



Application for Licence

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

Licence Number	L9273/2020/1
Applicant	Water Corporation
ACN	28 033 434 917
File Number	2011/000052-1~4
Premises	Mount Barker Waste Water Treatment Plant Lot 610 on Plan 187856 and Lot 676 on Plan 175884 Crown Reserve 26367 Mount Barker WA 6324 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 2 of the Licence
Date of Report	11 February 2021
Decision	Licence granted

A/MANAGER, WASTE INDUSTRIES REGULATORY SERVICES

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

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1. Purpose and scope of assessment

1.1 Regulatory framework

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

1.2 Application summary

On 4 December 2020 the Water Corporation submitted an application for a replacement licence for the Mount Barker Waste Water Treatment Plant. This site was previously licensed under L6314/1991/12 until it ceased in accordance with Section 5DA(5) of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) due to the non-payment of an annual licence fee. The applicant has confirmed that there has not been any material changes made to the premises; infrastructure within the premises; and/or activities undertaken at the premises.

Due to the administrative nature of this application, no additional risk assessment has been conducted for this premises. A copy of the original Decision Document completed for the premises is attached as Appendix 2 of this Decision Report for reference.

1.3 Consolidation of Licence

As part of this replacement licence, DWER has updated the licence by incorporating the following changes:

- updated the format and appearance of the licence;
- revised licence condition numbers, and removed any redundant conditions and realigned condition numbers for numerical consistency; and
- corrected clerical mistakes and unintentional errors.

The obligations of the licence holder have not changed in updating the licence. DWER has not undertaken any additional risk assessment of the Premises as a part of this process.

2. Overview of Premises

The Water Corporation operates the Mount Barker Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mount Barker. This licence is the successor to licence L6314/1991/12. Table 1 provides the history for L6314/1991/12.

Table 2 provides the prescribed premises category for the replacement licence: L9273/2020/1.

Table 1: Licence history

Instrument	Issued	Description
L6314/1991/12	29 April 2016	<i>Notice of Amendment of Licence Expiry Dates, Section 59B(9) and Section 59(1)(k) Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> to extend the expiry date.
L6314/1991/12	22 December 2017	Amendment Notice for construction and operation of an additional 2.4 ML storage pond at the Premises.
L6314/1991/12	26 September 2019	Licence Amendment to extend licence duration by 4 years and remove the conditions of Amendment Notice dated 22 December 2017

Licence: L9273/2020/1

Instrument	Issued	Description
L9273/2020/1	11/02/2021	Issue of replacement licence

Table 2: Prescribed Premises Category in the Existing Licence

Category	Description	Approved Premises design capacity
54	Sewage facility: premises — (a) on which sewage is treated (excluding septic tanks); or (b) from which treated sewage is discharged onto land or into waters.	1280 cubic metres per day

3. Consultation

Table 3 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 3: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 20 January 2021	<i>See appendix 1</i>	<i>See appendix 1</i>

4. Conclusion

The Delegated Officer has determined that the replacement of the licence with no material changes made to the premises; infrastructure within the premises; and/or activities undertaken at the premises is an administrative function which does not alter the risk profile of the premises. Operations shall be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of licence, and there is to be no change in the potential emissions associated with the operation of the facility.

4.1 Summary of changes

Table 4 provides a summary of the proposed changes to the revised licence and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the replacement of licence process.

Table 4: Licence conversion map for new licence format

Existing Licence condition/table/schedule	Condition Summary	Revised Licence condition/table/schedule/attachment	Conversion notes
Definitions	n/a	Definitions, Table 4	Definitions moved to the back of the document
Conditions 1 and Table 2	Authorised emissions	Outdated condition and table	Condition and table removed.
Condition 2	Reuse of treated wastewater	No change	Moved under heading 'discharges of water' under emissions and discharges section
Condition 3	Wastewater discharge point	No change	Moved under heading 'discharges of water' under emissions and discharges section
Condition 4 Table 3	Infrastructure and equipment	Condition 1 Table 1	Renumbered condition and table only
Condition 5	Sampling and monitoring program	Condition 6	Renumbered condition
Condition 6	Handling of water samples	Condition 7	Renumbered condition
Condition 7	Samples analysed in NATA accredited laboratory	Condition 8	Renumbered condition
Table 4	Sampling and Monitoring program	Table 2	Renumber table
Condition 8	Calculation of contaminant load	Condition 9	Renumbered condition
Table 5	Calculation of contaminant load	Table 3	Renumber table
Condition 9	Vegetation and floating debris	Condition 4	Renumbered condition
Condition 10	Maintenance, removal of sludge, direct sewage sludge to hardstand, and return to treatment pond.	Condition 5	Renumbered condition

