



## Application to renew a licence

### Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Licence Number</b> | L6543/1991/12   |
| <b>Licence Holder</b> | Water Corporation   |
| <b>File Number</b>    | 2010/006732-1   |
| <b>Premises</b>       | <p>Kwinana Wastewater Treatment Plant<br/>119 and 143 McLaughlan Rd<br/>POSTANS WA 6167</p> <p>Legal description<br/>Lot 2128 and Part of Lot 2129 on Plan 173137 within<br/>coordinates:<br/>389173E, 6435322N                      389681E, 6435312N<br/>389578E, 6435028N                      389503E, 6434734N<br/>389067E, 6434821N<br/>As shown in Schedule 1 of the Licence</p> |
| <b>Date of Report</b> | 20/09/2022  |
| <b>Decision</b>       | To grant a licence  |

Senior Environmental Officer, Industry Regulation  
An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

## 1. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer decided to process the application to renew licence L6543/1991/11 without conducting any additional risk assessment.

The licence will be issued for 20 years, which is consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*. In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to

- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors;
- confirm if reduced reporting is required as determined by Notice of Amendment issued on 16 May 2022;
- amalgamate the approved changes authorized by the Amendment Notice granted 12 September 2016; and,
- addition of Attachment 1 to this Decision Report being the Decision Report granted on 18 September 2020.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L6543/1991/12, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Application summary

On 27 June 2022 Water Corporation (licence holder) applied to renew licence L6543/1991/11 as the licence is due to expire on 23 September 2022. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located at McLaughlan Road, Postans. (Premises).

The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity**

| Prescribed premises category description<br>(Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> )   | Production / design capacity  |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Category 54: Sewage facility: premises –<br>(a) On which sewage is treated (excluding septic tanks); or<br>(b) From which treated sewage is discharged onto land or into waters | 12,000 m <sup>3</sup> per day |

The Premises have a design capacity to treat up to 12 ML per day of sewage to a secondary standard via two screens, a grit tank, a bioselector, two oxidation ditches and two secondary clarifiers. The Existing Licence grants approval for treated sewage to be discharged at a rate of up to 4.7ML/day to two infiltration ponds on site. Additional treated sewage beyond the licenced 4.7 ML/day is discharged to ocean via the Sepia Depression Ocean Outlet Landline (SDOOL) under approval of Ministerial Statement 665 (MS 665).

The Premises are also approved to transfer treated sewage to other premises that are licensed for the treatment and/or storage of sewage. This approval was granted in 2013, primarily in response to an application for a third party willing to accept treated sewage for their lined cooling ponds; however, no reuse water has been supplied to date.

The oxidation ditch plant is the result of an upgrade to the Premises which was completed in 2009 under works approval W4322/2009/1. Prior to the upgrade, sewage treatment was

achieved via a conventional treatment process involving screening, primary sedimentation and activated sludge treatment. Nitrogen levels in treated sewage were significantly improved as a result of the upgrade, with median total nitrogen concentration decreasing from 41 mg/L to 4.5 mg/L.

Appendix 1 includes a copy of the L6543/1991/11 Decision Report dated 18 September 2020. This Appendix provides more detail of the primary activities and environmental risk assessment for the premises. Appendix 1 shall remain posted on the website until the next risk assessment and/or licence review has been completed.

### **3. Regulatory framework**

The Delegated Officer has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises, which is in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position*.

In granting the licence, the Delegated Officer has considered and given due regard to the department's regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

## **4. Considerations for issuing a new licence**

### **4.1 Compliance and enforcement actions**

There have been 8 environmental incidents identified at the Premises by the department since May 2012. 5 incidents were due to exceedances of discharge targets or emergency releases to the oxidation ditch. No community or public complaints were received about the licence holder's activities at this Premises during this time.

Three compliance inspections have been conducted by the department in the last ten years. During the inspections a total of 14 potential non-compliances were identified leading to remedial actions or licence amendments. All non-compliance incidents were investigated by the Department to consider the level of enforcement action required.

