

(introducing the SCA)

LETTER FOR THE MINISTER

Sydney Catchment Authority
Level 2, 311 High Street
Penrith NSW 2750

28 November 2000

The Hon. Bob Debus M.P.
Minister for the Environment
Level 19, Roden Cutler House
24 Campbell Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

I have great pleasure in submitting the first Annual Report of the Sydney Catchment Authority for the period ended 30 June 2000 for presentation to the Parliament of New South Wales.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 1995*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, and the *Public Finance and Audit (General) Regulation 1995*.



John Whitehouse
Chair



Jeff Wright
Chief Executive

REPORT FROM THE SCA CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This is the Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA) first annual report, so it is appropriate to begin by recapping recent history and explaining our origins.

The SCA was born in the wake of the 1998 Sydney water quality incident, which saw the parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* detected in Sydney's drinking water supply.

An independent Inquiry, instigated by the NSW Government, investigated the incident in order to identify the problems leading to the contamination and to determine whether existing water management and supply systems were adequate.

The Inquiry made a total of 91 recommendations to the Government, including creating a new body to take a leading role in catchment management. Accordingly, the SCA began operating in July 1999. Responsibility for managing the catchments, dams and their associated infrastructure was transferred from Sydney Water to the SCA at that time.

As a statutory authority, the SCA's activities are directed by the Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998 and the SCA Operating Licence.

Within that legislative framework, we are charged with the task of ensuring that the catchments are managed to optimise water quality, protect the environment, and minimise risk to public health.

The SCA is also a bulk water supplier to Sydney Water, other water supply authorities, and direct customers.

The SCA is a dynamic, innovative organisation. Like any new organisation, it has experienced a period of fast growth in its first year of operations, gathering the necessary human resources and knowledge to do its job well. The SCA is characterised by its drive and ambition to make lasting, measurable improvements to the health of the catchments, and to excel in the consistent provision of high quality bulk water to its customers.

Our workforce is an energetic mix of former Sydney Water employees with years of accumulated knowledge, and completely new starters who bring fresh perspectives from related industries. With our business cutting across a range of disciplines, from environmental science to engineering, our staff members are a diverse and



impressive group of people. Importantly, and palpably at the SCA, the threads of diversity are woven together by a shared commitment and passion for the catchments and assets in our care.

OUR FIRST YEAR

The SCA's first 12 months have been an important period in which to prioritise our objectives and begin implementing the necessary programs and systems to achieve long-term success in this vital new role for Sydney and surrounding townships.

The first audit of the health of the catchments, carried out by the CSIRO's Dr John Williams and presented to the Minister for the Environment in December 1999, was an important tool which informed the SCA Board's planning for the first year. The Board set eight Strategic Priorities for the organisation, drawing on the Audit, the Operating Licence, and the Act. They are:

- Ensuring the reduction of sewerage effluent impacts
- Managing existing and future discharging development
- Facilitating the improvement of stormwater quality
- Actively enhancing and maintaining riverine ecosystems
- Providing education and information to stakeholders and the community
- Undertaking and sponsoring monitoring and research
- Operating and maintaining bulk water and catchment infrastructure
- Delivering bulk raw water of an appropriate quality

In working to those Strategic Priorities, we have shown a particularly high level of activity in the following areas.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Following the contamination incident, one of the most pressing activities for the SCA was to increase water quality monitoring in order to meet our objective to protect public health.

In addition to ongoing routine monitoring, we have implemented special programs to deal with protozoa and developed contingency and emergency response plans to cover incidents (such as storms or spills). Monitoring fre-

quency and locations have been increased, and we have introduced 'hotspot' protozoa monitoring in sensitive areas around the catchment, such as sewage treatment plants, sale yards and piggeries.

Since our inception in 1999, we are proud to report that there have been no instances of protozoan contamination in the bulk water supply.

BULK WATER SUPPLY

In our first year as a bulk water supplier, we have consistently met customer requirements for the supply of quality bulk raw water: achieving 100% compliance with Sydney Water's quantity needs (our largest customer), and receiving no customer complaints about water quality.

The dams and pipelines are vital assets. Maintaining them to the highest standard is a top priority, so a new Asset Management Strategy was developed and granted Board approval in June 2000. The new strategy takes heritage issues into account alongside performance and safety.

