WICA provider declared to be an authorised WICA provider under a scheme established under section 57S.	4 5
<i>WICA provider</i> means:	6
(a) the holder of an operational approval, or	7
(b) a licensed operator, or	8
(c) a person declared to be a WICA provider under a scheme established under section 57S.	9 10
(2) A reference in this Part to a WICA provider’s water industry infrastructure or water mains or sewer mains is:	11 12
(a) in the case of a WICA provider who is the holder of an operational approval—a reference to the water industry infrastructure or water mains or sewer mains to which the approval relates, or	13 14 15
(b) in the case of a WICA provider who is a licensed operator—a reference to the water industry infrastructure or water mains or sewer mains operated by the provider under this Act, or	16 17 18
(c) in the case of a person declared to be a WICA provider under a scheme established under section 57S—a reference to the water industry infrastructure or water mains or sewer mains in relation to which the declaration is made.	19 20 21 22
57S Regulations may extend application of Part	23
(1) The regulations may:	24
(a) establish a scheme under which an owner or operator of water industry infrastructure to which Part 2 does not apply may be declared to be a WICA provider, or an authorised WICA provider, in relation to that infrastructure, and	25 26 27 28
(b) require IPART to maintain a register of declarations made under the scheme.	29 30
(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may:	31
(a) establish criteria to be met for a declaration to be made, and	32
(b) apply, with or without modification, specified provisions of this Act to a person declared to be a WICA provider or authorised WICA provider as if the person were the holder of an operational approval or licence, and	33 34 35 36
(c) provide for the imposition, variation or revocation of conditions of the declaration, and	37 38
(d) provide for the suspension or cancellation of a declaration, and	39
(e) provide for reviews or appeals.	40
[21] Section 58 Erection and placement of water industry infrastructure	41
Omit “any” from section 58 (1). Insert instead “a WICA provider’s”.	42

[22]	Section 64 Ownership of water industry infrastructure	1
	Omit section 64 (2). Insert instead:	2
	(2) Water industry infrastructure to which an operational approval applies is not to be taken in execution of a judgment against a person (other than a WICA provider) under a process of a court.	3 4 5
[23]	Section 65 Meter readers	6
	Omit the penalty provision from section 65 (4). Insert instead:	7
	Maximum penalty: \$2,000.	8
[24]	Section 65A Interpretation	9
	Omit the section.	10
[25]	Part 7, heading	11
	Omit the heading. Insert instead:	12
	Part 7 Enforcement	13
[26]	Part 7	14
	Omit each term or expression set out in Column 1 below wherever occurring in Part 7.	15
	Insert instead the term or expression set out opposite in Column 2:	16
	Column 1	Column 2
	licensed network operator	WICA operator
	licensed network operator's	WICA operator's
	the network operator	the WICA operator
[27]	Part 7, Division 1AA	17
	Insert before Division 1:	18
	Division 1AA Preliminary	19
65J	Interpretation	20
	(1) In this Part:	21
	<i>WICA operator</i> means:	22
	(a) a licensed operator, or	23
	(b) an operator of water industry infrastructure declared to be a WICA provider under a scheme established under section 57S.	24 25
	(2) A reference in this Part to a WICA operator's water industry infrastructure, water main, sewer main or stormwater drain is:	26 27
	(a) in the case of a WICA operator who is a licensed operator—a reference to the water industry infrastructure, water main, sewer main or stormwater drain operated by the licensee under this Act, or	28 29 30
	(b) in the case of an operator of water industry infrastructure declared to be a WICA provider under a scheme established under section 57S—a reference to the water industry infrastructure, water main, sewer main or stormwater drain in relation to which the declaration is made.	31 32 33 34

[28] Section 66 Exposure of underground pipes	1
Omit the penalty provision. Insert instead:	2
Maximum penalty:	3
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$20,000, or	4
(b) in the case of an individual—\$4,000.	5
[29] Sections 67–70	6
Omit the penalty provision wherever occurring. Insert instead:	7
Maximum penalty:	8
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	9
(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	10
[30] Section 71 Offence to discharge into drains and sewers	11
Omit “a licensed retail supplier”.	12
Insert instead “, if the stormwater drain or sewer main is part of a category A scheme to which Part 2 applies, the licensed retailer of the sewerage service”.	13 14
[31] Section 71	15
Omit the penalty provision and the note. Insert instead:	16
Maximum penalty:	17
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	18
(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	19
[32] Section 72 Unauthorised use of water	20
Omit “a licensed retail supplier”.	21
Insert instead “, if the water infrastructure is part of a category A scheme to which Part 2 applies, the licensed retailer of the water service”.	22 23
[33] Section 72	24
Omit the penalty provision. Insert instead:	25
Maximum penalty:	26
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	27
(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	28
[34] Section 73 Unlicensed plumbing and drainage works	29
Omit the penalty provision from section 73 (1). Insert instead:	30
Maximum penalty:	31
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	32
(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	33
[35] Section 74 Inspectors	34
Omit “, or a contravention of the conditions of a licence, has been committed” from section 74 (3).	35 36
Insert instead “has been, is being or is about to be committed or whether there is a risk to public health or safety that may give rise to public health and safety directions”.	37 38

