

Australian Capital Territory

Utilities (Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code) Determination 2012

Disallowable instrument DI2012–170

made under the

Utilities Act 2000, s 59 (Determined codes) and s 63 (Public access)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Utilities (Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code) Determination 2012*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as section 6 of the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT) Act 2012*, A2012-31.

3 Revocation of code

The Commission revokes the Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code, which was determined on 21 December 2000, under the *Utilities (Industry Codes) Determination 2000* (DI2000-368).

4 Determination of code

The Commission determines the attached Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code.

5 Public access to documents

Copies of the Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code are available for inspection by members of the public between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, at the Commission's offices at Level 8, 221 London Circuit, Canberra City ACT and on the Commission's website (www.icrc.act.gov.au). Copies of these documents can be made at the Commission's offices. Electronic copies are available on request. No charge will apply.

Malcolm R Gray
Senior Commissioner
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
28 June 2012

Australian Capital Territory



ICRC

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code

JULY 2012

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1. APPLICATION AND PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

1.1 Application

This Code applies to **Water Utilities** and **Sewerage Utilities**.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to define the boundary between:

(1) **Water Networks:**

- (a) the **Water Network** of one **Water Utility** and the **Water Network** of another **Water Utility**; and
- (b) a **Water Utility's Water Network** and a **Customer's Premises**.

(2) **Sewerage Networks:**

- (a) the **Sewerage Network** of one **Sewerage Network** and the **Sewerage Network** of another **Sewerage Utility**;
- (b) a **Sewerage Utility's Sewerage Network** and a **Customer's Premises**.

2. DICTIONARY

2.1 Dictionary Attached

The dictionary at the end of this **Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code** is part of this Code.

3. BOUNDARIES OF WATER NETWORK

3.1 Boundary between Water Networks

The boundary between the **Water Network** of one **Water Utility** and the **Water Network** of another **Water Utility** will be a designated point (or series of such points) as agreed between the **Water Utilities** involved. This agreement will include clarification of the ownership of any dedicated plant and/or fittings, such as water **Meters** and sampling points, that belong to one **Water Utility** but lie within the boundary of the other **Water Utility's Water Network**. The boundary will be advised to **ICRC**, for information.

3.2 Alternative Boundary Between Two Water Networks

Despite any other provisions in this Code, a **Water Utility** and another **Water Utility** may agree upon an alternative boundary between their two **Water Networks**.

3.3 Boundary between Water Utility's Network and Customer's Premises

- (1) The connection point between the water connection pipe of the **Water Utility** and the plumbing system of the **Customer** is the designated boundary. This is typically the outlet to the first isolating valve inside of the lease boundary where such a valve is in close proximity (1 metre) to the lease boundary.
- (2) The **Meter** and the threads on the **Meter** will remain the property of the **Water Utility**, irrespective of their location on the **Customer's water pipes**.
- (3) Whilst the above definition will cover most situations in the **Territory** there are some exceptions that need further description:
 - (a) where the isolating valve occurs outside of the **Customer's Premises**, the **Water Utility** will take responsibility for any work required outside of the **Premises**, whilst the **Customer** will take responsibility for any work inside of the **Premises**;
 - (b) where there is no isolating valve or the first isolating valve that occurs is not within close proximity to the **Customer's** boundary, the **Water Utility** may install such a valve at the **Customer's** expense;
 - (c) where no boundary exists, or for specific applications such as irrigation of ovals, parks, gardens overhead filling points etc, the boundary will be defined through agreement between the **Customer** and the **Water Utility**;
 - (d) where the water connection to the **Customer's Premises** occurs through another **Person's Premises**, the boundary is the outlet of the isolating valve in close proximity to the upstream **Premises** closest to the **Watermain**, with that **Person** assuming responsibility for the connection that traverses through their **Premises**; and
 - (e) where a **Customer's** water plumbing system serves a number of **Premises**, the point of supply to all the **Premises** is to the upstream **Premises** closest to the **Watermain**.

3.4 Alternative Boundary Between Water Network and Customer's Premises

Despite any other provision in this Code, a **Water Utility** and a **Customer** may:

- (1) agree upon an alternative boundary between the **Water Network** and the **Customer's Premises**; and/or
- (2) define assets within a **Customer's Premises** to be part of the **Water Network** whether or not they are on the **Customer's Premises**.

