



Annual Audit Compliance Report Form

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V Division 3

Once completed, please submit this form either via email to info@dwer.wa.gov.au, or to the below postal address:

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC WA 6919

Section A – Licence details			
Licence number:	L6870/1993/12	Licence file number:	NWK2029-02
Licence holder name:	Shire of East Pilbara		
Trading as:	Shire of East Pilbara		
ACN:			
Registered business address:	PMB Box 22 Newman WA 6753		
Reporting period:	01 / 09 / 2022 to 31 / 08 / 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 in 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	546.14 ML

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
54	546.14 ML

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:	01	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2022
Details of non-compliance:			
Vegetation has grown in the Treated Effluent Holding Pond, during the entire reporting period.			
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.			
Non-compliance due to vegetation grown in the treated water does not have any actual or suspected environmental impact.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
Filamentous Green Algae has grown in the Treated Effluent Holding Pond as a result of the nutrient levels in the water and the change of temperature between seasons. Analysis of samples were unable to determine the species, however, the algae genus was confirmed as <i>Microspora</i> . Typical Algaecide is being sprayed regularly to reduce the growth and have been effective for a short span of time. Algaecide has not been entirely effective in dealing with the 'bloom', so alternative treatment options are being investigated.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
No such adverse effects from the non-compliance have been observed, in order to manage the non-compliance samples of algae have been analysed and genus determined as <i>Microspora</i> . External consultants have been unable to determine best means of management/removal of the growth. Algaecide has proven ineffective to eradicate the vegetation, the use of diatoms is now being investigated. The consultant has confirmed that the algae poses no direct health and safety or environmental risk.			
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: 23 / 03 /2023	

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:	05	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2022
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Discharge of excess treated effluent to a managed wetland area. Usually, the treated effluent is utilized for the Shire’s irrigation supplies, however, when there is not sufficient irrigation demand to utilise the entire volume of treated effluent (Class A irrigation water), the remaining volume is discharged to the BHP Wetland area. It should be noted that the wastewater treatment plant was designed by BHP in 1981 with the wetland created as a discharge point. Excluding the wetland from the plants process disrupts the operation and the plant is unable to function effectively.</p> <p>This activity was first advised to the DEP in 2002 and is in accordance with DEP approval dated 4 December 2002. The Shire applied to DWER for a licence amendment to discharged treated effluent to the BHP Wetland area in October 2020.</p> <p>Shire received new administrative Licence Renewal issued for twenty year duration on 28/07/2023 (L6870/1993/13). The licence allows discharge of up to 0.5ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point. Additionally; in the event of an emergency, the licence holder may discharge up to 2ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point for a period or cumulative periods not exceeding one month per annual period in accordance with notification condition 18.</p> <p>Following the Shire submission of the application for a licence amendment the daily incoming flow volume significantly increased. As such more than 0.5ML was discharged to the BHP Wetland site during the reporting period. It has been calculated that during the reporting period an average of 0.62 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland area for the reporting period September 2022 to August 2023.</p> <p>Works approval to undertake major upgrade works to the WWTP infrastructure to facilitate continued operation and cessation of discharge to the Emergency Discharge Point by 2027 has been submitted to the department in April 2022 and is currently awaiting the final draft approval.</p>			
What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?			
<p>NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. Due to the water quality being produced, the Shire of East Pilbara does not believe there has been any actual or is any suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition	
<p>The increase in incoming wastewater entering and exceeding the plant design limit of 2ML/Day, and limited discharge capacity through the Newman Recycled Water Irrigation Network infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:</p>	
<p>All discharged water is treated effluent which is applied at specified locations in the Town of Newman for irrigation purposes under the DoH WA Recycled Water Scheme F-M-00769/D58 and is high quality (Class A) treated effluent irrigation water. If out of quality water is discharged the Shire will complete an S72 and send that to DWER at the time the discharge takes place. This did not occur during the reporting period. Additionally, the BHP Wetland area receives the same Class A quality treated effluent and is restricted to the general public, and therefore does not pose a health or safety risk.</p> <p>The Shire has investigated the options to increase storage on/off site which are included in the plant upgrade works, and increase the irrigation capacity of the Recycled Water Network to use the total of the treated effluent. This is being completed in conjunction with the upgrade of the WWTP.</p> <p>An average of 0.12 ML less effluent has been discharged to the BHP Wetland area during the reporting period 2022 -2023 than 2021 -2022.</p>	
<p>Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally</p>	<p>Date: 27/ 07 / 2021 (Ongoing)</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing</p>	<p>Date: 01/ 10 / 2002 (Ongoing)</p>