[36] Section 74 (4)	1
Omit the penalty provision. Insert instead:	2
Maximum penalty: \$2,000.	3
[37] Section 81 Obstruction of inspectors	4
Omit the penalty provision. Insert instead:	5
Maximum penalty:	6
(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	7
(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	8
[38] Part 8, Division 1AA	9
Insert before Division 1:	10
Division 1AA Register	11
84A Register of approvals, licences and retail market matters	12
(1) IPART must maintain a register of approvals and licences and make the register available, free of charge, on IPART’s website.	13 14
(2) An entry for an approval must include:	15
(a) the date on which the approval was granted, and	16
(b) the type of approval, and	17
(c) a description of the nature of the water industry infrastructure or proposed water industry infrastructure, including, if relevant, water sources to be used and the purposes for which water produced is intended to be used, and	18 19 20 21
(d) a map showing the location or proposed location of the water industry infrastructure and the land on which it is or is to be located or to which services are or are to be provided by means of the infrastructure, and	22 23 24
(e) a statement of whether the infrastructure is essential infrastructure, and	25
(f) the name and contact details of the holder of the approval, and	26
(g) details of the conditions of the approval imposed by IPART, and	27
(h) details of any enforcement action taken against the holder of the approval, and	28 29
(i) details of the licensed operator of the water industry infrastructure, and	30
(j) in the case of a category A scheme—details of the licensed retailer of water or sewerage services provided by means of the scheme, and	31 32
(k) details of when the approval was last reviewed by IPART and the outcome of each review that has been conducted by IPART.	33 34
(3) An entry for a licence must include:	35
(a) the date on which the licence was granted, and	36
(b) the type of licence, and	37
(c) details of the class of activities authorised by the licence, and	38
(d) contact details for the licensee, and	39
(e) the website address of the licensee, and	40
(f) details of the licence conditions imposed by the Minister, and	41

(g)	details of the water industry infrastructure operated, or the water or sewerage services sold, by the licensee, and	1 2
(h)	if the licensee is required to be a member of an ombudsman scheme under Division 1 of Part 5—details of the scheme, and	3 4
(i)	if the licensee has been declared a monopoly supplier under Division 2 of Part 5—details of:	5 6
(i)	the declaration, and	7
(ii)	any referral to IPART under that Division and the outcome of the referral, and	8 9
(j)	if the licensee provides an essential service and, consequently, Division 3 of Part 5 applies—details of:	10 11
(i)	the designation of a last resort provider to take the place of the licensee in providing the essential service, and	12 13
(ii)	the terms and conditions that are to apply to an implied contract with a transferred customer (if applicable) as set out in an approved contingency plan, and	14 15 16
(iii)	any declared failure of the licensee, and	17
(k)	details of any enforcement action taken against the licensee, and	18
(l)	details of when the licence was last reviewed by IPART and the outcome of each review that has been conducted by IPART.	19 20
(4)	IPART may include other information in the register that it considers appropriate to include.	21 22
(5)	Copies of entries in the register are to be made available to members of the public, for a fee determined by IPART, during normal office hours.	23 24
[39]	Part 8, Division 1, heading	25
	Omit “ Licence auditing ”. Insert instead “ Auditing ”.	26
[40]	Section 85	27
	Omit the section. Insert instead:	28
	85 Auditing functions	29
(1)	IPART’s functions under this Division are to monitor, and to report to the Minister on the extent of, compliance with conditions of approvals and licences and on the continued relevance and appropriateness of the arrangements for last resort providers.	30 31 32 33
(2)	Without limiting the manner in which IPART carries out its functions, IPART is to conduct reviews of approvals and licences at intervals of not more than 5 years and at such other times as the Minister may direct.	34 35 36
(3)	A report with respect to such a review may include recommendations as to the variation or revocation of existing approval or licence conditions or the imposition of new approval or licence conditions or the variation or revocation of the arrangements for last resort providers.	37 38 39 40
[41]	Section 86 Recovery of IPART’s costs	41
	Insert before section 86 (1):	42
(1AA)	The holder of an approval is required to pay to the Treasurer the cost (as certified by IPART) involved in, and in connection with, carrying out IPART’s functions under this Division in relation to the approval.	43 44 45