We also began implementing a Capital Works Program with a total investment of \$114.2 million over the next ten years (excluding the \$150 million Warragamba Auxiliary Spillway), which includes works to improve the water transfer system.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

It is very clear that consistent water quality cannot be achieved without maintaining the health of the catchments. The SCA works on-the-ground with landholders, councils and the community on catchment improvement projects, and we make funds available for works which will improve water quality.

Our own environment protection activities are comprehensive, including pest and weed control, riverbank stabilisation, fire management, research, mine and contaminated sites rehabilitation, and risk management planning. Planned expenditure for 2000/2001 exceeds \$20 million.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND EDUCATION

As a new player on the catchment management scene, it is extremely important for us to consult with the people who live and work in the catchments we manage. In addition to liaising with other government agencies, we have sought community input by setting up various committees, including Regional Catchment Consultative Committees in Goulburn and the Blue Mountains, a Local Government Reference Panel, and an Independent Expert Reference Panel.

Our first year has seen the development of a number of new policies and plans, which we have put up for public comment. Examples include the *Sydney Water Catchment Management (General) Regulation 2000* and the *SCA Operating Licence 2000-2004*. Key documents will continue to be publicly displayed for comment as they are developed.

The SCA also has a role in educating the community about catchment issues. We run a program for schools and community visitors at Warragamba Dam and fund the Streamwatch program in our area of operations. We disseminate important messages via the media, and are currently developing a suite of publications designed to meet the public demand for information. We field numerous student enquiries, helping with material for projects and encouraging research into catchment management.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of our key achievements in this first year of operations include:

- Successfully taking over the role of bulk water supplier for our customers, maintaining an uninterrupted quality supply, and setting up a bulk water agreement with Sydney Water.
- Developing and signing Memoranda of Understanding with NSW Health, the Environment Protection Authority, and the Department of Land and Water Conservation.
- Drafting new regulations for catchment protection. The regulation covering special areas went on public display in March 2000 and will come into force in June

2000; a new regulation covering the rest of the catchments is being developed in consultation with the EPA.

- Establishing a Catchment Grants Scheme to provide funds to community groups wishing to undertake improvement works in the catchments.
- Project managing the first 'state-of-the-catchment' audit undertaken by the CSIRO for the Minister for the Environment.
- Managing the Warragamba Dam Auxiliary Spillway project, which continues to progress ahead of schedule.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

One of the most significant challenges for the Sydney Catchment Authority is to make the sustainable development principles that protect water quality work for everybody in the catchments. We have to understand our catchment communities well enough to strike the right balance between their needs and livelihoods, and our needs as a bulk water supplier and environment agency.

To achieve a balance, the SCA needs the right tools. Accordingly, the draft *Sydney and Adjacent Regional Centres Drinking Water Catchments Regional Environmental Plan* is currently being developed for the SCA by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. This important, innovative framework for managing future and existing development in the water supply catchments will go out for public comment later this year, and is likely to be the subject of lively debate – not least because it represents a new, more rigorous approach to assessing the impact of development on water quality.

As the agency delivering such change, our challenge is to hear all voices in the catchments. We must respect the years of knowledge and experience therein, acknowledge the tension our presence creates for some, and work through the issues cooperatively.

In the coming year we will publicly display and implement important tools to complement the REP, such as the draft Plans of Management for Wingecarribee Swamp, the SCA Environmental Indicators, and our Catchment Risk Management Plan. Our focus is on long-term success, which is why we are building a strong, research-based

framework to allow for sound progress and accurate measurement of future catchment health. We are taking a deliberate, planned approach that we believe will yield long-term results.

In order to really know our communities and in order to be truly accessible to people, we will increase our presence with new regional offices at Goulburn, Moss Vale and in the Blue Mountains. We will also continue to attend community events and rural shows so that people have an opportunity to share information and ask questions in informal environments.

Underpinning all our activities is the knowledge that water is a precious resource, and that in Sydney's drinking water catchments, we are its guardian.

It's a big job. At the Sydney Catchment Authority, we have embraced the challenge with open arms, a wealth of expertise, and a true appreciation of the catchments and dams we oversee.

It's been a great first year – we are proud of our achievements to date, and we look forward to the challenges and successes ahead.



