



## Application to renew a licence

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

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Licence Number</b> | L8434/2010/2   |
| <b>Licence Holder</b> | Water Corporation  |
| <b>File Number</b>    | DEC 14838/2  |
| <b>Premises</b>       | Alkimos Wastewater Treatment Plant<br>11 Brindabella Parkway<br>ALKIMOS WA 6038<br><br>Legal description<br>Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 415979<br>As defined by the Premises map in Schedule 1<br>of the issued licence |
| <b>Date of Report</b> | 25 May 2023  |
| <b>Decision</b>       | To grant a licence   |

Neville Welsh  
Senior Industry Regulation 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 L8434/2010/2 without conducting any additional risk assessment.

The licence can 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:

- update the format and appearance of the licence;
- incorporate licence amendment/s as per Amendment Notice 1; with exception of treated wastewater monitoring conditions reinstated in consultation with the licence holder;
- include standard conditions for wastewater treatment plants with respect to waste acceptance, processing and existing containment infrastructure on the premises;
- remove redundant conditions;
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements); and
- transfer all other existing regulatory controls and conditions to the new licence in the current format as applicable.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L8434/2010/2, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Application summary

On 15 March 2023 Water Corporation (licence holder) applied to renew licence L8434/2010/1, as the licence is due to expire on 25 May 2023. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the Alkimos Wastewater Treatment Plant premises located at Brindabella Parkway, Alkimos (Premises).

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

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

| <b>Prescribed premises category description<br/>(Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)</b> | <b>Production / design capacity</b>   |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Category 54: Sewage facility   | 20,000 cubic metres per day           |
| Category 61: Liquid waste facility   | Not more than 10,000 tonnes per annum |

Construction of Stage 1 of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was completed under Works Approval W4423/2008/1 with a nominated Category 54 throughput and treatment capacity of up to 20 mega litres per day (ML/day). Current treatment volumes are averaging 13 ML/day. Wastewater is treated to a secondary standard prior to discharge via the Alkimos Ocean Outlet (discharge pipeline), under Ministerial Statement 755, last amended on 23 November 2021.

The Alkimos WWTP Stage 2 upgrade approved under Works Approval W6523/2021/1 granted on 4 January 2022 and as amended on 13 December 2022, involves the equipping of oxidation ditch 3, upgrades to sewage and liquid waste treatment infrastructure and expansion of the bioselector capacity. The works once completed will bring the WWTP to a maximum treatment capacity of 26 ML/day.

### **3. Regulatory framework**

The Delegated Officer has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Industry Regulation, Licensing position – COVID-19 response*, October 2022.

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 no incidents or complaints identified at the Premises by the department in the last five years. There have been no enforcement actions taken against the occupier in the last 5 years regarding the licence.

#### **4.2 Legal occupancy**

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises.

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

The requested categories and the corresponding maximum production capacities for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the categories and capacities for which the licence holder currently holds a licence and which was previously risk assessed when issuing works approval W6523/2021/1 plus subsequent amendments.

#### **4.4 Planning approval**

The licence holder has informed the department that it has planning approval for the activities on the Premises.

### **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 because of the emissions and/or discharges from the premises in question.

Table 2 summarises the changes from the expiring licence into the new licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes made.

**Table 2: Licence conditions changes, description and rationale**

| Licence conditions L8434/2010/1 as amended 24 April 2013                  | Changes applied through Amendment Notice 1                            | New condition / table (if relevant) | Description and rationale  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1: Annual Environmental Report  | Reduced reporting requirements  | Condition 10, Table 6               | Current template AER condition applied with updated reporting timeframe, including reporting against Condition 6.  |
| 2: AACR   | N/A   | Condition 9                         | Current template AACR condition applied with updated reporting timeframe.  |
| 3: Complaints   | N/A   | Condition 8                         | Standard template complaints condition applied with added item re wind & temperature inclusion as per existing licence 3(iv).  |
| Discharges to air: 4, 5,6,7(a),7(b) & 7(c), 8,9, 10, 11 (a) & 11 (b) & 12 | All conditions removed through this amendment issued 15 November 2016 | N/A                                 | Conditions were removed as they were determined to duplicate regulation under Part IV of the EP Act.   |
| Discharge to water: 13(a)   | Removed   | Condition 7, Table 5                | Monitoring of the sewage inflow reincorporated into input/output monitoring requirements.  |
| Discharge to water: 13(b) Table 4; 13(c); 13(d) & 13(e); and 14           | Removed   | Condition 6, Table 4; Condition 5   | In consultation with licence holder, conditions related to the monitoring of treated wastewater have been re-instated on the new licence, noting these monitoring requirements are not specified under Ministerial Statement 755. Includes standard conditions related to standards for sampling, testing and time periods between samples (Erroneously removed from the licence conditions previously). |
| Discharge to land: 15(a) & 15(b)  | Removed   | Condition 2, Table 2                | Re-instated and incorporated in new standard waste processing condition as process requirements.   |
| N/A   | Waste acceptance: Condition 4, Table 1                                | Condition 1, Table 1                | Condition transferred, new numbering only.   |
| N/A   | Waste processing: Condition 5, Table 2                                | Condition 2, Table 2                | Condition transferred with minor change to process requirement for sludges.  |
| N/A   | Containment infrastructure: Condition 6, Table 3                      | Condition 3, Table 3                | Condition transferred, new numbering only.   |

| Licence conditions L8434/2010/1 as amended 24 April 2013 | Changes applied through Amendment Notice 1           | New condition / table (if relevant)                 | Description and rationale   |
|--|--|---|---|
| N/A  | Condition 7  | Condition 4   | Condition transferred, new numbering only.  |
| N/A  | Monitoring of inputs & outputs: Condition 8, Table 4 | Condition 7, Table 5                                | Condition transferred, new numbering only.  |
| N/A  | N/A  | Conditions 11 & 12                                  | Current licence template standard records/auditable books requirements.                   |
| Definitions  | N/A  | Table 7   | Definitions table updated as per current licence template. Redundant definitions removed. |
| Schedule 1   | N/A  | Premises map  | Updated map (Figure 1) inserted.  |
|  |  | Infrastructure layout & wastewater monitoring point | New map (Figure 2) inserted.  |
|  |  | WWTP Process diagram                                | New plan (Figure 3) included.   |

## 6. Consultation

The Delegated Officer undertook the consultation for the application to renew the licence as per Table 3.

**Table 3: Consultation**

| Consultation method   | Comments received  | Delegated Officer's response  |
|---|--|---|
| Application advertised on the department's website on 30 March 2023 | None received  | N/A   |
| Local Government Authority advised of application on 30 March 2023  | None received  | N/A   |
| Applicant was provided with draft documents on 28 April 2023        | Response received on 16 May 2023. Updated site map provided showing the treated wastewater monitoring point & minor change requested to Condition 2 / Table 2 wording with regards to waste description for waste taken off-site for further treatment / disposal. | Delegated Officer accepted licence holder explanation and proposed change regarding removal of term biosolid/s, noting that waste in the form of thickened sludge is transported off-site to the Applicants Beenyup facility for further treatment. |