[42]	Section 86 (2)	1
	Omit “a licence”. Insert instead “an approval or licence”.	2
[43]	Section 87 Power to direct holders of approvals and licensees to keep records and furnish information	3
	Omit “a licensee, require the licensee”.	4
	Insert instead “the holder of an approval or a licensee, require the holder or licensee”.	5
[44]	Section 87 (2) and (3)	6
	Insert at the end of the section:	7
	(2) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice under this section.	8
	Maximum penalty:	9
	(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	10
	(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	11
	(3) Without limitation, it is a reasonable excuse that to comply with the notice might tend to incriminate an individual or make an individual liable to a forfeiture or penalty.	12
[45]	Section 88 Failure to keep records or furnish information	13
	Omit the section.	14
[46]	Section 89 Annual reports	15
	Omit section 89 (1). Insert instead:	16
	(1) IPART must, on or before 31 October in each year, provide the Minister with a report on the performance of its functions under this Division during the preceding financial year, including:	17
	(a) details of the outcome of each review conducted during the preceding financial year, and	18
	(b) the extent to which approval and licence conditions have been contravened during the preceding financial year.	19
[47]	Section 93A	20
	Insert after section 93:	21
	93A Victimization	22
	A person must not take any action that detrimentally affects the employment of another person, or threaten to do so, because that other person has assisted IPART in the performance of its auditing or regulatory functions or in an investigation.	23
	Maximum penalty:	24
	(a) in the case of a corporation—\$250,000, or	25
	(b) in the case of an individual—\$50,000.	26

[48] Section 93B	1
Insert before section 94:	2
93B Time limit for determination of applications	3
(1) The Minister and IPART must use their best endeavours to determine applications under this Act as quickly as reasonably practicable.	4 5
(2) If IPART has not advised an applicant under this Act of its decision on the application within the period fixed by the regulations for the application, the applicant may, after giving 14 days' written notice to IPART, apply to the Minister for a direction to IPART requiring the decision to be made within a time fixed by the Minister.	6 7 8 9 10
(3) In determining whether the period fixed by the regulations has passed, any period between the date when, in accordance with this Act, the applicant is asked to provide further information or to take other action to enable the application to be determined and the date when the information is provided or the action taken is to be disregarded.	11 12 13 14 15
[49] Section 94 Delegation of functions	16
Omit "and the Director-General may delegate to any person any of their" from section 94 (1).	17 18
Insert instead "may delegate to a person any of his or her".	19
[50] Section 94 (2)	20
Omit the subsection (but not the note).	21
[51] Section 96 Exclusion of personal liability	22
Omit ", the Director-General or an inspector, or by any person acting under the direction of the Minister or the Director-General,".	23 24
Insert instead ", a person acting under the direction of the Minister or an inspector".	25
[52] Section 96A	26
Insert after section 96:	27
96A Continuing offences	28
(1) If an offence against a provision of this Act is committed by a person by reason of a continuing act or omission:	29 30
(a) the person is liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continues of not more than an amount equal to one-tenth of the maximum penalty prescribed for that offence, and	31 32 33 34
(b) if the act or omission continues after the person is convicted of the offence, the person is guilty of a further offence against that provision and liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the further offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continues after that conviction of not more than an amount equal to one-tenth of the maximum penalty prescribed for that offence.	35 36 37 38 39 40
(2) An obligation to do something is to be regarded as continuing until the act is done despite the fact that a period within which, or time before which, the act is required to be done has expired or passed.	41 42 43

