



Annual Audit Compliance Report Form

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Section A – Licence Details			
Licence number:	L5989/1991/12	Licence file number:	2010/002537
Licence holder:	Water Corporation		
Trading as:	Northam Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)		
ABN:	28 003 434 917		
Registered address:	629 Newcastle Street, LEEDERVILLE, WA 6007		
Reporting period:	01 / 07 / 2022 to 30 / 06 / 2023		

Section B – Statement of Compliance with Licence Conditions
Did you comply with all of your licence conditions during the reporting period? (please tick the appropriate box)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• section C;• section D if required; and• sign the declaration in Section F.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – please complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• section C;• section D if required;• section E; and• sign the declaration at Section F.

Section C – Statement of Actual Production	
Provide the actual production quantity for this reporting period. Supporting documentation is to be attached.	
Prescribed Premises Category	Actual Production Quantity
54	Inflow 1602 m ³ /day

Section D – Statement of Actual Part 2 Waste Discharge Quantity	
Provide the actual Part 2 waste discharge quantity for this reporting period. Supporting documentation is to be attached.	
Prescribed Premises Category	Actual Part 2 Waste Discharge Quantity
Not Applicable	

Section E – Details of Non-Compliance with Licence Condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	10	Date(s) of non-compliance:	01/08/2023
Details of non-compliance:			
Condition 10 of the licence requires that monthly sampling be undertaken at determined locations downstream and upstream of our regulated discharge point when discharge to the Avon River occurs. Access to the river at the 1.5km and 2.7km downstream. can only be made safely through private property where the landowner has denied access. Samples were not able to be taken following several requests to do so for the months of August, September and October 2022, and April, May & June 2023.			
What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance? NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.			
The non-compliance is administrative in nature and has no direct negative impact to environmental receptors. However, we are unable to validate that treated wastewater discharge to the Avon River is not impacting the environment without the sampling data.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
Restriction of safe access to sampling points through private property.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
Investigation into alternative access routes to safely sample surface water downstream of the WRRF is ongoing.			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER? No			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date: / /	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date:	

Section E – Details of Non-Compliance with Licence Condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	Category 54- Assessed design capacity	Date(s) of non-compliance:	01/07/2021 - 30/06/2022
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>The Northam WRRF is licensed for an inflow capacity of 1,500m³/day. Due to an increase in inflow, the WRRF averaged 1,602m³/day inflow throughout the 2022/2023 reporting period.</p> <p>There were 177 days of the reporting period where the inflows exceeded 1500m³/day.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance? NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
<p>There are no discernible environmental impacts from the increase in average daily inflow capacity. Nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) and pathogen concentrations measured in 2022/23 were within historical range, showing that the increased flows had not impacted the treated wastewater discharge quality.</p>			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
<p>The increase in inflow can be partially attributed to higher than average rainfall in August and September of the reporting period. Stormwater ingress into the Northam sewer conveyance network is currently being investigated and remedied, via the sewer relining and illegal connection program.</p>			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
<p>As discussed above the Corporation has committed to restoration works of the conveyance network such as relining deteriorated sections of pipe, replacing manhole covers, relining wet wells and undertaking an investigation into industrial, commercial and residential illegal stormwater connections. This investigation will continue over the FY 23/24 period.</p>			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER? Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date: / /	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date: AACR August 2018	

Section E – Details of Non-Compliance with Licence Condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	4(b)	Date(s) of non-compliance:	17/08/2022
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Between 1 August and the 17 of August 2022 Northam received 139.9mm of rain (Bureau of Meteorology). Due to issues with the wastewater conveyance network, this rainfall resulted in a wastewater overflow of Pond No.3 at the WRRF. An overtopping event of 1,500L was the estimated volume that was lost from the treatment pond. It was contained shortly after it occurred. No wastewater flowed to the Avon river.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance? NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
<p>The 1,500L estimated to be lost from Pond No.3 was partially recovered and fed back into the pond system for completion of the wastewater treatment process. All discharge was contained within the bounds of the licensed premises site. Residual risk to health and the environment as a result of the overflow was assessed and considered low.</p>			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
It is suspected that there is a number of stormwater inundation points within the wastewater conveyance network.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
Asset investigations are currently underway to ascertain where the stormwater inundation points into the conveyance network are. As per written communications with DWER, investigations are inclusive of the placement of 25 data loggers within the conveyance network to map abnormal flows as well as the inclusion of fluorescent dye into the stormwater network to see where any infiltration/connections may be. Finding these points and rectifying them (in the short and long term) will assist in maintaining freeboard in the secondary treatment ponds during heavy rainfall events.			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date: / /	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date: 03/03/2021	

Section E – Details of Non-Compliance with Licence Condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	4(c)	Date(s) of non-compliance:	26/07/2023
Details of non-compliance:			
Water balance conducted by the Water Corporation found a daily seepage between 166 and 837 kL/day (average ~420 kL/day). The water balance is unable to determine if the seepage is coming from just one pond or all four treatment ponds.			
What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance? NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.			
Elevated concentrations of nutrients and metals have been recorded in groundwater down-hydraulic gradient of the treatment ponds and adjacent to the Avon River with elevated total nitrogen and nitrate concentrations above the ecological guidelines. Ongoing groundwater monitoring is being conducted through the contaminated sites investigation to assess the potential impact on Avon River.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
It is suspected that one or more of the treatment ponds are seeping wastewater.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
The Corporation activated a project in the 2021/22 reporting period in order to upgrade the Northam WRRF to increase treatment capacity to 2,000 kL/day, upgrade treatment ponds and improve discharge quality.			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date: / /	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date: / /	

Section F – Declaration			
I/We declare that the information in this Annual Audit Compliance Report is true and correct and is not false or misleading in a material particular ¹ . I/We consent to the Annual Audit Compliance Report being published on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) website.			
Signature ² :		Signature:	
Name: (printed)		Name: (printed)	
Position:	General Manager Operations Group	Position:	
Date:	26 SEPT 2023	Date:	
Seal (if signing under seal):			

¹ It is an offence under section 112 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for a person to give information on this form that to their knowledge is false or misleading in a material particular.

² AACRs can only be signed by the licence holder or an authorised person with the legal authority to sign on behalf of the licence holder.