Existing Licence condition/table/schedule	Condition Summary	Revised Licence condition/table/schedule/attachment	Conversion notes
Condition 11	Maintain books	Condition 10	Renumbered condition
Condition 12	Complaints recording	Condition 11	Renumbered condition
Condition 13	Compliance report	Condition 12	Renumbered condition
Condition 14	Annual environmental report	Condition 13	Renumbered condition
Condition 15	Comply with Department request	Condition 14	Renumbered condition
Condition 16	Reporting of discharge within 72 hours	Condition 15	Renumbered condition
Condition 17	Details of discharge	Condition 16	Renumbered condition. Condition references condition 16 in licence, now references condition 15
Condition 18	Investigation into discharge	Condition 17	Renumbered condition. Condition references condition 16 in licence, now references condition 15
Condition 19	Provide report on investigation into discharge within 7 working days	Condition 18	Renumbered condition. Renumbered condition. Condition references condition 18 in licence, now references condition 17
N/A	N/A	Schedule 2 – coordinates table	A coordinates table was added to the new licence to define the boundary of the Prescribed Premises. The coordinates were supplied by the Water Corporation, after being requested by DWER during assessment.

References

1. DER July 2015. Guidance Statement: Regulatory principles. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
2. DER, October 2015. Guidance Statement: Setting conditions. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
3. DER, August 2016. Guidance Statement: Licence duration. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
4. DER, February 2017. Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
5. DWER, June 2019. Guideline: Decision Making. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth. Accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au

Appendix 1: Summary of applicant's comments

Condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
Condition 8 Table 2 Row 4 -	Sampling frequency (every month of the year is listed). Change text instead to 'monthly' Simplifies - avoids confusion	Noted and amendment from listing each month of the year, to just monthly.
Condition 8 Table 2 –	with reference to pH Include superscript 1 next to pH so that it is included in the footnote at bottom of table saying In field non-NATA accredited analysis permitted. As per other Licences and arrangement with DWER.	Noting the potential for pH to change rapidly from the field to the lab. Non-NATA accredited in field analysis has been permitted.
Condition 8 Table 2	first column, with 'Row 1...Row 4' This column apparently serves no purpose and could be removed Simplify - avoid confusion	Removed from table
Condition 10 b	Should refer to condition 1, refers to condition 4	Changed references to updated condition numbers
Condition 10 c	Should refer to condition 6, refers to condition 5	Changed references to updated condition numbers
Condition 10 d	Should refer to condition 15, refers to condition 16	Changed references to updated condition numbers
Condition 10 e	Should refer to condition 11, refers to condition 12	Changed references to updated condition numbers

Appendix 2: Original Decision Document – L6314/1991/12

Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Proponent: Water Corporation

Licence: L6314/1991/12

Registered office: 629 Newcastle Street
LEEDERVILLE WA 6007

Premises address: Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant
Lot 610 on Plan 187856 and Lot 575 on Plan 175884
MOUNT BARKER WA 6324
Being Lot 610 on Plan 187856 and Lot 575 on Plan 175884 as depicted in Schedule 1

Issue date: Monday, 26 October 2015

Commencement date: Sunday, 1 November 2015

Expiry date: Saturday, 31 October 2016

Decision

Based on the assessment detailed in this document the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has decided to issue a licence. DER considers that in reaching this decision, it has taken into account all relevant considerations.

Decision Document prepared by: Peter van Schoubroeck
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: Caron Goodbourn
Delegated Officer

5. Contents

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1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application and provides a record of DER's decision-making process and how relevant factors have been taken into account. Stakeholders should note that this document is limited to DER's assessment and decision making under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Other approvals may be required for the proposal, and it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they have all relevant approvals for their Premises.

2 Administrative summary

Administrative details		
Application type	Works Approval <input type="checkbox"/> New Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Licence amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Works Approval amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	
Activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity
	54	1280 cubic metres per day
Application verified	Date: 11/08/2015	
Application fee paid	Date: 20/08/2015	
Works Approval has been complied with	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Compliance Certificate received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial-in-confidence claim	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial-in-confidence claim outcome	None applicable	
Is the proposal a Major Resource Project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Was the proposal referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal subject to Ministerial Conditions?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: EPA Report No:
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Water consulted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environmental Protection South West Agriculture Zone Wetlands Policy 1998.</i>		
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

3 Executive summary of proposal and assessment

The Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP) is located within the Shire of Plantagenet about 1.3 kilometres north east of the Mount Barker town centre. Under the Shire of Plantagenet local planning scheme land located adjacent to the west is zoned public purpose and land location adjacent to the north, south and extending eastwards is

zoned recreational. The local high school (buildings located about 850 m northwest) occupies most of the land further north and west and land to the south is zoned rural residential. The nearest residential neighbours are located about 350 m south of the Premises.

The MWWTP operated at a 160 kL/ day capacity since about 1991 until under works approval W4263/1991/1 the MWWTP was upgraded in 2009 to a 320 m³/ day dry weather organic treatment capacity via the installation of a secondary primary pond. The peak inflow capacity of the MWWTP is 1280 m³/ day. Treated wastewater from the MWWTP is provided to the Omrah Vineyard under a reuse arrangement, these accounts for up to 80 ML per year of the discharge from the MWWTP. The reuse arrangement is intended to account for all discharges of wastewater from the MWWTP.