(3)	An omission is to be regarded as continuing for as long as the thing required to be done remains undone after the end of the period for compliance with the requirement.	1 2 3
[53]	Section 97 Liability of directors and managers for offences by corporation—offences attracting executive liability	4 5
	Omit section 97 (1) (a) and (b). Insert instead:	6
	(a) Division 2 of Part 2,	7
	(b) section 15 (8),	8
	(c) section 20D (7).	9
[54]	Section 97C	10
	Insert after section 97B:	11
	97C Corporations Act displacement	12
	Sections 50A and 57P are declared to be Corporations legislation displacement provisions for the purposes of section 5G of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> of the Commonwealth in relation to the provisions of Chapter 5 of that Act.	13 14 15 16
	Note. Section 5G of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> of the Commonwealth provides that if a State or Territory law declares a provision of a State or Territory law to be a Corporations legislation displacement provision, any provision of the Corporations legislation with which the State or Territory provision would otherwise be inconsistent does not apply to the extent necessary to avoid the inconsistency.	17 18 19 20 21
[55]	Section 98 Proceedings for offences	22
	Omit section 98 (2). Insert instead:	23
	(2) If proceedings for an offence are brought in the Local Court, the maximum monetary penalty that the Local Court may impose for the offence is, despite any other provision of this Act, \$110,000 or the maximum monetary penalty provided for the offence, whichever is the lesser.	24 25 26 27
[56]	Section 99 Recovery of monetary penalties	28
	Omit “on a licensee”.	29
[57]	Section 99	30
	Insert “under this Act” before “may”.	31
[58]	Section 100	32
	Omit the section. Insert instead:	33
	100 Evidentiary certificates	34
	In any proceedings, a certificate signed by the Minister or IPART certifying as to a matter relating to any of the following constitutes proof, in the absence of proof to the contrary, of the matter so certified:	35 36 37
	(a) an approval or licence,	38
	(b) the appointment of a person as an inspector,	39
	(c) a delegation under this Act,	40
	(d) a notice, order, requirement or direction of the Minister or IPART,	41
	(e) any other decision of the Minister or IPART,	42

(f)	the receipt or non-receipt by the Minister or IPART of a notification or information required to be given to the Minister or IPART under this Act or the regulations,	1 2 3
(g)	an entry in a register kept by IPART under this Act,	4
(h)	guidelines issued or published by IPART.	5
[59]	Section 101 Regulations	6
	Omit section 101 (2)–(4). Insert instead:	7
(2)	In particular, the regulations may:	8
(a)	make provision for or with respect to the matters set out in Schedule 2, and	9 10
(b)	create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding, in the case of a corporation, \$100,000 and, in the case of an individual, \$20,000, and	11 12
(c)	apply, adopt or incorporate the provisions of any standard, code, specification or other document, either as in force on a particular day or as in force for the time being, and	13 14 15
(d)	provide exemptions (conditional or unconditional) from specified provisions of this Act, and	16 17
(e)	make provision for or with respect to the payment of fees by instalments.	18 19
[60]	Section 104	20
	Omit the section. Insert instead:	21
104	Review of 2014 amendment Act	22
(1)	The Minister is to review the amendments to this Act enacted by the <i>Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014</i> to determine whether the policy objectives of the amendments remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.	23 24 25 26
(2)	The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 5 years from the commencement of the amendment Act.	27 28
(3)	A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of 5 years.	29 30
[61]	Schedule 2 Regulation-making powers	31
	Omit “by licensed network operators” from clause 2 (d), (e) and (f).	32
[62]	Schedule 2, clause 3	33
	Insert after clause 3 (c):	34
(c1)	the implementation of other programs (such as the granting of payment assistance, discounts or rebates) to ensure that water and sewerage services are available to people in need, including those suffering financial hardship and those living in remote areas,	35 36 37 38

[63] Schedule 2, clause 3A	1
Insert after clause 3:	2
3A Developments	3
Matters relating to the following:	4
(a) certificates of compliance granted by the holder of an operational approval for water industry infrastructure certifying that the requirements of the holder for connection of a particular development to the water industry infrastructure have been complied with, including the following:	5
(i) the making of an application for a certificate of compliance,	6
(ii) the giving of a notice of requirements before the grant of a certificate of compliance, which may include requirements relating to:	7
(A) the payment of costs, and	8
(B) the construction, installation or alteration of infrastructure, and	9
(C) the transfer of infrastructure to the holder, and	10
(D) other matters,	11
(iii) the enforcement of requirements set out in a notice,	12
(iv) the grant of a certificate of compliance,	13
(v) the conditions of a certificate of compliance,	14
(b) providing the holder of an operational approval for water industry infrastructure an opportunity to make submissions on an application for a statutory approval for a development that may affect the operation of the infrastructure, including requiring the relevant authority to notify the holder of relevant applications and to take into account submissions made by the holder,	15
(c) providing for delegation of functions or powers of the holder of an operational approval for water industry infrastructure under regulations made under paragraph (a) or (b) to a licensed operator of the infrastructure.	16
[64] Schedule 4 Savings, transitional and other provisions	17
Omit clause 1 (1). Insert instead:	18
(1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of this Act or any Act that amends this Act.	19
[65] Schedule 4, Part 4	20
Insert after Part 3:	21
Part 4 Provisions consequent on enactment of Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014	22
8 Definitions	23
In this Part:	24

amending Act means the *Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Act 2014*. 1
2

