Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority

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

Environmental authority number: EPPR00824713

Environmental authority takes effect on the day of the approval.
The anniversary day of this environmental authority remains 14 September.

Environmental authority holder

Name	Registered address
Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre Inc. ABN 24 290 176 179	71 Townsville Road, Ingham QLD 4850

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity	Location
ERA 63 - Sewage Treatment 1: Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of (b-a) more than 21 but not more than 100EP if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	Lot 540 on Plan SP288711

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 land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the presence of, or happening of an event involving, a hazardous contaminant on the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- if the land is contaminated land – a change in the condition of the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (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 land (notice must be given within 20 business days).

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 *Planning Act 2016* 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.

	26/11/2025
Signature	Date

Rebecca Griffiths
Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
Industry and Development Business Centre
Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Phone: 1300 130 372
Email: palm@detsi.qld.gov.au

Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this environmental authority, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443).

Other permits required

This permit only provides an approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. In order to lawfully operate you may also require permits / approvals from your local government authority, other business units within the department, and other State and Federal Government agencies prior to commencing any activity at the site. For example, this may include permits / approvals with your local Council (for planning approval), the Department of Transport and Main Roads (to access State controlled roads), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development (to clear vegetation), and the Department of Primary Industries (to clear marine plants or to obtain a quarry material allocation).

Development Approval

This permit is not a development approval under the *Planning Act 2016*. The conditions of this environmental authority are separate, and in addition to, any conditions that may be on the development approval. If a copy of this environmental authority is attached to a development approval, it is for information only, and may not be current. Please contact the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to ensure that you have the most current version of the environmental authority relating to this site.

Conditions of environmental authority

Environmentally relevant activity	Location
ERA 63 - Sewage Treatment 1: Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of (b-a) more than 21 but not more than 100EP if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	Lot 540 on Plan SP288711

The environmentally relevant activity conducted at the location as described above must be conducted in accordance with the following conditions of approval.

Agency interest: General	
Condition number	**Condition**
G1	Inflows into the sewage treatment plant must not exceed 10,000 litres on any **day.**
G2	All reasonable and practicable **measures** must be taken to prevent or **minimise** any **environmental harm** caused by the **activity**.
G3	Other than as permitted by this environmental authority, the **release of a contaminant into the environment** must not occur.
G4	Any contravention of a condition of this environmental authority must be reported to the **administering authority** as soon as practicable, but no more than 24 hours after becoming aware of the contravention.
G5	For any contravention of a condition of this environmental authority, an investigation must be carried out to determine the cause of the contravention and the investigation must include an assessment to determine the environmental impact of the contravention and recommended actions to address the cause of the contravention.
G6	**Records** of any contravention of this environmental authority must be made including full details of the contravention and any subsequent actions taken in accordance with **Condition G4** and **Condition G5**.
G7	All **records** required by the conditions of this environmental authority must be kept for a minimum of five years, and all environmental **monitoring** results and underlying raw data must be kept until surrender of this environmental authority.
G8	All **records** required by the conditions of this environmental authority must be provided to the **administering authority:** (a) within the timeframe specified by the **administering authority**; and (b) in the format requested by the **administering authority**.
G9	An **appropriately qualified person(s)** must **monitor**, record and interpret all parameters that are required to be **monitored** by this environmental authority and in the manner specified by this environmental authority.

G10	All analyses required under this environmental authority must be carried out by a laboratory that has National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) certification, or an equivalent certification, for such analyses. The only exception to this condition is for *in situ* **monitoring** of pH and electrical conductivity (EC).
G11	Details of all environmental complaints received must be recorded including: (a) date and time complaint was received; and (b) name and contact details of the complainant when provided and authorised by the complainant; and (c) nature of the complaint; and (d) investigations undertaken; and (e) conclusions formed; and (f) actions taken.
G12	When required by the **administering authority**, **monitoring** must be undertaken in the manner and within the timeframe prescribed by the **administering authority**, to investigate any alleged **environmental harm** caused by the **activity**.
G13	The results, including an analysis of the results, of **monitoring** required by **Condition G12** must be provided to the **administering authority** within 10 business **days** after **you** receive the **monitoring** results.
G14	The **activity** must be undertaken in accordance with written procedures that: (a) identify all potential risks to the environment from the **activity**, including: (i) during routine operations; and (ii) outside routine operations; and (iii) during closure; and (iv) in an emergency; and (b) identify **measures** to prevent or **minimise** the potential for **environmental harm** for each of the potential risks identified; and (c) establish an inspection and maintenance program for plant and equipment including calibration and servicing that is in accordance with manufacturer's instructions; and (d) establish a staff training program on obligations under this environmental authority and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to be conducted as part of staff inductions and at least annually thereafter; and (e) establish processes to review environmental risks, incidents, performance and complaints.
G15	Written procedures required by **Condition G14** must be: (a) implemented; and (b) reviewed at least every two years; and (c) provided to the **administering authority** upon request and within a timeframe specified by the **administering authority**.
G16	For plant and equipment, all **measures** necessary to comply with the conditions of this environmental authority must be: (a) installed, operated and maintained in a proper and effective manner; and (b) in accordance with the written procedures required by **Condition G14**.
G17	**Chemicals** and fuels in containers of greater than 15 litres must be stored within a **secondary containment system**.
G18	An annual **monitoring** report must be prepared by 30 November each year, for the preceding financial year, and submitted to the **administering authority** when requested.