The MWWTP has been subject to periodic discharges to the environment of partially treated sewage over more than a decade. Table 1 provides a summary of the known discharge history since 2010, following the last upgrade to the MWWTP. Discharges to the MWWTP, cause by overflow, discharge into to the environment via an ephemeral creek which flows to north east and falls within the Oyster Harbour catchment. The creek passes through land occupied by the Department of Education and subsequent private land holders. The cause of the discharges is attributed to elevated inflows to the MWWTP which results in overflow of the ponds.

The current MWWTP consists of the following operations and infrastructure:

- Two primary treatment ponds with two 2.2 kW aerators each;
- Secondary, tertiary and polishing pond;
- Spillways connecting all pond, including the polishing pond spillway to the environment;
- A total pond holding capacity of ~15,000 kL;
- Reuse off-take pump station; and
- Sludge drying bed.

Discharges of treated wastewater to land are managed by treating wastewater before transfer of up to 80 ML per year to the Omrah Vineyard storage dam prior to onsite irrigation. Sludge waste is stored within Geotube installations with leachate returned to the wastewater treatment system.

This Licence is the successor to licence L6314/1991/11 and includes the following changes:

- Administrative updates, including contact details for the Department of Environment Regulation and condition numbering;
- Addition of a condition to ensure that emissions not authorised through the licence comply with the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (new condition 1).
- Addition of a condition to authorise the installation of an additional storage tank within the wastewater reuse system;
- Removal of a condition specific to odour emissions;
- Removal of a condition specific to sludge disposal requirements; and
- Addition of a condition for the assessment of overflow events at the Premises, associated risks and options to mitigate the risks.

The emission risks associated with the treatment of sewerage and discharge of treated wastewater from the MWWTP have not been assessed as part of the Licence except for fugitive odour emissions.

4 Decision table

All applications are assessed in line with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and DER's Operational Procedure on Assessing Emissions and Discharges from Prescribed Premises. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision document.

DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
General conditions	L1 and L2	<p>Operation</p> <p>Condition 1 has been included to ensure that emissions at the Premises not authorised through the licence comply with the provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p>Condition 1 has been included to ensure that the proposed upgrade to the treated wastewater reuse system with the addition of a 25 kL storage tank and a submerged pump is undertaken within the design specifications.</p> <p>Condition 10 in licence version L6314/1991/11 has been removed from the Licence. The management and disposal of sludge and biosolid waste outside of the prescribed premises is beyond the provisions of the licence. Management of such waste is regulated by the General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p>	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Emissions to land including monitoring	L6	<p>Operation</p> <p>Condition 5 (being condition 4 in licence version L6314/1991/11) has been amended to clarify relevant monitoring locations and methods.</p>	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>

Fugitive emissions (Odour)	N/A	<p>Operation</p> <p><u>Emission Description</u></p> <p><i>Emission:</i> Odour may be generated from the WWTTP treatment process, sludge storage compound and as a result of abnormal operating conditions.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> Interference with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of sensitive commercial and residential receptors is possible. Potential receptors include the local high school (buildings located about 850 m northwest), the nearest residential neighbours are located about 350 m south of the Premises. No odour complaints have been identified in association with the operations at the MWWTP in recent years.</p> <p><i>Controls:</i> Liquid waste is treated and maintained within the pond system. Sludge is managed via geotube installations.</p> <p><u>Risk assessment:</u></p> <p><i>Consequence:</i> Minor</p> <p><i>Likelihood:</i> Unlikely</p> <p><i>Risk Rating:</i> Moderate</p> <p><u>Regulatory Controls</u></p> <p>It is considered that the provisions of Section 49 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> are sufficient to regulate potential fugitive (odour) emissions from the liquid waste facility and any other fugitive emissions arising from activities at the Premises. Condition 11 in licence version L6314/1991/11 has been removed from the Licence.</p> <p><u>Risk assessment:</u></p> <p><i>Consequence:</i> Minor</p> <p><i>Likelihood:</i> Rare</p> <p><i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p>	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Licence Duration	N/A	This Licence will be issued for one year, until late 2016. This timeframe takes into consideration the factors within the document <i>Guidance statement: licence duration</i> . No other statutory approvals have been identified as limiting the timeframe for the issue of this Licence. The risk of emissions and associated assessment of those emissions has not been completed as part of this licence reissue.	Department of Environment Regulation 2015, <i>Guidance</i>

DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
		Subsequently consideration for 20 year licence duration can be considered in accordance with the <i>Guidance Statement: Licence duration.</i>	<i>statement: Licence duration</i> General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>

5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
31/08/2015	Application advertised in West Australian (or other relevant newspaper)	None applicable	None applicable
02/10/2015	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	Labelling of monitoring locations and capacity of treatment system clarified	Labelling of monitoring locations and capacity of treatment system details updated
26/10/2015	Instrument issue was advertised in West Australian		

6. Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No. 07 - Operational Risk Management

Table 1: Emissions Risk Matrix

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Rare	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High