Part 2 means Part 2 of this Act as inserted by the amending Act. 3

9 Operational approvals and licences replacing existing licences 4

(1) If, immediately before the commencement of section 7 as substituted by the 5
amending Act, licences were in force authorising the operation of water 6
industry infrastructure to which Part 2 applies and the supply of water or 7
sewerage services provided by means of the infrastructure, operational 8
approvals and licences must be granted under this clause as appropriate for the 9
operation of the infrastructure, and the sale of water or sewerage services 10
provided by means of the infrastructure, under this Act as amended by the 11
amending Act. 12

(2) An operational approval is to be granted by IPART to the owner of the 13
infrastructure, and licences are to be granted by the Minister to suitable 14
corporations that operate the infrastructure or sell water or sewerage services 15
provided by means of the infrastructure, under this clause without application 16
or the payment of an application fee. 17

(3) IPART may establish a process for the nomination of suitable corporations and 18
the determination of matters relating to the grant of approvals and licences 19
under this clause and, as reasonably necessary for that purpose, may require 20
information to be provided, and verified in a specified manner, by: 21

(a) a person proposed to be granted an approval or licence, or 22

(b) a licensed network operator of the infrastructure or a person specified in 23
the licence of the operator, or 24

(c) a licensed retail supplier of services provided by means of the 25
infrastructure or a person specified in the licence of the retail supplier. 26

(4) IPART must make a recommendation to the Minister as to the granting of 27
licences under this clause. 28

(5) The Minister must consider, but is not bound to accept, IPART's 29
recommendations and may seek further advice from IPART on the granting of 30
licences under this clause. 31

(6) The conditions of an operational approval imposed by IPART on the grant of 32
the approval under this clause must, as far as reasonably practicable, reflect the 33
relevant conditions imposed by the Minister on the licensed network 34
operator's licence as in force immediately before the commencement of 35
section 7 as substituted by the amending Act. 36

(7) The class of activities authorised by an operator's licence under this clause 37
must accommodate relevant activities carried on under the network operator's 38
licence immediately before the commencement of section 7 as substituted by 39
the amending Act. 40

(8) The licence conditions imposed by the Minister on the grant of a licence under 41
this clause must, as far as reasonably practicable, reflect the relevant 42
conditions imposed by the Minister on the corresponding licence as in force 43
immediately before the commencement of section 7 as substituted by the 44
amending Act. 45

(9) However, additional conditions may be imposed on the grant of a licence 46
relating to arrangements between the licensee and contractors or 47
subcontractors (including related corporations) for the purposes of ensuring 48

	the licensee has the necessary capacity to be a suitable corporation to be granted the licence.	1 2
(10)	If an operational approval is granted under this clause for water industry infrastructure, IPART may determine whether the water industry infrastructure is essential infrastructure as if an application had been made for the approval (and, if it is, the operational approval may be granted whether or not last resort providers have been designated for the essential service provided by means of the infrastructure).	3 4 5 6 7 8
(11)	Before approvals and licences are granted for water industry infrastructure under this clause, IPART must:	9 10
	(a) give written notice of the proposed terms and conditions of the approvals and licences and the bodies to whom they are to be granted to each person who is, immediately before the commencement of section 7 as substituted by the amending Act:	11 12 13 14
	(i) an owner of the infrastructure, or	15
	(ii) a licensed network operator of the infrastructure or a person specified in such a network operator's licence under section 6 (1) (a) as then in force, or	16 17 18
	(iii) a licensed retail supplier of water or sewerage services provided by means of the infrastructure or a person specified in such a retail supplier's licence under section 6 (1) (b) as then in force, and	19 20 21 22
	(b) allow them at least 14 days within which to make submissions to the Minister or IPART about the proposal.	23 24
(12)	The Minister must cause details of approvals and licences granted under this clause to be included in the register kept by IPART under Division 1AA of Part 8.	25 26 27
(13)	A person who, immediately before the commencement of section 8 as substituted by the amending Act, was a licensed network operator or a person specified in a network operator's licence under section 6 (1) (a) as then in force but who is not granted an operator's licence under this clause is entitled to apply for an operator's licence without payment of an application fee if the application is made within 28 days after that commencement.	28 29 30 31 32 33
(14)	A person who, immediately before the commencement of section 9 as substituted by the amending Act, was a licensed retail supplier or a person specified in a retail supplier's licence under section 6 (1) (b) as then in force but who is not granted a retailer's licence under this clause is entitled to apply for a retailer's licence without payment of an application fee if the application is made within 28 days after that commencement.	34 35 36 37 38 39
10	Operational approvals for infrastructure not completed or not operated by licensee before amending Act	40 41
(1)	If works for the construction, installation or alteration of water industry infrastructure to which Part 2 applies had substantially commenced but not been completed before the commencement of section 6 as substituted by the amending Act, the works may be completed without a design approval but section 7 as substituted by the amending Act applies to require an operational approval to be obtained by the owner of the infrastructure before the infrastructure is operated on a commercial basis.	42 43 44 45 46 47 48
(2)	The regulations may exempt a person from the application of section 7 as substituted by the amending Act for a specified period if the water industry	49 50

