



Annual Audit Compliance Report Form

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Section A – Licence Details

Licence number:	L6067/1991/10	Licence file number:	DEC9095
Licence holder:	Water Corporation		
Trading as:	Wongan Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant		
ABN:	28 003 434 917		
Registered address:	629 Newcastle Street, LEEDERVILLE, WA 6007		
Reporting period:	01 / 07 / 2020 to 30 / 06 / 2021		

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)

- Yes – please complete:
- section C;
 - section D if required; and
 - sign the declaration in Section F.
- No – please complete:
- 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 estimated 114m 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:	6 (c)	Date(s) of non-compliance:	04/05/2021
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Details of non-compliance:

Programmed desludging was undertaken at the Wongan Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in April 2021. As part of the desludging process a temporary earthen sludge drying bed was constructed and lined with HDMP plastic to house the geo-fabric bags containing extracted sludge. As part of normal process, sludge leachate seeps from geo-bags and gravitates to a low point/constructed sump within the constructed sludge drying bed area. Leachate is then pumped back into pond number 1 for treatment.

Rainfall (associated with cyclone Seroja) in late April impacted on the integrity of the sludge drying bed's outer embankment, given its obscure location this went unrecognised. Additional rainfall overnight on 3/4 May 2021 combined with existing sludge leachate caused a breach in the weakened earthen sludge drying bed embankment. It is estimated that 2000L of diluted leachate discharged through the fenced premises boundary and pooled in an ephemeral creek bed that was not yet flowing (see annotated map below). An operational crew attended site at 0845hrs on the morning on 4 May 2021 to carry out routine maintenance and to commence the daily pump back of leachate into pond number 1. It was then noted that the breach in the embankment wall had occurred. The operational crew reported the breach at 0900hrs and commenced pumping out the sludge drying bed area (via the constructed sump) into pond number 1 in order to stop the slow leak via the embankment walls. Discharge via outer embankment wall ceased on 4 May at approximately 1100hrs. The Project Manager had been made aware shortly after crews arrived on site. Contractors attended site on the morning of 05 May to fix embankment walls as soon as the weather permitted.

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 ~2000L of diluted leachate discharged from the premises into adjacent ephemeral creek. The partially treated and diluted leachate was not able to be recovered from the creek. The premises is not located within an environmentally sensitive area or within a drinking water supply area. A recorded priority and/or declared rare flora is located approximately 150 m to the south. There are no surface water or groundwater abstraction licences for the Site, nor for any properties within a 2km radius.
 The Wongan Hills WWTP is located approximately 500 metres to the west of the Wongan Hills town site. The affected area within the creek was not readily accessible to the public, therefore risk to public health and safety for the duration of the incident was considered low.



Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:

Rainfall (associated with cyclone Seroja) in late April impacted on the integrity of the sludge drying bed's outer embankment, given its obscure location this went unrecognised. Additional rainfall overnight on 3/4 May 2021 combined with existing sludge leachate caused a breach in the weakened earthen sludge drying bed embankment. Through the investigation process, it was noted that the constructed sludge drying bed had not been inspected prior to the commencement of the desludging activity and that perhaps the structural integrity of the embankments post construction may have been an additional contributing factor to the cause of the non-compliance.

Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:

Internal investigations have resulted in commitments by Regional Project Branch to better assess the site/facilities in the project planning phase as well as increase site visibility pre and post site work completion. Hold points in the contract management space will be better utilised to carry out physical checks. Internal de-sludging project documentation will include increased operational sign off/consultation components with relevant regional stakeholders.

Was this non-compliance previously reported to DER?

Yes, and

Reported to DER verbally

Date: / /

Reported to DER in writing

Date: 04/05/2021 & 14/06/2021

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 Environment Regulation’s (DER) website.

Signature ² :		Signature:	
Name: (printed)		Name: (printed)	
Position:		Position:	
Date:		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.