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:	06	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2022
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Discharge of excess treated effluent to a managed wetland area. Usually, the treated effluent is utilized for the Shire’s irrigation supplies, however, when there is not sufficient irrigation demand to utilise the entire volume of treated effluent (Class A irrigation water). The remaining volume is discharged to the BHP Wetland area. It should be noted that the wastewater treatment plant was designed by BHP in 1981 with the wetland created as a discharge point. Excluding the wetland from the plants process disrupts the operation and the plant is unable to function effectively.</p> <p>This activity was first advised to the DEP in 2002 and is in accordance with DEP approval dated 4 December 2002. The Shire applied to DWER for a licence amendment to discharged treated effluent to the BHP Wetland area in October 2020.</p> <p>Shire received a new administrative Licence Renewal issued for twenty year duration on 28/07/2023 (L6870/1993/13). The licence allows discharge of up to 0.5ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point. Additionally; in the event of an emergency, the licence holder may discharge up to 2ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point for a period or cumulative periods not exceeding one month per annual period in accordance with notification condition18.</p> <p>Following the Shire’s submission of the application for a licence amendment, the daily incoming flow volume significantly increased. As such, more than 0.5ML was discharged to the BHP Wetland site during the reporting period. It has been calculated that during the reporting period an average of 0.62 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland area for the reporting period September 2022 to August 2023.</p> <p>Works approval to undertake major upgrade works to the WWTP infrastructure to facilitate continued operation and cessation of discharge to the Emergency Discharge Point by 2027 has been submitted to the department in April 2022.</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.			
Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. The Shire of East Pilbara does not believe there has been any actual or is any suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition	
The increase in incoming wastewater entering the plant, and limited discharge capacity through the Newman Recycled Water Irrigation Network.	
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:	
<p>All discharged water is treated effluent which is applied at specific locations in the Town of Newman for irrigation purposes under the DoH WA Recycled Water Scheme F-M-00769/D58 and is high quality (Class A) treated effluent irrigation water. If out of quality water is discharged the Shire will complete an S72 and send that to DWER at the time the discharge takes place. This did not occur during the reporting period. Additionally, the BHP Wetland area receives the same Class A quality treated effluent and is restricted to the general public, and therefore does not pose a health or safety risk.</p> <p>The Shire has investigated the options to increase storage on/off site which are included in the plant upgrade works, and increase the irrigation capacity of the Recycled Water Network to use the total of the treated effluent. This is being completed in conjunction with the upgrade of the WWTP. The Shire will progress the treated effluent diversion(s), in order to meet the licence condition to cease discharge to the BHP Wetlands by the 31/12/2027.</p> <p>An average of 0.12 ML less effluent has been discharged to the BHP Wetland area during the reporting period 2022 -2023 than 2021 -2022.</p>	
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally	Date: 27 / 07 / 2021 (Ongoing)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing	Date: 01 / 10 /2002 (Ongoing)

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:	12	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2022
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Non-compliant, there is no suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes of effluent discharged to the BHP wetland area. The volume is currently assumed to be the difference between the inflow volume and the discharge to the Shire’s Recycled Water Scheme Irrigation areas.</p> <p>There is no suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes of effluent discharged from the WWTP to the BHP Wetland area. Cumulative effluent discharge volumes discharged to the Newman Recycled Water Network are measured with a suitable device (flowmeter). However, effluent discharge volumes to the BHP Wetland area are determined by calculating the different between the Incoming flows and the effluent discharged to the Recycled Water Network. This calculation does not consider other factors such as evaporation or added precipitation.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?</p> <p>NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
Shire of East Pilbara does not believe there has been any actual or is any suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
Ambiguity in Licence condition. Interpretation of what is deemed a 'suitable device'.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
A suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes will be incorporated to the new plant design.			
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: 23/ 03 / 2023	

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 particular¹.

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:	A/Director Infrastructure Services	Position:	Coordinator WWTP & LWF
Date:	14 / 03 / 2024	Date:	14 / 03 / 2024
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.