Signed: **John Whitehouse**
Chair SCA Board



Signed: **Jeff Wright**
Chief Executive &
Deputy Chair SCA Board

ABOUT THE SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY

The Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) is a state government agency. It was set up in July 1999 to manage and protect the catchments which provide Sydney's water supply. As part of its job the Authority also manages a complex network of dams and pipelines.

The SCA was formed in the wake of the Sydney water contamination incidents in 1998. After the discovery of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in the water supply, the NSW Government set up an independent inquiry, headed by Peter McClellan QC, to identify what caused the contamination and determine whether the water supply was being adequately managed.

The Inquiry did not point to a single source for the contamination, but suggested there were many possible sources. It emphasised the importance of healthy catchments in ensuring safe drinking water, and recommended:

- Creating a new body to take a leading role in catchment management
- Introducing stronger planning controls
- Improving water quality monitoring
- Initiating on-ground action to clean up the catchments, and
- Continuing support for community involvement in catchment protection.

The SCA works with other government agencies, local councils, catchment communities, industry bodies, environment groups and individual landholders to tackle issues affecting water quality.

THE SCA'S MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE TO:

- Manage and protect the catchment areas, and the dams, storages and pipelines
- Supply bulk water to Sydney Water, other water supply authorities and direct customers
- Protect and enhance water quality
- Carry out research on catchments generally and the health of its own catchments in particular
- Help educate the community about water management and catchment protection.

SYDNEY'S WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENTS

A catchment is an area where water is collected by the natural landscape. In a catchment, all rain and run-off water from the hills and mountains eventually flows to a creek, river, lake, or ocean.

Sydney's water supply catchments are made up of five catchment systems: Warragamba, Metropolitan (Upper Nepean), Woronora, Shoalhaven River, and Blue Mountains.

These catchments cover a vast area – around 16,000 square kilometres. Although in total they represent only 2% of NSW, they supply water to over 60% of the state's population.

Natural and human systems, such as rivers, bushland, dams, farms, homes, plants, animals and people exist alongside one another in Sydney's water supply catchments. The SCA's role is to help reduce the negative impacts human systems can have upon the natural environment and water quality.



CONTACTING THE SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY

The SCA's head office is in Penrith, and there are a number of field offices throughout the catchments.

SCA Head Office, Penrith

Phone: 47 252 100

Fax: 47 252 165

PO BOX 323, Penrith 2751

Level 2, 311 High Street, Penrith

Website

www.sca.nsw.gov.au

Email

hotline@sca.nsw.gov.au

Dam Visitor Information

Phone: 47 200 349

Emergency Reporting

Fires, chemicals, spills (24hours)
9751 1988

Field Office locations

Blue Mountains Office

Cascades Dam, off Mort Street

North Katoomba NSW 2780

Goulburn Office

Suite 5 Newo House

23-25 Montague Street

Goulburn NSW 2580

Moss Vale Office

Shop 1 Argyle Centre

Argyle Street

Moss Vale NSW 2577

Depots

Cordeaux Dam

Warragamba Dam

Kenny Hill

Burrawang

INTRODUCING THE BOARD

The Board of the Sydney Catchment Authority currently comprises eight members, including the Chairman and the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is the only executive Board member.

The SCA Board has extensive expertise in the areas of protection of the environment and public health.

Mr John Whitehouse

John Whitehouse is the Chairman of the Authority. He is a Solicitor and Partner with the Sydney office of Minter Ellison. He is the National Practice Head for Planning and Environment Law with Minter Ellison. He is a Trustee of the Australian Museum and was a Director of Sydney Water Corporation. Prior to joining Minter Ellison, he was a Partner with Dunhill Madden Butler, Director of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Assistant Director NSW Department of Environment and Planning. John holds degrees in Law and Arts from Sydney University, has a BSc from Macquarie University and a Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of Technology, Sydney.



Ms Helen Cameron

Helen Cameron is a professional company director and is on the boards of AMRAD Corporation, TDG Logistics, Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Foodbank NSW, and BBY Limited. Helen is a member of the NSW Food Forum and the editorial board of the Journal of the Securities Institute of Australia. She has held senior management positions in National Foods Limited and Burns Philp Limited. She was formerly Director and Head of Research of a leading stockbroking firm where she specialised in food and agribusiness companies. She holds an MBA from Macquarie University (NSW), and a BSc from the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). Ms Cameron is Chair of the SCA Audit Committee.



