



Application to renew a licence

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

Licence Number	L8563/2011/2
Licence Holder	Water Corporation
ABN	28 033 434 917
File Number	2011/004639
Premises	Hopetoun Wastewater Treatment Plant Steeredale Road HOPETOUN WA 6348 Legal description - Lot 10 on Deposited Plan 58973 Volume 2699 and Folio 863
Date of Report	22/08/2024
Decision	To grant a licence

Neville Welsh
SENIOR INDUSTRY LICENSING OFFICER
INDUSTRY REGULATION
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 L8563/2011/1 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 issued prior to the replacement licence;
- remove redundant conditions;
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements);
- revise licence conditions and consolidate existing pollution control conditions;
- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors;
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the new licence; and
- incorporate Amendment Notice 1 dated 29 October 2028 into licence L8563/2011/2.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L8563/2011/2 subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Application summary

On 28 March 2024, Water Corporation (licence holder) applied to renew licence L8653/2011/1, as the licence is due to expire on 24 August 2024. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located at Lot 10 of Deposited Plan 58973, Steerdale Road, Hopetoun (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 (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Production / design capacity
Category 54: Sewage facility	220 cubic metres per day

The Hopetoun wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) services the town of Hopetoun and consists of two aerated ponds, two secondary ponds, a storage dam and evaporation pond. As a result of low inflow, all treated wastewater is stored and evaporated in the storage dam with no discharge to the evaporation pond.

The licence holder has also requested amendments to the licence relating to the removal of a groundwater monitoring bore and for the reporting requirements to be updated in accordance with the departments 'Notice of amendment of reporting requirements 2022'.

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: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position* October 2022.

Given this is an administrative licence renewal the removal of monitoring bore MW11 from condition 3 of the licence cannot be undertaken. A risk assessment is required to assess the acceptability of the remaining monitoring bores to adequately monitor groundwater impacts from the premises on the public drinking source areas located less than 1 km south of the premises.

It is noted that MW11 is located east of the premises however, groundwater generally flows in a southerly direction towards the P1 and P2 priority protection areas (Hopetoun Water Reserve Public Drinking Water Source Area). An application to amend the licence is to be submitted with the relevant supporting information, this can be located on the departmental website.

With regards to the reporting conditions for an Annual Environmental Report (AER) and Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR) this has been updated in accordance with the departments 'Notice of amendment of reporting requirements 2022', please refer to Table 2 below.

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 [DWER Regulatory documents | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/department-of-water-and-environmental-regulation/regulatory-documents)

4. Considerations for issuing a new licence

4.1 Compliance and enforcement actions

There have been 4 incidents or complaints identified at the Premises by the department in the last five years relating to non-compliances with licence conditions and a wastewater discharge event to the environment, with no enforcement actions taken against the occupier.

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 for which the licence holder currently holds a licence and which was previously assessed.

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 a licence. Most licenses 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 the premises.

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

Current condition / table	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
1	1	Transferred without change.
2	2	Transferred without change.
3	5	Transferred without change.
4	3	Transferred without change. Monitoring bore (MW11) has not been removed as this requires a risk assessment.
5	4	Transferred without change.
6	6	Transferred without change.
7	7	Transferred without change.
8	8	Transferred without change.
9	9	Transferred without change.
10	14	Transferred without change.
11	13	Transferred without change.
N/A	10, 11 & 12	New administrative conditions included as per licence template.
Attachment 1	N/A	The AACR attachment has been removed as this is required under condition 13 plus the approved form is available from the department's website.

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 May 2024.	No submissions received.	None required.
Local Government Authority (LGA) advised of application on 30 May 2024.	No comments provided by stakeholder. On 27 June 2024, a follow up email was sent to LGA however, no response was received.	None required.
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 28 June 2024 with a response provided on 22 July 2024.	Please refer to Appendix 1.	Please refer to Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Summary of applicant's comments on draft conditions

Condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
Cover page - ACN	Water Corporation has an ABN not an ACN.	ABN has been updated on licence.
3 – Electrical conductivity	Remove parameter from Groundwater monitoring bore and sampling point 1.	This is a standard field parameter included in most licences for sampling and monitoring programs and shall remain in the licence.
3 – BOD	Units not specified.	The omitted units for BOD have now been included (mg/L) under the sampling and monitoring program for Sampling Point 1.
5 – Biennial not annual	Change of wording from 'annual' to 'biennial' in condition.	Condition has now been updated to require 'monthly flow results shall be presented in the biennial environmental report in a tabular form'.
6 - 9 Records and reporting	The recording and reporting requirements for treated wastewater discharged to the environment is not necessary as Water Corporation already reports through an internal automatic notification system.	These are standard recording and reporting conditions for all Water Corporation licences and shall remain in this licence.
Schedule 1 – Figure 2: Maps	Image in Figure 2 does not include MW11.	Water Corporation provided an updated map including the location of MW11, that has been included in the licence.