



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L8050/1991/3
Licence Holder	Water Corporation
File Number	2010/003526-1
Premises	Jurien Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant Airstrip Road JURIEN BAY WA 6516 Legal description – Victoria Location 11300 (Crown Reserve 40417) Lot 11300 on Deposited Plan 185509 Certificate of Title Volume 3075 Folio 96
Date of Report	17 November 2022
Decision	Revised licence granted

Abbie Crawford
A/MANAGER, WASTE INDUSTRIES

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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1. Decision summary

Licence L8050/1991/3 is held by Water Corporation (Licence Holder) for the Jurien Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant (Jurien Bay WWTP, the Premises), located at Airstrip Road, Jurien Bay (Lot 11300 on Plan 185509).

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and to public health from the extension of timeframes for the licence holder to comply with groundwater monitoring conditions in the existing licence.

As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L8050/1991/3 for the proposed amendments has been granted.

This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

2.2 Application summary

On 16 September 2022, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L8050/1991/3 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- An amendment to extend the timeframe provided in Condition 13, Table 7, for groundwater monitoring wells to be constructed, developed (purged), and determined to be operational. The applicant has proposed to change the due date to comply with this condition from 18 September 2022 to 31 October 2023.
- An amendment to extend the timeframe provided in Condition 16 for the licence holder to submit a subterranean fauna assessment, undertaken in accordance with EPA Technical Guidance Subterranean Fauna Survey for Environmental Impact Assessment (December 2021). The applicant has proposed to change the due date to comply with this condition from 18 September 2022 to 30 May 2023.
- An amendment to Condition 20 which mentions the incorrect condition number when referring to the maintenance of accurate and auditable books. Condition 20 should refer to Condition 19 instead of Condition 16.

The amendments have been requested as Water Corporation is unable to meet the deadlines specified in Condition 13, Table 7, and Condition 16 of the licence whilst ensuring environmental due diligence. The Licence Holder advises that installation of groundwater monitoring wells as required by Condition 13 will impact areas of native vegetation and possibly matters of conservation significance. Water Corporation is in the process of conducting biological surveys to determine the final placement of the wells and to support native vegetation clearing.

Water Corporation has engaged an Environmental Consultant to conduct a Spring flora, vegetation, and fauna survey, and complete a subterranean fauna desktop assessment to meet the requirements of Condition 16. However, the subterranean fauna desktop assessment was not ready for submission by 18 September 2022. A revised due date of 30 May 2023 to submit the subterranean fauna assessment to the CEO has been requested to

allow time for the Environmental Consultant to undertake the required surveys and assessments.

No changes to throughput or premises activities have been included within the amendment.

2.3 Background

A Licence amendment allowing for the disposal of saline water (generated from the Jurien Bay Water Treatment Plant groundwater desalinisation process) to the Jurien Bay WWTP for a period of 6 months was granted on 26 March 2021. Since this time, a suitable supply of lower salinity groundwater for the Jurien Bay drinking water supply had not been achieved. A licence amendment was granted on 18 March 2022 to continue the disposal of saline waste to the infiltration ponds at the Jurien Bay WWTP for a further two years whilst arrangements for securing an appropriate source of groundwater are finalised.

Conditions 13 and 16 were included on the licence granted on 18 March 2022 as additional regulatory controls imposed by the Department. The Delegated Officer (DO) considered that the saline waste disposed of into the existing infiltration ponds at the WWTP had the potential to contain elevated concentrations of a range of chemicals of potential concern, including metals and radium isotopes. It was considered that there was a risk that groundwater near the WWTP could become locally contaminated with one or more chemical constituents of potential concern.

To enable the monitoring of long-term changes to the groundwater beneath the premises, the DO considered it reasonable for additional groundwater monitoring wells to be installed and that groundwater monitoring requirements on the licence be updated. The presence of subterranean fauna beneath the premises is currently unknown but is considered likely. Therefore, Condition 16 was included for a subterranean fauna assessment to be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of subterranean fauna at the premises and the potential for the discharge of saline waste to impact any communities present.