Mr John Asquith

John Asquith is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council and Chair of the Central Coast Community Environment Network. John is a member of the NSW Environmental Trust, a past member of the Bushfire Coordinating Committee and a part time member of the Newcastle University staff in Sustainable Resource Management. He has considerable experience in infrastructure management and is a member of several environmental organisations and committees. John has qualifications in engineering, management and environmental activities.



Mr John Klem

John Klem has lived in the Sydney water catchment for the past 35 years where he farms sheep and cattle in the Goulburn area. John was a previous Chair of the Wollondilly Catchment Committee and Chairs a local Landcare group. He presently Chairs both the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust and the State Catchment Management Coordinating Committee. John has formal qualifications in Education and Agriculture and is committed to a healthy and sustainable environment.



Dr Kerry Chant

Dr Kerry Chant is a public health physician and is a Director of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Health Unit. The Unit has a key role in infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control, food safety and environmental health issues in South Western Sydney. Her particular area of interest is the prevention of infections. Dr Chant is a member of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, Faculty of Public Health Medicine and has a Bachelor degree in Medicine and Surgery. She also holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Health Administration.

Mr Ken Wheelwright

Ken Wheelwright manages a grazing property situated in the catchment on the Upper reaches of the Wollondilly River. He also represents the NSW Farmer's Association. Ken has been actively interested in developing sustainable and profitable farm management practices. Ken holds a degree in Rural Science from the University of New England and has also been involved with tertiary education of Agricultural students. More recently he obtained Business qualifications and training in Holistic Management.

**Ms Patricia Gilchrist**

Patricia Gilchrist is an environmental and town planner with an extensive background in both Local Government and the private development sector, concentrating in recent years on policy development and analysis, and negotiated issue resolution. She has worked on a wide range of applied policy issues covering environmental management systems, planning and development processes, urban design, infrastructure pricing, and conflict resolution. Patricia has been the Executive Director of the Urban Development Institute of Australia since 1997.

**Mr Jeff Wright**

Jeff Wright is CEO and Deputy Chairman of the Authority. Jeff has been Chief Executive Officer of EPA Victoria, the Victorian Department of Agriculture, and the Mornington Peninsular Water Board. He also served as a Commissioner on the Victorian Health Commission and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. In NSW, he has been Assistant Director of what is now EPA, and has been General Manager of Coffs Harbour City Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council. Jeff's first degree is in civil engineering, and he has a Masters



degree in public health engineering. He also has post-graduate diplomas in finance and in operations research, and a company director's diploma.

COMPOSITION OF THE SCA

The roles, functions and objectives of the Authority are delivered through a structure which comprises:

- the Authority's Minister;
- a Board comprising eight members;
- the Chief Executive; and
- the Executive Team.

The SCA is subject to the direction and control of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robert Debus, in accordance with the Sydney Water Catchment Management (SWCM) Act.

The appointment of Board members is also governed by the SWCM Act. The Board is to consist of the Chief Executive and no fewer than four and no more than seven members, who are appointed by the Minister.

One of the members is to be a nominee of the New South Wales Farmers Federation and the other is to be a nominee of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales. The Minister advertises publicly for nominations, prior to making appointments.

Persons appointed to the Board must, altogether, have expertise in the areas of the protection of the environment and public health, and any other expertise the Minister considers necessary to enable the Authority to realise its objectives.

With the exception of the Chief Executive, an appointed board member holds office for the term specified in their letter of appointment, which must not exceed a term of three years. An appointed Board member, whose term has expired, is eligible, if qualified, for reappointment.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board's functions are to:

- determine policies and long-term strategic plans;
- endeavour to ensure that the Authority meets all public health and environmental requirements set out in the Authority's Operating Licence and any other relevant instrument;
- oversee the effective, efficient and economical management of the Authority;
- prepare the Annual Report and any other reports which the Authority is required to furnish under the SWCM Act; and
- endeavour to ensure that the water supplied by the Authority to the Sydney Water Corporation and its other customers complies with appropriate standards of quality.

