

**Submission
No 32**

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES
FROM PRIVATISATION**

Organisation: NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Date Received: 10 November 2023



Mr Patrick Glynn
Committee Manager
Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

By Email: waterutilities@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Glynn,

I refer to our recent correspondence by email regarding the Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation. Please treat this letter as a public submission to the Committee.

I note the terms of reference of the Committee are to inquire into and report on how the Government can prevent and stop privatisation of local water utilities with reference to:

- (a) How local water utilities and their assets can be best protected against privatisation, forced amalgamations and sell-offs;
- (b) Reviewing governance and other legislation relating to the potential privatisation of local water utilities; and
- (c) Any other related matters.

The EPA's regulatory role with respect to local water utilities is confined to our regulation of the activity of sewage management specifically and the management of pollution by public authorities more broadly.

Under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997, the EPA licences persons who carry out the activity of sewage treatment, meaning the operation of sewage treatment systems (including the treatment works, pumping stations, sewage overflow structures and the reticulation system) that involve the discharge or likely discharge of wastes or by-products to land or waters.

The EPA licences 266 Sewage Treatment Plants across NSW, held by 104 entities. Those entities comprise:

- 82 Local Councils
- 12 Private entities
- 6 State agencies
- 3 State owned corporations
- 1 Commonwealth owned corporation.

Further details of the entities are included in Attachment 1. The detail of each licence is available on the EPA's public register at <https://app.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/>

The EPA's regulation of the facilities is not influenced or affected by whether the persons carrying on the activity are public or private entities.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0411 744 296 or by email at adam.gilligan@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



10 November 2023

ADAM GILLIGAN
Director Regulatory Operations

Encl.

Attachment 1 - Entities holding Environment Protection Licences for Sewage Treatment

Organisation	Number of STP licences held
ALBURY CITY COUNCIL	2
ALTOGETHER OPERATIONS PTY LTD	1
ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL	2
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL	4
BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL	1
BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL	6
BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL	3
BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL	1
BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL	1
BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL	1
BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL	1
BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL	1
BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL	4
CABONNE SHIRE COUNCIL	2
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL	4
CHARLOTTE PASS SNOW RESORT PTY LTD	1
CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL	6
COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL	1
COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL	1
COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL	1
COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL	2
COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL	2
COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL	2
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	3
DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL	2
EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL	1
ESSENTIAL ENERGY	2
EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL	5
FEDERATION COUNCIL	3
FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL	1
GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL	1
GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL	1
GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL	1
GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL	4
GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL	2
GUNNEDAH SHIRE COUNCIL	1
GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL	2
HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL	2
HAY SHIRE COUNCIL	1
HILLTOPS COUNCIL	3
HUNTER WATER CORPORATION	15
INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL	3
JENOLAN CAVES RESERVE TRUST	1
JOHN HOLLAND PTY LTD	1
JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL	1
KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL	7
KOSCIUSZKO THREDBO PTY. LIMITED	1
KYOGLE COUNCIL	3
LACHLAN COUNCIL	1
LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL	2
LISMORE CITY COUNCIL	3
LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL	3
LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL	2
LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL	2
MCDONALD'S AUSTRALIA LIMITED	1

Organisation	Number of STP licences held
MID-COAST COUNCIL	10
MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL	2
MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL	1
MURRAY RIVER COUNCIL	1
MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL	2
MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL	2
NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL	4
NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL	1
NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL	1
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL	1
NSW CROWN HOLIDAY PARKS TRUST	1
OBERON COUNCIL	1
ORANGE CITY COUNCIL	2
PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL	1
PERISHER BLUE PTY LIMITED	1
PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL	5
QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL	4
RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL	3
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH (NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE) LTD	1
SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL	8
SINGLETON COUNCIL	1
SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED	1
SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL	6
SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL	6
SPONARS ASSET PTY LTD	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY	1
SYDNEY WATER CORPORATION	23
TAHMOOR COAL PTY LTD	1
TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL	3
TARONGA CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA	1
TEMORA SHIRE COUNCIL	1
TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL	2
THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA PROPERTY TRUST (NSW)	1
TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL	9
UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL	3
UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL	2
URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL	1
VEOLIA WATER AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	1
VEOLIA WATER SOLUTIONS & TECHNOLOGIES (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	1
WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL	3
WALCHA COUNCIL	1
WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL	1
WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL	1
WARRUMBUNGLA SHIRE COUNCIL	2
WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL	1
WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL	2
WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL	5
YANCO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL	1
YASS VALLEY COUNCIL	1
Total	266