



Application to replace expiring licence

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

Licence Number	L5952/1991/12
Applicant	Water Corporation
File Number	DEC10219/1
Premises	Busselton Water Resource Recovery Facility 348 Queen Elizabeth Avenue AMBERGATE WA 6280 Legal description Lot 4680 on Deposited Plan 203019 As defined by the premises map in Schedule 1
Date of Report	28 October 2021
Status of Report	Final

Jane Dalin
Senior Environmental Officer
Industry Regulation

An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the EP Act

1. Application summary

On 18 August 2021 the Water Corporation (Licence Holder) applied to renew licence L5952/1991/11 as the licence is due to expire on 31 October 2021. The Premises is located at Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Ambergate, approximately 3.5 kilometres SSW of the Busselton townsite. The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described below in Table 1.

Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Assessed design capacity
Category 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.	6,750 m ³ /day
Category 61: Liquid Waste Facility - Premises on which liquid waste produced on other premises (other than sewerage waste) is stored, reprocessed, treated or irrigated.	Up to 30 000 tonnes per annual period

The main activities occurring on the premises are the receipt, handling, treatment, storage and disposal of sewage from the reticulated system and other specified liquid wastes (controlled wastes) delivered by tanker to the premises.

The premises includes two managed wetlands (the northern and southern engineered wetlands) authorised to receive treated wastewater that periodically discharges via gauged and monitored outlets into the Vasse Sub Drain A which discharges to Geographe Bay via the Vasse Diversion Drain. Tertiary treated wastewater is otherwise directly discharged off-site for re-use over the summer months. Treated wastewater surplus to reuse requirements in summer is directed to the onsite wetlands, in addition to all treated wastewater being directed to the onsite wetlands over winter. Two clay-lined storage ponds provide optional storage capacity for the tertiary treated wastewater prior to its discharge either to offsite reuse or into the southern wetland.

Significant upgrades to the treatment plant infrastructure were undertaken in accordance with a works approval issued in 2010 (W4807/2010/1). The renewed licence includes a condition that details the current infrastructure and equipment and all relevant associated operational requirements. These upgrades were initiated from the Environmental Protection Authority, Bulletin 945, Busselton Wastewater Treatment and Disposal, Water Corporation Report and Recommendations, July 1999 and Ministerial Statement 000529, Wastewater Disposal, Busselton Wastewater Treatment Plant Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Busselton, December 1999.

2. Regulatory framework

The Delegated Officer has determined to undertake an administrative renewal of the licence and has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the premises in line with the Department's *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position*.

In replacing the licence, the department has considered and given due regard to its regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

3. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer has determined to grant the licence L5952/1991/12 without conducting any additional assessment or risk assessment.

The existing prescribed premises categories and waste types authorised for acceptance have not been reviewed as part of this renewal. The replacement licence will be issued for 20 years.

In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- update the format and appearance of the licence;
- remove redundant definitions and conditions and add new definitions as required;
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements); and
- transfer all relevant existing regulatory controls and conditions to the renewed licence.

As a result of this decision, a renewed Licence L5952/1991/12 has been granted subject to conditions set out in the attached licence and summarised below.

3.1 Summary of administrative changes

Section 62 of the EP Act provides general power to impose conditions on licences. All licences are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) for the purposes of the EP Act to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or environmental harm.

Table 2 summarises the transfer of all appropriate conditions from the expiring licence into the renewed licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes made.

Table 2: Licence conditions description and rationale

Licence condition number	Summary - previous licence condition	Conversion notes	New licence condition number
Cover page	Premises name: Busselton No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant	Changed to Busselton Water Resource Recovery Facility to reflect current naming by Water Corporation.	N/A
N/A	Preamble - general	Removed as per current licence formatting and replaced with interpretation section. Instrument log included.	N/A
Preamble	Included a general descriptive summary of key premises infrastructure	Existing premises infrastructure formalised into current licence template standard Condition 1, Infrastructure and equipment table, including operational requirements.	1
Preamble	References controlled waste categories authorised for acceptance with respect to prescribed activity: Liquid Waste Facility	Existing wastes authorised for acceptance via sewage inflow or via controlled waste carriers and the existing assessed limits. Transferred to standard format waste acceptance condition with table (Table 2), detailing specific acceptance criteria where applicable.	2
G1	General Conditions – regarding authorised emissions	Redundant condition removed - covered under interpretation section.	N/A
G2	Monitoring and reporting condition – reporting requirements and timeframe for Annual Environmental Report (AER) submission	Standard current licence template AER condition has been applied. Modifications to reporting requirements list relative to new condition numbering. Reporting date changed from 1 September to 1 October.	13
G3	Monitoring and reporting condition - requirement for submission of annual compliance report	Standard current licence template Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR) condition has been applied. Reporting date changed from 1 September to 1 October. Redundant form (Attachment 3) removed.	12