infrastructure was being operated before the commencement of that section (whether or not the infrastructure was then required to be operated under a licence under this Act as then in force).	1 2 3
11 Customer contracts	4
(1) Division 1AA of Part 5 applies to water or sewerage services that were provided to a customer immediately before the commencement of the Division (and to which the Division would have applied if it had then been in force) and that continue to be provided following that commencement to the exclusion of any contract for the services then in force with the customer.	5 6 7 8 9
(2) However, any contract for water or sewerage services with a customer in force immediately before the commencement of Division 1AA of Part 5 is not to be regarded as having been terminated and, consequently, rights and obligations that have accrued under the contract before that commencement are not affected and no early termination charge becomes payable.	10 11 12 13 14
12 Monopoly suppliers	15
(1) An order in force under section 51 immediately before the commencement of Schedule 1 [16] to the amending Act declaring that a specified licensed retail supplier or licensed network operator is a monopoly supplier in relation to a specified water or sewerage service, a specified area and a specified class of customers is to be taken to be a declaration in force under section 51 as amended by the amending Act that the specified water or sewerage service provided in the specified area to the specified class of customers is a monopoly service.	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
(2) A determination of IPART in force immediately before the commencement of Schedule 1 [16] to the amending Act that specifies the price a monopoly supplier (as declared under section 51 as then in force) can charge its customers is to be read as specifying the price that may be charged for the water or sewerage service provided in the area to the class of customers specified in the declaration of the monopoly supplier under section 51 as then in force.	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
[66] Dictionary	31
Omit the following definitions:	32
<i>area of operations</i>	33
<i>authorised licensed network operator</i>	34
<i>Department</i>	35
<i>Director-General</i>	36
<i>network operator's licence</i>	37
<i>public water utility</i>	38
<i>recycled water</i>	39
<i>related person</i>	40
<i>retail supplier's licence</i>	41
<i>retailer of last resort</i>	42
<i>water</i>	43
<i>water supply or sewerage service contract</i>	44

[67] Dictionary

Insert the following definitions in alphabetical order:

approval means, in Parts 2 and 8, a design approval or operational approval.

area of operations of a public water utility—see **public water utility**.

category A scheme—see section 5 (1) (a).

compliance notice—see section 20P.

contingency plan—see section 55 (1) (a).

corporation includes any body corporate.

cost recovery scheme means a scheme for the recovery of the costs and expenses of a last resort provider under section 57L.

declared failure means a failure of an essential service provider declared under section 57 (beginning on the transfer date and ending on the end date).

design approval means a design approval required by section 6 and granted by IPART under this Act.

drinking water means water that is intended, or likely, to be used for human consumption, or for purposes connected with human consumption, such as:

(a) the washing or cooling of food, or

(b) the making of ice for consumption, or for the preservation of unpackaged food,

whether or not the water is used for other purposes.

end date of a declared failure means the end date fixed under section 57H (2) (d).

essential infrastructure means water industry infrastructure subject to a determination by IPART that it is essential infrastructure.

essential service means a water or sewerage service provided by means of essential infrastructure.

essential service provider or **provider of an essential service** means:

(a) a licensed operator of essential infrastructure, or

(b) a licensed retailer of an essential service.

failed licensee—see section 57 (2) (c).

insolvency official means a receiver, receiver and manager, administrator, provisional liquidator, liquidator, trustee in bankruptcy or person having a similar or analogous function.

last resort provider means a person designated as a last resort provider under section 54.

long term lease means a lease that confers a right, including a contingent or future right, to the use or possession of water industry infrastructure for a term extending to a time, or commencing, more than 25 years after the making of the lease.

new licensee—see section 57H (2) (b) (ii).

operate water industry infrastructure means operate any part of the infrastructure.

operational approval means an operational approval required by section 7 and granted by IPART under this Act.

operator's licence means a licence required by section 8 and granted by the Minister under this Act.