The Board meets once a month and, when necessary, considers material and issues out of session. The first meeting of the Board took place on 23 April 1999.

The role of the Board is to deliver governance, stewardship and leadership. It provides advice and leadership in the decision-making process. The Board is responsible for adopting the Authority's business plan, including the capital works program, and operational budget, and setting and reviewing strategic corporate goals. It also reviews, and where necessary, approves acquisitions and disposal of land and assets, and capital raising. It also has responsibility, through its audit committee, of overseeing audit and compliance functions.

The Board must take into account the specific obligations of the SWCM Act, the Operating Licence and the general law. When determining the policies and long-term strategic plans of the Authority, it must be mindful of the role of other government agencies and the need to adopt a "whole of government" approach.



Members are also to disclose and record direct or indirect pecuniary interests. A Board member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter is not to be present when the matter is being considered, or to take part in the decision-making about the matter.

Corporate governance

On Tuesday 20 June 2000, all Board members and the executive of the SCA attended a Corporate Governance Workshop for public sector boards, presented by Henry Bosch and Peter Timmins.

The workshop covered the following issues:

- roles, responsibilities and accountability of public sector boards;
- managing risks and liabilities; and
- evaluating board performance.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises four members:

Ms Helen Cameron, Chair
 Mr John Whitehouse, Member
 Mr Kenneth Wheelwright, Member
 Jeff Wright (ex-officio)

The first meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 31 March 2000.

Representatives from the Audit Office, Internal Auditor and the Authority attend the meetings of the committee.

The Audit Committee has adopted a charter, which outlines the roles, membership, meeting procedures and responsibilities of the committee.

The main responsibilities are to:

- ensure that the audit process (both external and internal) is effective, that external reporting and corporate governance responsibilities are addressed and that internal control and risk management structures are appropriate;
- carefully consider issues raised by the external and internal auditors, as those issues may have implications for the Authority's control environment; and

- ensure that the Authority’s accounting policies and principles are in accordance with the stated financial reporting framework, and that the Board is informed of any significant issues raised by the auditors, management or the committee members.

The committee also has to ensure:

- that appropriate authorisations are in place to enable the functions of the Authority to be carried out in a structured and accountable manner;
- the adequacy of the Authority’s insurances to cover its risk and liability profile; and
- the adequacy of contingency plans in the event of disruption to the Authority’s operations.

The Audit Committee meets every three months.

BOARD AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Board Members	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
John Whitehouse, Chair	12	11
Jeff Wright	12	11
John Asquith	12	12
Helen Cameron	12	10
Dr Kerry Chant	12	8
Patricia Gilchrist	12	12
John Klem	12	12
Kenneth Wheelwright	12	12

Note: The SCA Board met three times in the previous year (April, May & June 1999) before the SCA began operating on 2 July 1999.

Audit Committee	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Helen Cameron, Chair	3	3
John Whitehouse	3	2
Kenneth Wheelwright	3	3
Jeff Wright (ex officio)	3	3

SCA CODE OF CONDUCT

The Authority has published an employee Code of Conduct, which sets out standards for appropriate ethical and professional conduct for employees. The Code of Conduct deals with the:

- responsibility of employees for ethical behaviour;
- use of the Authority’s resources;
- secondary employment;
- privacy and confidential information; and
- conflict of interest.

The Board expects that all employees of the Authority will comply with the Code of Conduct. [\[See Appendix 3.\]](#)



SCA CHARTER AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Authority is charged with the task of ensuring that the catchments are managed to optimise water quality, protect the environment and minimise the risk to human health, and to supply bulk water to Sydney Water Corporation and other water supply authorities and customers.

The activities of the Authority are directed principally by the Sydney Water Catchment Management Act, 1998 and the Authority's Operating Licence.

THE SYDNEY WATER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT (SWCM) ACT 1998

Under the SWCM Act the role of the Authority is to:

- a) manage and protect the catchment areas and catchment infrastructure works;
- b) be a supplier of bulk water; and
- c) regulate certain activities within or affecting the outer catchment area as well as the inner catchment area.

