Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority EA0000781

This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Environmental authority number: EA0000781

Environmental authority takes effect on 21 April 2017

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
The Baptist Union of Queensland - Carinity	53 Prospect Rd GAYTHORNE QLD 4051 Australia

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Prescribed ERA, ERA 63 - Sewage Treatment, 1: Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of, (a-i) 21 to 100EP if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	LOT 142/CP900425
Prescribed ERA, ERA 63 - Sewage Treatment, 1: Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of, (a-i) 21 to 100EP if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	LOT 143/CP900425

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of contaminated land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

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- the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a change in the condition of the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 20 business days);

that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200 of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority-on the nominated day; or
b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect-on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
c) otherwise-on the day the authority is issued.

However, if the EA is authorising an activity that requires an additional authorisation (a relevant tenure for a resource activity, a development permit under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 or an SDA Approval under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971), this EA will not take effect until the additional authorisation has taken effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid environmental authority.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Date issued: 21 April 2017

Enquiries:
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone: 1300 130 372
Email: palm@ehp.qld.gov.au

Legislative Requirements and Conditions of Environmental Authority

Legislative Requirements

PLR019

Eligibility criteria - ERA 63(1)(a)(i)

Eligibility criteria category	Eligibility criteria
Activity description	The activity is sewage treatment works with a total daily peak design capacity of 21 to 100 equivalent persons, if treated effluent is discharged through an irrigation scheme.
	The activity does not discharge effluent to an infiltration trench.
Activity location	The effluent disposal area is not within 250 metres of any bore used for domestic water supply.
	The effluent disposal area is not within 1000 metres of any bore used for town water supply.
	The activity is not carried out in a designated precinct in a strategic environmental area as defined in the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 or regional plan.
	The facility is not within 100 metres of any watercourse, wetland or spring.
Water	There is no release of aqueous waste from the activity to waters.

PLR025

General obligations for environmental authority holders

This is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of all obligations under Queensland law. It provides some general information and holders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with all requirements related to their specific operation.

Responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Separate to the requirements of the eligibility criteria and standard conditions, the holder of the environmental authority must also meet their obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and the regulations made under that Act. For example, the holder must be aware of the following provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* which may apply unless the environmental harm is authorised by the conditions of the environmental authority.

General environmental duty
Section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* states that we all have a general environmental duty. This means that we are all responsible for the actions we take that affect the environment. We must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless we take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm. To decide what meets your general environmental duty, you need to consider:
(a) the nature of the harm or potential harm

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(b) the sensitivity of the receiving environment
(c) the current state of technical knowledge for the activity
(d) the likelihood of successful application of the different measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm that might be taken
(e) the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity.

It is not an offence not to comply with the general environmental duty. However, maintaining your general environmental duty is a defence against the following acts:
(a) an act that causes serious or material environmental harm or an environmental nuisance
(b) an act that contravenes a noise standard
(c) a deposit of a contaminant, or release of stormwater run-off, mentioned in section 440ZG.

More information is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) website www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

Duty to notify
Section 320A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* explains the duty to notify. The duty to notify applies to all persons and requires a person or company to give notice where serious or material environmental harm is caused or threatened. Notice must be given of the event, its nature and the circumstances in which the event happened. Notification can be verbal, written or by public notice depending on who is notifying and being notified.

The duty to notify arises where:
(a) a person carries out activities or becomes aware of an act of another person arising from, or connected to, those activities that causes or threatens serious or material environmental harm
(b) while carrying out activities a person becomes aware of the happening of one or both of the following events:
    (i) the activity negatively affects (or is reasonably likely to negatively affect) the water quality of an aquifer
    (ii) the activity has caused the unauthorised connection of two or more aquifers.
(c) the owner or occupier of contaminated land or an auditor performing an auditor's function (as defined in section 568(b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* becomes aware of:
    (i) the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land; or
    (ii) a change in the condition of the contaminates land; or
    (iii) a notifiable activity having been carried out, or being carried out, on the contaminated land;
that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For more information on the duty to notify requirements refer to the guideline 'Duty to notify of environmental harm' (available at www.qld.gov.au using the publication number ESR/2016/2271 as a search term).

Some relevant offences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Non-compliance with a condition of an environmental authority (section 430)
Section 430 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that a person who is the holder of, or is acting under, an environmental authority must not wilfully contravene, or contravene a condition of the authority.

Environmental authority holder responsible for ensuring conditions complied with (section 431)
Section 431 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that the holder of an environmental authority must ensure everyone acting under the authority complies with the conditions of the authority. If another person acting under the authority commits an offence against section 430, the holder also commits an offence, namely, the offence of failing to ensure the other person complies with the conditions.

Causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-39)
Material environmental harm is when the harm is not trivial or negligible in nature. Serious environmental harm is harm that is irreversible, of a high impact or widespread, or that is caused to an area of high conservation value or special significance.

Serious or material environmental harm excludes environmental nuisance.

Causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
Environmental nuisance is unreasonable interference with an environmental value caused by aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles or smoke. It may also include an unhealthy, offensive or unsightly condition because of contamination.

Depositing a prescribed water contaminant in waters (section 440ZG)
Prescribed water contaminants include a wide variety of contaminants listed in Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

It is your responsibility to ensure that prescribed water contaminants are not left in a place where they may or do enter a waterway, the ocean or a stormwater drain. This includes making sure that stormwater falling on or running across your site does not leave the site contaminated. Where stormwater contamination occurs you must ensure that it is treated to remove contaminants. You should also consider where and how you store material used in your processes onsite to reduce the chance of water contamination.

Placing a contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)
A person must not cause or allow a contaminant to be placed in a position where it could reasonably be expected to cause serious or material environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

Some of the relevant offences under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

Littering (section 103)
Litter is any domestic or commercial waste and any material a person might reasonably believe is refuse, debris or rubbish. Litter can be almost any material that is disposed of incorrectly. Litter includes cigarette butts and drink bottles dropped on the ground, fast food wrappers thrown out of the car window, poorly secured material from a trailer or grass clippings swept into the gutter. However, litter does not include any gas, dust, smoke or material emitted or produced during, or because of, the normal operations of a building, manufacturing, mining or primary industry.

Illegal dumping of waste (section 104)
Illegal dumping is the dumping of large volumes of litter (200 litres or more) at a place. Illegal dumping can also include abandoned vehicles.

Relevant offence under the Environment Protection Regulation 2008

Waste tracking (Chapter 5, Part 9)
Waste handlers must submit waste tracking information to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection as part of the process for tracking waste types as listed in Schedule 2E of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. The waste tracking enables the department to track waste from its source to the place of storage, recycling, treatment or disposal.

Responsibilities under other legislation

An environmental authority pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* does not remove the need to obtain any additional approval for the activity that might be required by other state and/or Commonwealth legislation. Other legislation for which a permit may be required includes, but is not limited to, the:
(a) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
(b) Australian Dangerous Goods Code
(c) Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) Polychlorinated Biphenyls Management Plan Revised Edition - April 2003
(d) Contaminated land provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
(e) *Fisheries Act 1994*
(f) *Forestry Act 1959*
(g) *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
(h) *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 / Petroleum Act 1923*
(i) *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

(j) Safe Work Australia Code of Practice on How to Safely Remove Asbestos 2011 or the Safe Work Australia Code of Practice on How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace 2011 or any subsequent versions
(k) *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
(l) Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011
(m) *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*
(n) *Water Act 2000*
(o) *Work Health and Safety Act 2011,* Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 and Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2011

Environmental authority holders are advised to check with all relevant statutory authorities and comply with all relevant legislation.

PLR026 This environmental authority contains standard conditions. Standard conditions are identified by (S) after the condition number.

Condition

General

PSG001 (S) All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the activity complies with the eligibility criteria.

PSG004 (S) The activity must be undertaken in accordance with written procedures that:
(a) identify potential risks to the environment from the activity during routine operations and emergencies
(b) establish control measures that minimise the potential for environmental harm
(c) ensure plant and equipment is maintained and operated in proper and effective condition
(d) ensure that staff are trained and aware of their obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1994
(e) ensure that reviews of environmental performance are undertaken at least annually.

PSG005 (S) The activity must not cause environmental nuisance at a nuisance sensitive place.

PSG006 (S) All documents and records of monitoring required by conditions of this authority must be kept for at least five years.

PSG012 (S) Storage of chemicals and fuels in bulk or in containers of greater than 15 litres must be within a secondary containment system and releases controlled in a manner that prevents environmental harm.

PSG015 (S) Other than effluent released to land in accordance with conditions PSL009, PSL012 and PSL013, all waste generated in carrying out the activity must be reused, recycled or lawfully disposed of offsite.

Land

PSL001 (S) Contaminants from the activity must not be released to land except as authorised by under conditions PSL009, PSL012 and PSL013.

PSL009 (S) Treated effluent is permitted to be released to land provided that it is done in accordance with a written procedure that ensures:
(a) infiltration to groundwater and subsurface flows of contaminants to surface waters are prevented
(b) surface pondage and run-off of effluent is prevented
(c) degradation of soil structure is minimised

(d) soil sodicity and the build-up of nutrients and heavy metals in the soil and subsoil are minimised
(e) spray drift or overspray do not carry beyond effluent disposal areas
(f) effluent disposal areas are maintained with an appropriate crop in a viable state for transpiration and nutrient uptake
(g) the crop on the disposal area is harvested and removed from the disposal area.

