

# Government of **Western Australia**Department of **Environment Regulation**

Annual Audit Compliance Report Form Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Section A – Licence Details				
Licence number:	L6326/1991/3	Licence file number:	2010/005966	
Licence holder:				
Trading as:				
ABN:				
Registered address:				
Reporting period:	01/01/2021 <b>to</b> 3	1 / 12 / 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	100 m³/day (includes K130 and K210 waste types)	
61	0 m³/day (K110 waste type)	

## 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

#### 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:

W3 (ii)

Date(s) of noncompliance: April - August 2021; October - November

2021

#### Details of non-compliance:

Condition W3 (ii) states that the licensee shall manage and operate the wastewater treatment ponds in a manner such that:

(ii) overtopping of the ponds shall not occur except as a result of extreme rainfall events.

First overflow of treated wastewater from Lancelin WWTP occurred from 1 April to 1 September 2021. Overflow occurred at Infiltration Pond via outlet pipe, into the adjacent bushland; worst-case scenario has estimated overflow to be 12.4ML. A second overflow occurred from 4 October to 4 November 2021 at the same location; estimated overflow volume 1.5ML.

DWER was notified of the overflow events on 20 July 2021 and 5 October 2021. On 23 December 2021, a section 72 notification was submitted to DWER.

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.

A review of recent groundwater monitoring data indicates that the April- September overflow incident has not had an immediate impact on groundwater quality. Monitoring data and an impact overview was included in Water Corporation's section 72 notification submitted 23 December 2021.

A recent survey (November 2021) indicates vegetation near the overflow does not show any obvious signs of stress or degradation.

The next Lancelin WWTP Annual Environmental Report (AER) (due 1 September 2022) will include additional information on groundwater monitoring data and discuss potential impacts to groundwater.

Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:

The exact cause of the overtopping has not been confirmed but is unlikely attributed to extreme rainfall events nor groundwater levels. Inflows did not exceed plant capacity in the 20-21 financial year.

It is suspected sludge and high suspended solids carry-over from the Primary Pond to the Infiltration Pond is impacting the ability for treated wastewater to infiltrate at the rate required to prevent overtopping of the infiltration pond. Appropriate testing/investigation can only be undertaken when the infiltration pond is empty. Accordingly, an additional infiltration pond will need to be constructed to bypass the existing pond.

The Primary Pond was desludged in 2019 but the need for further desludging is also being investigated.

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

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Health hazard signage was installed near the overflow point to alert the public to the potential impacts of any pooling treated wastewater.

During ordinary operations, wastewater from the nearby township of Seabird is tankered to Lancelin WWTP. During the second overflow this carting was re-routed to Jurien Bay, to reduce the overflow volume.

Planning for a second infiltration pond is in progress. Construction of the new pond (in accordance with required approvals) is expected to be completed by the end January 2023. This will allow the existing infiltration pond to be bypassed, tested, and inspected to determine the cause of the overflows. While the infiltration pond is bypassed, works will be conducted on that infiltration pond to ensure it is operating efficiently (a completion date cannot be provided yet, as it is dependent on the drying of the infiltration pond and what works are required). The second infiltration pond will provide additional storage and infiltration capacity to mitigate the risk of future overflows.

In the meantime, monitoring of pond water levels has increased to identify the risk of, and/or actual, overflows earlier, in order to avoid or reduce impacts. If an unacceptable risk of overflow is determined, wastewater from Seabird will be re-routed to Jurien Bay WWTP and acceptance of private wastewater (i.e. septic tanks) will be temporarily halted (dependent on capacity at other WWTPs). Where practicable, treated wastewater from the infiltration pond will be tankered to another WWTP pending contractor availability and capacity at other WWTPs to prevent overflows.

Monitoring (tracking aerial and in situ images) of vegetation adjacent to the WWTP is being undertaken to determine significant deterioration of vegetation quality. Should vegetation deaths attributed to wastewater overflow impacts be detected, rehabilitation will be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Sludge profiling of the Primary Pond will be undertaken prior to June 2022 to determine if sludge accumulation in the pond is impacting treatment capacity and the Primary Pond requires desludging.

Scarifying the base of the current infiltration pond to improve the infiltration rate has been ruled out and deemed not viable as the sludge would resettle and bind the base quickly.

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o DER?
No
Date:
Date: 23 /12 / 2021

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# 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.

Signature²:

Name: (printed)

Position:

Date:

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.