3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

The extension of completion timeframes for groundwater monitoring conditions 13 and 16 does not change the risk assessment previously undertaken for the disposal of Reverse Osmosis brine within the existing infiltration ponds as already approved under licence L8050/1991/3. There are no requested changes to Category 54 and Category 61 activities which require any further risk assessments.

The applicant has also demonstrated that it is not feasible for Conditions 13 and 16 to be met under current timeframes without risking potential detrimental impacts to native vegetation from the construction of the additional monitoring wells.

4. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 1: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on 31 October 2022	An email was received from the licence holder on 16 November 2022 advising that they had no comments of the draft documents.	N/A

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised Licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 2 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 2: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
13, Table 7	Change to timeframe for groundwater monitoring wells to be constructed, developed (purged), and determined to be operational by 18/09/2022 to new due date of 31/10/2023
16	Change to timeframe for the licence holder to provide to the CEO a subterranean fauna assessment by 18/09/2022 to new due date of 30/05/2023.
20	Correction of typographical error in Condition 20 which mentions the incorrect condition number when referring to the maintenance of accurate and auditable books. Condition 20 referral to Condition 16 changed to Condition 19.

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 1: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY				
Application type				
Works approval	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relevant works approval number:		None <input type="checkbox"/>
		Has the works approval been complied with?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Has time limited operations under the works approval demonstrated acceptable operations?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Environmental Compliance Report / Critical Containment Infrastructure Report submitted?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Date Report received:		
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:		
Amendment to works approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:		
Amendment to licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:	L8050/1991/3	
		Relevant works approval number:		N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:		None <input type="checkbox"/>
Date application received		16 September 2022		
Applicant and Premises details				
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)		Water Corporation		
Premises name		Jurien Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant		
Premises location		Lot 11300 on Deposited Plan 185509 (Crown Reserve 40417) Airstrip Road JURIEN BAY WA 6516		
Local Government Authority		Shire of Dandaragan		
Application documents				
HPCM file reference number:		2010/003526-1~2		
Key application documents (additional to application form):		Jurien Bay WWTP Licence Administrative Amendment Cover Letter		

Scope of application/assessment

<p>Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.</p>	<p>Licence Amendment</p> <p>The following amendments have been requested:</p> <p>Request to extend the due date in condition 13, Table 7 for groundwater monitoring wells to be constructed, developed (purged), and determined to be operational by 18 September 2022 to the new due date of 31 October 2023.</p> <p>Request to extend the due date to provide the CEO with a subterranean fauna assessment in accordance with Condition 16 from 18 September 2022 to the new due date of 30 May 2023.</p> <p>To correct Condition 20 to refer to Condition 19 instead of Condition 16.</p>
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Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises)

Table 1: Prescribed premises categories

Prescribed premises category and description	Assessed	Proposed changes to the production or design capacity (amendments only)
<p>Category 54 Sewage facility premises -</p> <p>(a) on which sewage is treated (excluding septic tanks); or</p> <p>(b) from which treated sewage is discharged onto land or into waters</p>	300 cubic metres per day	No proposed changes
<p>Category 61 - Liquid waste facility: premises on which liquid waste produced on other premises (other than sewerage waste) is stored, reprocessed, treated or irrigated.</p>	150 cubic metres per day	No proposed changes

Legislative context and other approvals

<p>Has the applicant referred, or do they intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act as a significant proposal?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Referral decision No:</p> <p>Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Does the applicant hold any existing Part IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the application?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: EPA Report No:
Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reference No:
Has the applicant demonstrated occupancy (proof of occupier status)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not required for an amendment
Has the applicant obtained all relevant planning approvals?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing CAWS Act clearing licence in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No clearing is proposed.
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing RIWI Act licence or permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Licence / permit not required.
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Name: Jurien Groundwater Area Type: Proclaimed Groundwater Area 17 Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Regional office: Mid-West Gascoyne
Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

<p>Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i>, <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i>, <i>State Agreement Act xxxx</i>)</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i>?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Classification: Not contaminated - unrestricted use Date of classification: 10 February 2020</p>