PSL011 (S) When weather conditions or soil conditions preclude the release of effluent to land, effluent must be directed to wet weather storage or be lawfully removed from the site.

PSL012 (S) In addition to the requirements of PSL009, the treated effluent must be evenly distributed over an area stated in the Table "Irrigation area requirements" or a greater area.

Table – Irrigation area requirements

Rainfall	Maximum irrigation rate	Minimum land required (square metres)
<600 millimetres per year (mm/ year)	3 millimetres per day (mm/day)	335 square metres per cubic metre of treated effluent irrigated
>600mm/year to 1000mm/year	2mm/day	500 square metres per cubic metre of treated effluent irrigated
>1000mm/year	1mm/day	1000 square metres per cubic metre of treated effluent irrigated

PSL013 (S) Treated effluent released to land must comply with the limits in the Table "Contaminant release limits to land".

Table – Contaminant release limits to land

Quality characteristics	Release limit	Limit type
Total nitrogen*	60mg/L	maximum
Total phosphorous*	20mg/L	maximum
Electrical conductivity	1600µs/cm	maximum
pH	5.0–8.5	range
Total residual chlorine (if used for disinfection)	1mg/L	maximum

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(S) - Standard Condition

E. coli	<1000cfu/100ml	maximum

*note that these limits would typically correspond to long term total nitrogen and total phosphorous concentrations of 30 mg/L and 10 mg/L respectively.

PSL014 (S) Quarterly monitoring of treated effluent must be carried out in accordance with the Monitoring and Sampling Manual 2009 (EHP) to assess compliance with condition PSL013 and records of the results maintained.

Water

PSW001 (S) Stormwater contaminated by the activity must be managed to minimise or prevent any adverse effect on the environmental values of the receiving environment.

PSW003 (S) Ponds used for the storage or treatment of effluent or wastes must be constructed, installed and maintained to:
(a) prevent any release of effluent or wastes from the ponds
(b) ensure the stability of the pond structure.

Definition

PD002 Activity means the environmentally relevant activity to which this environmental authority relates. An activity may be undertaken on the whole or a part of a site.

PD003 Aqueous waste means any aqueous waste including process water, water that has otherwise been used in the carrying out of the activity or sewage, whether or not the waste has been treated, but excluding stormwater.

PD007 Category A or B environmentally sensitive area means as defined in Schedule 12, Part 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

PD008 Chemical means as defined in Schedule 12, Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

PD009 Combustion of fuel does not include fuel used in explosives or by vehicles.

PD010 Contaminant(s) means as defined in Section 11 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

PD011 Environmental harm means as defined in Section 14 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

PD012 Environmental nuisance means as defined in Section 15 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

PD014 Facility means the area used for carrying out the ERA including any buildings, disturbed areas or any associated infrastructure.

PD016 Land means land excluding waters and the atmosphere. Land includes land on the authorised place.

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(S) - Standard Condition

PD018 Minimise means minimise by taking all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the adverse effect having regard to the following matters:
(a) the nature of the harm or potential harm
(b) the sensitivity of the receiving environment
(c) the current state of technical knowledge for the activity
(d) the likelihood of successful application of different measures that might be taken to minimise the adverse effects
(e) the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity
(f) if the adverse effect is caused by the location of the activity being carrying out, whether it is feasible to carry out the activity at another location.

PD019 Nuisance sensitive place includes:
(a) within or outside of a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises
(b) within or outside of a motel, hotel or hostel
(c) within or outside of a kindergarten, school, university or other educational institution
(d) within or outside of a medical centre or hospital
(e) within a protected area under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, within a marine park under the Marine Parks Act 1992 or a world heritage area
(f) within a public thoroughfare, park or gardens
(g) within or outside of a place used as a workplace, an office or for business or commercial purposes and includes a place within the curtilage of such a place reasonably used by persons at that place.

PD025 Spring means the land to which water rises naturally from below the ground and the land over which the water then flows.

PD026 Watercourse means as defined in Section 8, Schedule 12 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

PD027 Waters means all or any part of a creek, river, stream, lake, lagoon, swamp, wetland, spring, unconfined surface water, unconfined water in natural or artificial watercourses, bed and bank of any waters, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea), stormwater channel, stormwater drain, roadside gutter, stormwater run-off, and underground water.

PD028 Wetland means as defined in Schedule 12 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008, means an area shown as a wetland on the map of referable wetlands.

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