

# Water Quality, Health and Catchment Protection Committee Charter

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## Purpose

1. The purpose of this Board established Committee (**Committee**) is to assist the Board in ensuring effective and accountable systems are in place to protect and monitor the quality and quantity of water in declared catchment areas: to protect public health in relation to WaterNSW's supply of bulk and treated drinking water; and the protection of the declared catchment areas.
2. The purpose of this charter (**Charter**) is to outline the role of this Committee and how it will undertake its activities.

## Role of the Committee

### Water Quality

3. The Committee will:
  - a. consider reports on trends in, and emerging risks to, the quality of water WaterNSW supplies;
  - b. evaluate the impacts of WaterNSW and third-party activities within the declared catchment areas on the quality and quantity of water; and
  - c. review and consider the outcomes of any significant projects or initiatives undertaken to enhance and protect water quality, with particular focus on the declared catchment areas.

### Land Management

- 4 The Committee will monitor the impact of land management issues in the declared catchment areas (including impact of mining, land use development, and bushfire preparedness and management) where this may impact on water quality or quantity or where it is a legislative requirement or function.

### Scientific Research

- 5 The Committee will consider and review:
  - a. emerging scientific trends in relation to water quality for drinking water;

- b. the multi-year science program and associated expenditure and, where required, make recommendations to the Board; and
- c. any scientific investigations undertaken or commissioned by WaterNSW and relevant to this Committee's purpose.

### Legislative Changes

- 6 The Committee will consider the impact of relevant legislative changes on the current and future health of declared catchment areas, on public health (in relation to WaterNSW's supply of water from the declared catchment areas), and on the quality and quantity of water in the declared catchment areas.

### Compliance and Enforcement in Declared Catchments

- 7 The Committee is to review and monitor the key performance metrics and trends in relation to compliance and enforcement programs within the declared catchment areas.
- 8 The Committee is to recommend the prosecution of offences under the *Water NSW Act 2014* and the *Protection of Environment Act 1989*.
- 9 The Committee is to review the Prosecution Guidelines, at least biennially.

### Annual Reporting to IPART

- 10 The Committee is to receive and note the Annual Catchment Activities Report and the Annual Water Monitoring Report, being reports which are provided to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

### Expenditure Proposals

- 11 The Committee is to consider proposals for expenditure on water quality, water monitoring, health or declared catchment matters which will require Board approval and make recommendations to the Board in relation to the proposal.

### Risk and Assurance

- 12 The Committee is to review and consider an annual Catchment to Customer risk review.
- 13 The Committee is to review and consider the adequacy of, and compliance with, the Water Quality Management System, and any other related systems and frameworks – including receiving reports on the compliance of these systems and frameworks with the Operating Licence requirements.

- 14 The Committee is to review Management's proposed response to the findings of the Catchment Audit Report, conducted every 3 years pursuant to section 42 of the *Water NSW 2014*, to the extent it affects water quality in the declared catchments, and oversee the incorporating of findings to the relevant programs and activities.

## Reporting to the Audit and Risk Committee – Assurance Activities

- 15 The Committee will receive internal audit reports, as relevant to the role of the Committee, and set out in the *Annual Internal Audit Plan*, and monitor the implementations of the recommendations.
- 16 The Committee will provide a summary report to the Audit and Risk Committee (on an annual basis) on any emerging risks that have come to its attention, and the assurance activity overseen by this Committee in relation to water quality, health and catchment protection risks.

## Committee Meetings and Processes

- 17 The processes and protocols applying to this Committee and the conduct of the Committee's business will be in accordance with the Protocols for WaterNSW Board Committees.

## Committee Charter

- 18 This Charter was approved by the Board on 26 June 2019.