Its principal objectives are to:

- a) ensure that the catchment areas and catchment infrastructure are managed and protected so as to promote water quality, the protection of public health and safety and the protection of the environment;
- b) ensure that water supplied by the Authority complies with appropriate standards of quality;
- c) conduct activities in compliance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development where the Authority's activities affect the environment; and
- d) manage the Authority's catchment infrastructure works efficiently and economically and in accordance with sound commercial principles.

The roles, objectives and functions to be undertaken by the Authority are authorised by means of an Operating Licence. This licence is granted by the Governor under section 25 of the Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998. It authorises the Authority to provide, construct, operate, manage and maintain systems and services, in order to achieve its objectives. The Authority's performance is audited every 12 months by a Licence Regulator appointed by the government.

OTHER REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS AND BODIES

The Authority is required to operate in accordance with a water management licence issued by the Department of Land & Water Conservation. The water management licence allows the Authority to extract and use water from identified water sources and water management works. It specifies the amount of water that can be extracted from water sources and the quantity of water that must be made available for environmental flows. The first water management licence is currently being drafted.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

As required by the SWCM Act, the Authority entered into separate Memoranda of Understanding with certain regulatory agencies: the Director General of New South Wales Health, the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation, and the the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The Memoranda of Understanding between the Authority and the regulatory agencies have a number of common objectives which include:

- the establishment of a cooperative relationship between the parties;
- development of consultative processes to consider operational strategic and public health issues;
- the exchange of data and information; and
- dispute resolution.

THE SCA'S REGULATORY ROLE

The Authority also has a key role in regulating activities that are likely to impact on the catchments and their ability to supply high quality raw water to its customers. In special areas and controlled areas, which are tracts of land closest to the Authority's water storages, public access, as well as certain activities and conduct, are controlled by means of the Sydney Water Catchment Management (General) Regulation 2000.

Under State Environmental Planning Policy 58 (SEPP 58), the SCA has a concurrence and compliance role in relation to certain types of proposed developments and is required to assess certain new development proposals to

determine whether they will have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality in the water supply catchments. At present, a regional environmental plan is being developed. This will further develop and refine the functions of SEPP 58 and ultimately replace it.

The Authority is also able to influence the making and amendment of local environmental plans so as to ensure adequate measures are included in the plans to protect catchments and water quality.

The Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998 also gives the Authority the ability to exercise concurrence and compliance functions under other agencies' legislation. With the assistance of the EPA, the SCA is developing an Environment Protection Regulation which will enable it to protect water quality at the source of its supplies.

CURRENT LEGAL MATTERS

An application has been made by the Gundungurra No. 6 Group to the Federal Court to determine a Native Title Claim over certain land, water and assets (including Warragamba Dam), owned by the SCA. The claim applies to items in the local government areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Blue Mountains, Boorowa, Camden, Campbelltown, Cowra, Crookwell, Evans, Goulburn, Greater Lithgow, Gunning, Liverpool, Mulwaree, Oberon, Penrith, Tallaganda, Wingecarribee, and Wollondilly.

Because it could be affected by a decision in favour of the applicants, the Authority has sought to become a party to the proceedings.

LEGAL CHANGES DURING THE YEAR

The Sydney Catchment Authority was constituted on 8 January 1999, under the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998*.

On 2 July 1999, the SCA acquired certain assets, land and staff from Sydney Water, to enable it to undertake its statutory functions. The Authority commenced full operations on this date.

SCA Operating Licence

The Governor granted an Operating Licence to the Authority on 2 July 1999 under section 25 of the Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998. This licence was renewed on 22 December 1999 for the period 1 January 2000 until 31 December 2004. It was then amended to take effect from 19 April 2000.

SEPP 58

On 31 March 2000 the concurrence role for SEPP 58 was transferred from the Director General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to the Chief Executive Officer of the SCA.

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992 – Order

On 8 February 2000, under section 4 of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Act 1992, the Premier declared that the following services supplied by the SCA were government monopoly services:

- water supply services
- ancillary and miscellaneous services, for which no alternative supply exists and which relate to the supply of those water services.

This means that IPART will decide the price the Authority is able to charge for these services.

Amendment to Dams Safety Act

The Dams Safety Act 1978 was amended, with the approval of Sydney Water Corporation, by deleting the corporation as a member of the Dams Safety Committee and substituting the Sydney Catchment Authority.