Licence condition number	Summary - previous licence condition	Conversion notes	New licence condition number
W1	Maintenance of wastewater treatment plant	Transferred as operational requirements in the infrastructure and equipment Table 1.	1
W2(a) & W2(b)	Flow meter maintenance requirements		
W2(c)	Presentation of flow monitoring results	Incorporated into Annual Environmental Report condition.	13
W3(a)	Requirement to maintain monitoring bores	Transferred as operational requirements in the infrastructure and equipment Table 1.	1
W3(b)	Requirements for surface water and groundwater sampling and analysis	Applicable surface water monitoring requirements transferred to standard format condition with table.	7
		Applicable groundwater monitoring requirements transferred to standard format condition with table.	9
W3(c)	Requirement to measure Standing Water Levels in monitoring bores	Incorporated into groundwater monitoring condition.	9
W4(a)	Application of relevant Australian Standards to sampling, handling, and preserving.	Incorporated under 'method' in relevant condition tables.	Condition 7, Table 4 & Condition 9, Table 6
W4(b)	Water sample testing NATA accreditation requirements	Updated and transferred to new condition	10
W5	Calculating contaminant loads	Minor modifications to existing condition, including use of table format.	8
W6	Management of treated wastewater discharge to the onsite wetlands	Transferred to new licence	3
W7(a) & W7(b)	Storage of hazardous chemicals & perimeter valves in bunded areas	Redundant conditions removed – Other relevant legislation applies.	N/A
S1(a) & S1(b)	Sludge management and disposal requirements	Transferred as operational requirements in the infrastructure and equipment Table 1 and solid waste conditions.	1,4 & 5
M1	Ocean monitoring program requirements (Referencing EPA Bulletin 945)	Monitoring requirements incorporated into the surface water monitoring condition.	7
N/A	N/A	Standard current licence template complaints condition has been applied and added to AER annual reporting requirements.	11 & 13
N/A	N/A	Standard current licence template condition set for maintaining accurate and auditable books has been applied.	14 & 15
Definitions	N/A	Standard current licence definitions template and relevant terms applied.	Table 8
N/A	Attachment 1 – Premises Map	Updated premises plan as provided by licence holder includes details of labelled key infrastructure and location of all monitoring bores.	Schedule 1 – Figure 1
N/A	Attachment 2 – Drains and Geographe Bay Monitoring Points	Transferred to new licence.	Schedule 1 – Figure 2

3.2 Additional conditions

The renewed licence has been updated to include standard conditions for recording complaints (condition 11) and keeping books (conditions 14 and 15) in line with DWER's *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* 2015.

These are standardised conditions to allow for the effective administration of the renewed licence.

4. Consultation

The draft licence and this decision report were provided to the licence holder on 12 October 2021 for comment. The licence holder responded to requested further information on the function and location of several key items of infrastructure, including re-submission of the premises map.

The Delegated Officer has made minor corrections to the final licence in accordance with requested information provided by Water Corporation on 26 October 2021. Additional licence holder's comments, along with DWER's response, are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Summary of licence holder comments and DWER response

Licence holder comment	DWER response
Requested changes to the specifications in Table 1 of the licence, to allow the use of the sludge drying beds for contingency storage measures in the event of the sludge dewatering plant becoming inoperative and for occasions when pumping station wells (containing accumulated solid waste materials) require cleaning out.	Noted that in the current licence, reference to sludge drying beds being used for contingency was included in the licence preamble, but it was not formally conditioned. Changed the operational requirements for the sludge drying beds in Table 1 to provide a mechanism to allow for occasional storage use only for this infrastructure, as a contingency measure.
Requested an amendment to the submission date for the AER and associated AACR, from 1 September to 1 October.	Changed to 1 October in final version.

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Decision Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that the renewed licence L5952/1991/12 will be granted. The licence is subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls as well as conditions necessary for administration and annual reporting requirements.