- owner** of water industry infrastructure means: 1
- (a) if the infrastructure is not subject to a long term lease—the person who owns the infrastructure as set out in section 64, or 2
3
 - (b) if the infrastructure is subject to a long term lease—the lessee under the long term lease. 4
5
- provider of an essential service**—see *essential service provider*. 6
- providing** an essential service means: 7
- (a) if the service is provided by a licensed operator or a person designated as the last resort provider for the licensed operator—operating essential infrastructure, or 8
9
10
 - (b) if the service is provided by a licensed retailer or a person designated as the last resort provider for the licensed retailer—selling water or sewerage services provided by means of essential infrastructure. 11
12
13
- public health and safety directions**—see section 20L (1). 14
- public water utility**—each of the bodies listed below is a public water utility and the *utility's Act* and *area of operations* are as set out in the entry for the body: 15
16
17

Public water utility	Utility's Act	Utility's area of operations
Hunter Water Corporation	<i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i>	its area of operations under section 16 of its Act
State Water Corporation	<i>State Water Corporation Act 2004</i>	its area of operations under section 15 of its Act
Sydney Catchment Authority	<i>Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998</i>	its area of operations under section 20 of its Act
Sydney Water Corporation	<i>Sydney Water Act 1994</i>	its area of operations under section 10 of its Act
a county council providing water or sewerage services	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	its area of operations established under section 393 of its Act
a council providing water or sewerage services in an area that is not within the area of operations of Sydney Water Corporation or Hunter Water Corporation	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	its local government area under its Act
water supply authority within the meaning of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> (other than an authority listed above)	the Act under which the authority was established	its area of operations under section 289 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>

- related corporation** of a corporation that is an applicant for or holds an approval or licence means a related corporation of the corporation within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth that would have or has a direct or indirect interest in, or influence on, the carrying out of activities under the approval or licence. 18
19
20
21
22
- retailer's licence** means a licence required by section 9 and granted by the Minister under this Act. 23
24

	<i>sewerage service</i> includes a service of connecting land to infrastructure for the treatment, storage, conveyance or reticulation of sewage.	1 2
	<i>small retail customer premises</i> means:	3
	(a) premises of a small retail customer that are separately metered for the purposes of a water service, or	4 5
	(b) premises of a class declared by the regulations to be small retail customer premises,	6 7
	but does not include premises of a class declared by the regulations not to be small retail customer premises.	8 9
	<i>transfer date</i> of a declared failure means the transfer date fixed under section 57 (2) (e).	10 11
	<i>utility's Act</i> —see <i>public water utility</i> .	12
	<i>water</i> includes drinking water or water obtained from the processing of sewage or stormwater.	13 14
	<i>water service</i> means a service of supplying water, including a service of connecting land to infrastructure for supplying water.	15 16
[68]	Dictionary, definition of “disqualified corporation”	17
	Omit “, pursuant to a declaration under section 16 (1) (e), has been declared to be” from paragraph (a) of the definition.	18 19
	Insert instead “, as a result of disciplinary action under this Act, is”.	20
[69]	Dictionary, definition of “disqualified individual”	21
	Omit “, pursuant to a declaration under section 16 (1) (f),” from paragraph (b) of the definition.	22 23
	Insert instead “, as a result of disciplinary action under this Act,”.	24
[70]	Dictionary, definitions of “sewer main”, “stormwater drain” and “water main”	25
	Omit “a network operator’s” from the definitions wherever occurring.	26
[71]	Whole Act (except Schedule 4)	27
	Omit each term or expression set out in Column 1 below wherever occurring in the Act except where otherwise amended by this Schedule and in Schedule 4 to the Act.	28 29
	Insert instead the term or expression set out opposite in Column 2:	30
	Column 1	Column 2
	network operator	operator
	a network operator’s	an operator’s
	the network operator’s	the operator’s
	network operators	operators
	retail supplier	retailer
	retail supplier’s	retailer’s
	retail suppliers	retailers
	water supply or sewerage purposes	water or sewerage service purposes
	water supply or sewerage service	water or sewerage service