G19	The annual **monitoring** report required by **Condition G18** must include: (a) a summary of the previous 12 months **monitoring** results; and (b) an outline of actions taken or proposed to **minimise** the risk of **environmental harm** identified by **monitoring** and/or investigation of contraventions or environmental complaints.

Agency interest: Air	
Condition number	**Condition**
A1.0	Odours or airborne **contaminants** from the **activity** must not cause **environmental nuisance** to any **sensitive place** or **commercial place**.
A1.1	**Effluent** spray must not move beyond the **Effluent Disposal Area**.
A1.2	**Effluent** must only be disposed of to the **Effluent Disposal Area** via sub-surface drip irrigation.
A1.3	The **Effluent Disposal Area** must have minimum setback distances of 2 metres from property boundaries, buildings, pedestrian paths and walkways.

Agency interest: Water	
Condition number	**Condition**
WT1	**Contaminants** must not be **released** to any **waters**.

Agency interest: Land	
Condition number	**Condition**
L1.0	Treated **effluent** generated by the **activity** must only be **released** to the **Effluent Disposal Area** shown in *Appendix 1 – Effluent Disposal Area.*
L1.1	Treated **effluent** generated by the **activity** must only be **released** to the **Effluent Disposal Area** when the following requirements are complied with: a) the **release** limits for each quality characteristic are complied with at the **monitoring** locations as specified in *Table 1 – Contaminant limits for releases to land*; and b) **releases** are **monitored** at all **monitoring** locations and at the minimum **monitoring** frequency for each quality characteristic specified in *Table 1 – Contaminant limits for releases to land.*

Table 1 - Contaminant limits for releases to land

Monitoring location	Quality characteristic (units)	Release limits			Minimum monitoring frequency
		Minimum	Mean	Maximum	
	Irrigation volume (L/**day**	-	-	7050	Daily
	Irrigation rate (mm/**day**)	-	2.1	-	

	Outlet of sewage treatment plant	**Total Nitrogen TN** (mg/L as N)	-	40	-	Quarterly
		Total Phosphorus TP (mg/L as P)	-	15	-	Quarterly
		pH (pH units)	6.0	-	8.5	Quarterly
		Escherichia coli (E.coli) cfu/100mL)	-		200	Quarterly
		Electrical Conductivity (EC) (µS/cm)	-	-	1,600	Quarterly
L1.2	**Monitoring** required by **Condition L1.1** must be undertaken when **effluent** is being disposed, unless **effluent** disposal has ceased for longer than the relevant parameters specified minimum frequency (e.g., pH is only required to be **monitored** quarterly, hence a pH sample would not be required after the first quarter following cessation of the **release**).					
L1.3	The irrigation rate **monitoring** required by **Condition L1.1** must be calculated based on the total area irrigated on that **day**, and the actual volume of **effluent** irrigated on that same **day.**					
L1.4	**Mean** calculations required by C**ondition L1.1** must be taken as a Long-Term Rolling Limit, meaning a limit applied to consecutive **monitoring** results taken over a 24-month period (on a rolling basis for limit calculations) when **monitored** at the minimum **monitoring** frequency specified in **Condition L1.1**.					
L1.5	Volume **monitoring** required by C**onditions L1.1** and **G1** must be undertaken using a flow meter.					
L1.6	The **Effluent Disposal Area** must have a minimum surface area of 3,420 square metres.					
L2.0	When soil in the **Effluent Disposal Area** is **saturated**, **effluent** must not be **released** to **land**.					
L3.0	All organic material removed from vegetation growing in the **Effluent Disposal Area** must be transported and disposed of in an area other than in the **Effluent Disposal Area**.					
L4.0	Wet weather storage, with a minimum volume of 32,500L must be installed and maintained on the **site** for the storage of **effluent**.					
L5.0	Ponding of **effluent** within the **Effluent Disposal Area** must not occur.					
L6.0	Treated **effluent** must not run off to areas beyond the **Effluent Disposal Area**.					
L7.0	Soil structure must not be degraded as a result of the **activity**.					
L8.0	The **Effluent Disposal Area** must be maintained with vetiver grass, or a crop with similar nutrient uptake, in a viable state.					
Agency interest: Noise						
Condition number	**Condition**					
N1	Noise generated by the **activity** must not cause **environmental nuisance** to any **sensitive place** or **commercial place.**					

Agency interest: Waste	
Condition number	**Condition**
W1	All waste generated in carrying out the **activity** must be lawfully reused, recycled or removed to a facility that can lawfully accept the waste.

