



Application to replace expiring licence

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

Licence Number	L6426/1991/14
Applicant	Water Corporation
ACN	28 033 434 917
File Number	DER2013/000866-1
Premises	Esperance Wastewater Treatment Plant Jetty Road CHADWICK WA 6450 Legal description Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 407029 Part of Reserve 34464 As defined by the premises map in Schedule 1
Date of Report	11 November 2021
Decision	Licence granted

Jane Dalin
Senior Environmental Officer
Industry Regulation

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

1. Application summary

On 26 July 2021, Water Corporation (Licence Holder) applied to renew licence L6426/1991/13 as the licence is due to expire on 30 November 2021. The Premises is located at Lot 500 on Plan 407029, Jetty Road, Chadwick approximately 1.5 km north-west of Esperance town centre. 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.	2,637 m ³ /day

The WWTP utilises a two-pond system which discharges treated wastewater (TWW) into five onsite infiltration ponds. When infiltration ponds at the Premises reach their capacity a transfer pump station is engaged to pump TWW to two infiltration ponds at Esperance WWTP #2 via a pipeline approximately 8.5 km long.

The Premises is approximately 200m from Esperance Bay and 2 km from the RAMSAR listed Lake Warden system. The nearest residential property is approximately 400m to the south of the site.

The Licence Holder has requested an administrative amendment to condition 16 of licence L6426/1991/13 which relates to a change in use for Infiltration Pond 3.

2. Regulatory framework

The department 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* June 2021.

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 L6426/1991/14 without conducting any additional assessment or risk assessment.

The replacement licence will be issued for 20 years and is consistent with the *Guidance Statement: Licence Duration 2016*.

In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- update the format and appearance of the licence;
- revise licence conditions and consolidate existing pollution control conditions;
- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors; and
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the renewed licence.

Water Corporation proposes to use Infiltration Pond 3 to undertake infiltration investigations as it is uniquely positioned to represent how infiltration responds across the site. Licence L6426/1991/13 currently specifies under condition 16 the use of Infiltration Pond 3 for emergency purposes and does not include infiltration maintenance investigations.

The Licence Holder has requested an amendment to condition 16 to allow for periodic temporary use of Infiltration Pond 3 for investigations associated with maintaining and operating the infiltration on site. As a result, conditions 16 and 23 have been amended to reflect the Licence Holders request. No further risk assessment is necessary as it does not change the environmental obligation of the Licence Holder.

As a result of this decision, a renewed Licence L6426/1991/14 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 summarizes 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: Summary of changes from Expiring Licence to Renewed Licence

Licence condition number	Summary - previous licence condition	Conversion notes	New licence condition number
Cover page	Licence version, commencement date, issue date and expiry date. Premises details stated as: Lot 924 on Plan 240409 CHADWICK WA 6450	Licence version and duration dates updated. Premises details updated in accordance with application to: Lot 500 on Plan 407029 Part of Reserve 34464	N/A
16	Emissions	Table 5: Emissions to land updated as per Licence Holder's request.	16
23	Monitoring	Table 7: Monitoring of inputs and outputs updated as per Licence Holder's request.	23
Schedule 1: Maps	Premises and monitoring locations maps	Premises map updated by Licence Holder and included as Figure 1.	Schedule 1: Maps

4. Consultation

The draft replacement licence and this decision report were provided to the licence holder on 21 October 2021 for comment. The licence holder provided a response on 10 November 2021 requesting renewed licence L6426/1991/14 be finalised as soon as possible.

5. Decision

The Delegated Officer has determined the risks to human health and the environment from the activities on the Premises, and as previously assessed by the Department have not materially changed. The Delegated Officer has determined to grant the renewed licence L6426/1991/14 without conducting any additional risk assessment.