During the last 10 years, no enforcement action has been taken regarding activities at Kwinana Wastewater treatment plant.

### **4.2 Legal occupancy**

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises.

### **4.3 Categories of the licence**

The requested prescribed category and the corresponding maximum design capacity for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the existing licence that was previously assessed.

### **4.4 Planning approval**

The Premises are zoned as 'Public purposes – Water Authority of WA' under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. As such, development of the land for 'permitted development' purposes (i.e. Water Services Works) is exempt from the requirement to obtain development approval from the local authority or the Western Australian Planning Commission

## **5. Summary of changes to the licence conditions**

Section 62 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides the legal power to attach conditions to licences. Most licences are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or

environmental harm resulting from emissions and/or discharges from this premises during operations.

The changes from the expiring licence into the new licence include;

1. amending the Premises address;
2. include premises coordinates in cover page and schedule 1 of the licence;
3. replace Schedule 1 premises maps;
4. combine the two monitoring bore location maps into one bore location map; and
5. include the 18 September 2020 decision report as Attachment 1 to this report.

## 6. Consultation

The Delegated Officer undertook the consultation for the application to renew the licence as per Table 1.

**Table 1: Consultation**

| Consultation method   | Comments received  | Delegated Officer's response  |
|---|--|---|
| Application advertised on the department's website on 25 August 2022. | Submissions closed on 20 September 2022 with none received.  | N/A   |
| Local Government Authority advised of application on 5 July 2022      | The City of Kwinana replied on 19 July 2022 confirming no objections to licence renewal providing the existing land use continues, divert contaminated stormwater around or away from the treatment systems, prevent and/or manage wastewater overflows, spills and run-off emanating from the treatment processes.  | The delegated officer noted the comments from the Local Government Authority and has addressed these concerns during the initial plant design during works approval and with future amendments.<br><br>Emergency overflows, spills and run-off of wastewater is subject to the provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or the <i>Environmental Protection Unauthorised Discharges Regulations 2004</i> .   |
| Licence holder was provided with draft documents on 24 August 2022.   | The Licence holder responded on 15 September 2022 stating;<br><br>1. Amend Table 2 'Inlet works' removing the requirement for bunding of the hardstand area because it is grade to a collection sump and the leachate is returned to the treatment process.<br><br>2. Amend Table 2 'Dewatering system' to include 4 x cake hoppers.<br><br>3. Amend Table 3 'sewage sludge' percentage of solids from 3-4% to 3-5% solid that better reflects the facilities operation. | The delegated officer noted the comments from the licence holder and agrees to amend Table 2, Table 3, and Table 4, of the licence by completing the amendments as requested and described by the licence holder.<br><br>These changes will clarify processes at the facility resulting in accurate reporting in the Annual Monitoring Report as well as clarify requirements in the licence by allowing more accurate condition referencing (renumbering versus dot points).<br><br>Regards point 5, the delegated officer considered a footnote to be unnecessary but has included the term 'when operational' in the parameter |

| Consultation method | Comments received   | Delegated Officer's response  |
|---------------------|---|---|
|                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Requested a change of bullet points in Table 2 and Table 3 to numbers.</li> <li>5. Amend Table 4 'volume transferred for third party' to include footnote explaining reuse system will be monitored when operational.</li> <li>6. Table 8, Condition 10 be amended to include an assessment of ambient groundwater quality using monitoring bores KW14, 1/09, 2/09 &amp; 3/09 to identify migration and plume extent plus risk to adjacent Spectacles wetland.</li> </ol> | <p>column where third-party reuse is mentioned.</p> <p>Point 6, regarding Table 8, Condition 10, requires further discussion and clarification with the Waste Sector Industries following the renewal of this licence and therefore remains unchanged. This may require a reassessment of the risk of emissions and therefore an application for a licence amendment.</p> |

## **7. Attachment 1 – 18 September 2020 Decision Report**