Schedule 2	Consequential amendments of other legislation	1
2.1	Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987 No 103	2
	Section 3 Definitions	3
	Omit paragraph (c) of the definition of <i>State water agency</i> in section 3 (1). Insert instead:	4
	(c) a licensed operator, or licensed retailer, within the meaning of the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> , and	5 6
2.2	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203	7
[1]	Section 109J Restriction on issue of subdivision certificates	8
	Insert after section 109J (1) (e):	9
	(e1) in the case of subdivision of land to which water or sewerage services are to be provided under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> , the applicant has obtained a certificate of compliance under that Act for the subdivision of the land, and	10 11 12 13
[2]	Section 109J (4)	14
	Insert “or licensed” after “constituted” in the definition of <i>certificate of compliance</i> .	15
2.3	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000	16
	Schedule 4 Planning certificates	17
	Insert at the end of the Schedule with the appropriate clause number:	18
	Water or sewerage services	19
	If water or sewerage services are, or are to be, provided to the land under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> , a statement to that effect.	20 21
	Note. A public water utility may not be the provider of some or all of the services to the land. If a water or sewerage service is provided to the land by a licensee under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> , a contract for the service will be implied between the licensee and the owner of the land. A register relating to approvals and licences necessary for the provision of water or sewerage services under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> is maintained by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal and provides information about the areas serviced, or to be serviced, under that Act. Purchasers should check the register to understand who will service the property and on what terms. Outstanding charges for water or sewerage services provided under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> become the responsibility of the purchaser.	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
2.4	Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957 No 58	33
	Section 6A Directions	34
	Omit “licensed retail supplier” from section 6A (2A). Insert instead “licensed retailer”.	35
2.5	Hunter Water Act 1991 No 53	36
[1]	Section 36 Owner of land taken to have entered into customer contract	37
	Omit “licensed retail supplier” from section 36 (3). Insert instead “licensed retailer”.	38
[2]	Section 36 (4)	39
	Omit the subsection.	40

2.6 Local Government Act 1993 No 30	1
[1] Section 124 Orders	2
Omit items 23 and 24 from the Table. Insert instead:	3
23 To connect premises to a water supply by a specified date	The premises are situated within 225 metres of a water pipe Owner or occupier of land
24 To connect premises with a sewerage system by a specified date	The premises are situated within 75 metres of a sewer Owner or occupier of premises
[2] Section 553A Special rates and charges not payable in relation to land provided with private water supply or sewerage	4 5
Omit “licensed retail supplier” from section 553A (1). Insert instead “licensed retailer”.	6
[3] Section 553A (2)	7
Omit the subsection.	8
2.7 Local Government (General) Regulation 2005	9
Clause 48 Activities for which approval is not required	10
Omit clause 48 (g). Insert instead:	11
(g) Activities authorised by approval or licence under Water Industry Competition Act 2006	12 13
An activity referred to in Part B or C of the Table to section 68 of the Act if it is carried out under the authority of an approval or licence in force under the <i>Water Industry Competition Act 2006</i> .	14 15 16
2.8 Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011 No 59	17
Section 3 Definitions	18
Omit “network” from paragraph (c) of the definition of <i>network utility operator</i> in section 3 (1).	19 20
2.9 Public Health Act 2010 No 127	21
Section 5 Definitions	22
Omit “licensed network operator or a licensed retail supplier” from paragraph (f) of the definition of <i>supplier of drinking water</i> in section 5 (1).	23 24
Insert instead “licensed operator or licensed retailer”.	25
2.10 State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007	26
Clause 106 Development permitted with or without consent	27
Omit “any person licensed” wherever occurring.	28
Insert instead “the holder of a design approval”.	29

2.11 Sydney Water Act 1994 No 88	1
[1] Section 55 Owner of land taken to have entered into customer contract	2
Omit “licensed retail supplier” from section 55 (3A). Insert instead “licensed retailer”.	3
[2] Section 55 (3B)	4
Omit the subsection.	5
2.12 Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998 No 171	6
Section 16 Specific functions	7
Omit “licensed network operators or licensed retail suppliers” from section 16 (1) (b1).	8
Insert instead “licensed operators or licensed retailers”.	9
2.13 Water Management Act 2000 No 92	10
Dictionary	11
Omit “network” from paragraph (c) of the definition of <i>local water utility</i> .	12