4. BOUNDARIES OF SEWERAGE NETWORK

4.1 Boundary between Sewerage Networks

The boundary between the **Sewerage Network** of one **Sewerage Utility** and the **Sewerage Network** of another **Sewerage Utility** will be a designated point (or series

of such points) as agreed between the **Sewerage Utilities** involved. The boundary will be advised to **ICRC**, for information.

4.2 Alternative Boundary Between Two Sewerage Networks

Despite any other provisions in this Code, a **Sewerage Utility** and another **Sewerage Utility** may agree upon an alternative boundary between their two **Sewerage Networks**.

4.3 Boundary between Sewerage Network and Customer's Premises

- (1) The connection point between the sewer connection pipe of the **Sewerage Network** and the house drainage system of the **Customer** is the designated boundary. Typically this is the collar immediately downstream of the last Inspection Opening (IO) on the Household Drains. This is usually known as the **Designated Connection Point** and is defined in terms of both distance and depth on the approved drainage plan.
- (2) Whilst the above definition will cover most situations in the **Territory** there are some exceptions that need further description:
 - (a) where this **Designated Connection Point** occurs outside of the **Customer's Premises** the **Sewerage Utility** will take responsibility for any work required outside of the **Customer's Premises** whilst the **Customer** will take responsibility for any work inside of their **Premises**;
 - (b) where, in its opinion, the **Sewerage Utility** decides that the **Designated Connection Point** is outside of the **Customer's Premises**, it may relocate that connection point to bring it back into the **Customer's Premises**;
 - (c) where the sewer connection to the **Customer's Premises** occurs through another **Person's Premises** then the **Designated Connection Point** remains as described at, or near, the boundary of the first or downstream **Premises**, with the owner of those **Premises** assuming responsibility for the connection that traverses through their **Premises**; and
 - (d) where a **Customer's** drainage system serves a number of **Premises**, the point of collection to all the **Premises** is to the downstream **Premises** closest to the network **Sewermain**.

4.4 Alternative Boundary Between Sewerage Network and Customer's Premises

Despite any other provision in this Code, a **Sewerage Utility** and a **Customer** may:

- (1) agree upon an alternative boundary between the **Sewerage Network** and the **Customer's Premises**; and/or
- (2) define assets within a **Customer's Premises** to be part of the **Sewerage Network** whether or not they are on the **Customer's Premises**.

DICTIONARY

- (1) “**Act**” means the Utilities Act 2000;
- (2) “**Cost**” includes any cost, charge, expense, outgoing, payment or other expenditure of any nature whatever, including where appropriate all reasonable and proper legal fees;
- (3) “**Customer**” has the same meaning as defined under the Act;
- (4) “**Designated Connection Point**” is that point referred to on the approved drainage plan, identifying where the Sewerage Network connection point for that property has been established;
- (5) “**Industry Code**” means a code approved or determined by **ICRC** under Part 4 of the Act;
- (6) “**ICRC**” means the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission established under section 5 of the *Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997* (ACT);
- (7) “**Meter**” means a **Meter** or other apparatus for the measurement of water including any pipes and fittings ancillary to the meter or apparatus;
- (8) “**Person**” includes a natural person, a firm, an unincorporated association or body corporate;
- (9) “**Premises**” has the same meaning as in the **Act**;
- (10) “**Sewerage Network**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (11) “**Sewerage Utility**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (12) “**Sewermain**” means a pipeline forming part of the **Sewerage Utility’s Sewerage Network** as defined in the **Act**;
- (13) “**Territory**” means the Australian Capital Territory;
- (14) “**Utility**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (15) “**Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code**” means the **Water and Sewerage Network Boundary Code** approved as an Industry Code by **ICRC** under the **Act**;
- (16) “**Water Network**” has the same meaning and functions as defined under the **Act**;
- (17) “**Water Services**” means those services as defined in the **Act**;
- (18) “**Water Utility**” is a Utility licensed under the **Act** to provide **Water Services**.