Definitions

Where a word or phrase in this document is defined in this definitions section or within the document, it has its corresponding meaning. Where a word or phrase in this document is not defined in this definitions section, it has the meaning given to it (in order of priority):

- the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act), its regulations or its environmental protection policies;
- the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*;
- the Macquarie Dictionary (taking account of the context in which the word or phrase is used in this document).

For example, environmental value, environmental harm, environmental nuisance, material environmental harm, serious environmental harm and relevant act are defined in the EP Act and groundwater is defined in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*.

Defined words or phrases in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

Word or Phrase	Meaning
Activity / activities	Activity means the environmentally relevant activity(s) to which the environmental authority relates. An activity may be undertaken on the whole or a part of a **site**.
Administering authority	The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, or its successors or predecessors.
Appropriately qualified person(s)	A person or persons who has professional qualifications, training, skills and experience relevant to the environmental authority (EA) requirements and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis in relation to the EA requirements using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.
Chemicals	As defined in Schedule 12, Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019.
Commercial place	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.
Contaminant(s)	As defined in Section 11 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
Day	Any 24 hour period of a calendar day.
Effluent	The liquid fraction of treated sewage.
Effluent Disposal Area	The effluent disposal area identified in Appendix 1 – *Effluent Disposal Area* of this environmental authority.
Environmental harm	As defined in Section 14 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
Environmental nuisance	As defined under Chapter 1 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
Field Capacity or drained upper limit	The maximum amount of water retained in soil against gravity when the soil has been allowed to drain for 24hrs.
Land	Land excluding **waters** and the atmosphere. Land includes land on the **site**.
Mean	The sum of a collection of numbers divided by the count of numbers in the collection. E.g., (n1+n2+n3)/3.
Measures	Includes plant, equipment, physical objects, **monitoring**, procedures, actions, directions and competency.
Minimise	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; and (b) the sensitivity of the receiving environment; and (c) the current state of technical knowledge for the **activity**; and

Word or Phrase	Meaning
	(d) the likelihood of successful application of different **measures** that might be taken to minimise the adverse effects; and (e) the financial implications of the different **measures** as they would relate to the type of **activity**; and (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.
Monitor, monitored and **monitoring**	Monitoring the impact of an **activity** on the receiving environment and includes analysing, assessing, examining, inspecting, measuring, modelling or reporting any of the following matters— (a) the quantity, quality, characteristics, timing and variability of the **release** of any **contaminant**; and (b) the effectiveness of any control measure; and (c) the characteristics of, and impact on, the receiving environment; and (d) the effectiveness of remedial or rehabilitation **measures** (if applicable to the relevant monitoring requirement).
Record(s)	Include breach notifications, written procedures, analysis results, **monitoring** reports and **monitoring** programs required under a condition of this authority.
Release of a contaminant into the environment or **release** or **released**	Means to: (a) deposit, discharge, emit or disturb the **contaminant**; or (b) cause or allow the **contaminant** to be deposited, discharged, emitted or disturbed; or (c) fail to prevent the **contaminant** from being deposited, discharged emitted or disturbed; or (d) allow the **contaminant** to escape; or (e) fail to prevent the **contaminant** from escaping.
Saturated	Means the soil moisture level is greater than the soil **field capacity or drained upper limit.**
Secondary containment system	A system designed, installed and operated to prevent any **release** of **contaminants** from the system, or containers within the system, to **land**, groundwater, or surface **waters**.
Sensitive place	Includes any of the following: (a) a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises; or (b) a motel, hotel or hostel; or (c) a kindergarten, school, university or other educational institution; or (d) a medical centre or hospital; or (e) a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Marine Parks Act 2004* or a World Heritage Area; or (f) a public thoroughfare, park or gardens; or (g) for noise, a place defined as a sensitive receptor for the purposes of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2019; or (h) the area within the curtilage of any of the above places.
Site	**Land** within lot 540 on plan SP288711.
Total Nitrogen (TN)	The sum of Organic Nitrogen, Ammonia Nitrogen, Nitrite plus Nitrate Nitrogen, expressed as mg/L as Nitrogen. This includes both the inorganic and organic fraction of nitrogen.

Word or Phrase	Meaning
Total Phosphorus (TP)	The sum of the reactive phosphorus, acid-hydrolysable phosphorus and organic phosphorus, as mg/L of Phosphorus. This includes both the inorganic and organic fraction of phosphorus**.**
Waters	River, stream, lake, lagoon, pond, swamp, wetland, unconfined surface water, unconfined water natural or artificial **watercourse**, bed and bank of any waters, dams, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea), stormwater channel, stormwater drain, roadside gutter, stormwater run-off, and groundwater and any part-thereof.
Watercourse	Defined in Section 10, Schedule 19 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019.
Week	Any 168 hour period of a calendar week.
You	Means the holder of the environmental authority, or anyone acting under the environmental authority.

Appendix 1 – Effluent Disposal Area



END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY