Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority EPPR02828415

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

Environmental authority number: EPPR02828415

Environmental authority takes effect on 12 October 2018

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Longreach Base Hospital 139 Eagle St LONGREACH QLD 4730 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 1/SP143258

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:

- the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or

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- 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 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.

Christine Mooney
Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Date issued: 12 October 2018

Enquiries:
Extraction, Energy and Chemical Industries Assessment
Department of Environment and Science
Phone: 1300 130 372
Email: palm@des.qld.gov.au

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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)

Conditions of environmental authority

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

Agency interest: General	
Condition number	**Condition**
G1	**Activities** conducted under this environmental authority must not be conducted contrary to any of the following limitations: Inflows must not exceed the peak design capacity of 6780L/day.
G2	All reasonable and practicable **measures** must be taken to prevent the likelihood of environmental harm being caused.
G3	Any breach of a condition of this environmental authority must be reported to the **administering authority** as soon as practicable, or at most, within 24 hours of becoming aware of the breach. Records must be kept including full details of the breach and any subsequent actions undertaken.
G4	Other than as permitted by this environmental authority, the release of a contaminant into the environment must not occur.
G5	All information and records required by the conditions of this environmental authority must be kept for a minimum of five years with the exception of environmental monitoring results which must be kept until surrender of this environmental authority. All information and records required by the conditions of this environmental authority must be provided to the **administering authority** upon request and in the format requested.
G6	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.
G7	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.
G8	**You** must record the following details for all environmental **complaints** received: a) date and time complaint was received b) name and contact details of the complainant c) nature of the complaint d) investigations undertaken e) conclusions formed f) actions taken.

G9	When required by the **administering authority**, monitoring must be undertaken in the manner prescribed by the **administering authority**, to investigate a **complaint** not considered by the **administering authority** to be frivolous or vexatious, of **environmental nuisance** arising from the **activity**. The monitoring results must be provided to the **administering authority** upon request.
G10	The **activity** must be undertaken in accordance with written procedures that: 1. identify potential risks to the environment from the **activity** during routine operations, closure and an emergency 2. establish and maintain control **measures** that minimise the potential for environmental harm 3. ensure plant, equipment and **measures** are maintained in a proper and effective condition 4. ensure plant, equipment and **measures** are operated in a proper and effective manner 5. ensure that staff are trained in and aware of their obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* 6. ensure that reviews of environmental performance are undertaken at least annually.
Agency interest: Air	
Condition number	**Condition**
A1	Odours or airborne contaminants must not cause **environmental nuisance** at a **sensitive place** or **commercial place**.
Agency interest: Water	
Condition number	**Condition**
WT1	Contaminants must not be released to **groundwater** or at a location where they are likely to release to **groundwater**.
WT2	A **groundwater monitoring system** must: a) be designed and installed by an **appropriately qualified person(s)** with experience and qualifications in hydrology and **groundwater** monitoring; and b) include a sufficient number of bores installed at locations and depths which yield representative **groundwater** samples from at least the uppermost aquifer so as to: i. detect any seepage of contaminants to **groundwater** from the site; and ii. establish the quality of **groundwater** affected by any seepage of contaminants; and c) include monitoring of background **groundwater** quality, with both hydraulically **up-gradient bore(s)** or **background bore(s)** that have not been affected by any release of contaminants to **groundwater** from the **activity and** hydraulically **down gradient bore(s)** of the **activity.**
Agency interest: Noise	
Condition number	**Condition**
N1	Noise generated by the **activity** must not cause **environmental nuisance** to any **sensitive place** or **commercial place.**

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Agency interest: Land</th></tr>
<tr><th>Condition number</th><th>Condition</th></tr>
<tr><td>L1</td><td>The only contaminants to be released to land are treated effluent from the sewage treatment plant located and operating on site of Lot 1 SP143258 in accordance with the Table 3 – Treated effluent release limits to irrigation area and the associated requirements.

Table 3. Treated effluent release limits to irrigation area[1]
<table>
<tr><th>Quality characteristics</th><th>Release limit</th><th>Limit type</th></tr>
<tr><td>Total nitrogen</td><td>30 mg/L</td><td>maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total phosphorous</td><td>10 mg/L</td><td>maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>Electrical conductivity</td><td>1600µS/cm</td><td>maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>pH</td><td>5.0-8.5</td><td>range</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total residual chlorine (if used for disinfection)</td><td>1 mg/L</td><td>maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>E. coli</td><td><1000cfu/100ml</td><td>maximum</td></tr>
</table>
Associated requirements
1. 1700m^2 of total irrigation area as outlined in site plan #41-28143-A002 (attached in Schedule 1).
2. Monitoring must be in accordance with the administering authority's Water Quality Sampling Manual and all monitoring devices must be effectively calibrated and maintained.
3. Releases of treated effluent must not be outside of the irrigation area indicated in site plan #41-28143-A002 (attached in Schedule 1).
4. Monitoring must be undertaken when treated sewage effluent is being irrigated, unless irrigation has ceased for longer than the relevant parameters specified minimum frequency (e.g. if TSS was only required to be monitored once a week, then a TSS sample would not be required after the first week following cessation of the release).
5. Volume of release must be calculated based on the total irrigation area when irrigating the maximum volume or the worked out for the area of application based on the actual volume irrigated.
6. Indicators for TN and TP are recommended to be done as grab samples.
7. Enterococci counts are the recommended pathogen indicator for assessing potential risks to recreational water, E. coli counts may be more relevant for land irrigation where recreation is unlikely.</td></tr>
<tr><td>L2</td><td>Treated effluent released to land must be done in accordance with documentation that ensures:
a) drainage 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 does 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) sufficient buffer zones are maintained between irrigation sites and sensitive environmental receptors.</td></tr>
<tr><td>L3</td><td>When weather conditions or soil conditions preclude the release of treated sewage effluent to land, effluent must not be irrigated to land.</td></tr>
</table>

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

Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section and **bolded** throughout this document. Applicants should note that where a term is not defined, the definition in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations or environmental protection policies must be used. If a word remains undefined it has its ordinary meaning.

Activity means the environmentally relevant activities, whether resource activities or prescribed activities, to which the environmental authority relates.
Administering authority means the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or its successor or predecessors.
Appropriately qualified person(s) means a person or persons who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis to performance relative to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.
Commercial place means 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.
Day means any 24 hour period.
Environmental nuisance as defined under Chapter 1 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
Environmental value as defined under Chapter 1 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
Measures has the broadest interpretation and includes plant, equipment, physical objects, bunding, containment systems, monitoring, procedures, actions, directions and competency.
Median means the middle value, where half the data are smaller and half the data are larger. If the number of samples is even, the median is the arithmetic average of the two middle values.
NATA means National Association of Testing Authorities.
Noxious means harmful or injurious to health or physical well-being.
Offensive means causing offence or displeasure; is unreasonably disagreeable to the sense; disgusting, nauseous or repulsive.
Prescribed contaminants means contaminants listed within Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Model operating conditions—ERA 63—Sewage Treatment
Release of a contaminant into the environment means to:

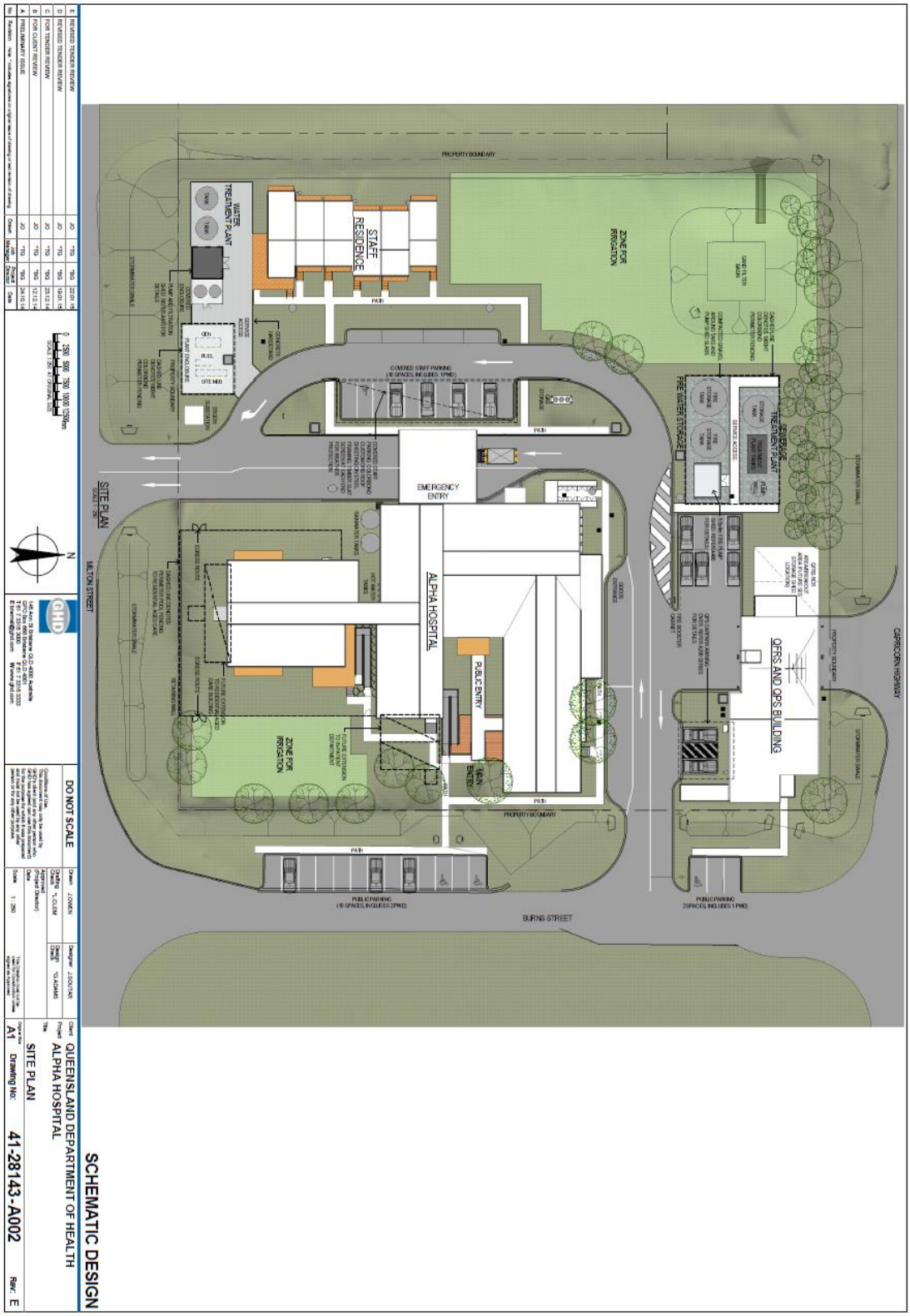
- deposit, discharge, emit or disturb the contaminant
- cause or allow the contaminant to be deposited, discharged, emitted or disturbed
- fail to prevent the contaminant from being deposited, discharged emitted or disturbed
- allow the contaminant to escape
- fail to prevent the contaminant from escaping.

Sensitive place includes the following and includes a place within the curtilage of such a place reasonably used by persons at that place:

- a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises; or
- a motel, hotel or hostel; or
- a kindergarten, school, university or other educational institution; or
- a medical centre or hospital; or
- a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Marine Parks Act 1992* or a World Heritage Area; or
- a public thoroughfare, park or gardens; or
- for noise, a place defined as a sensitive receptor for the purposes of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008.

Total Nitrogen (TN) means 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.
Total Phosphorus (TP) means 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 includes 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.
You means the holder of the environmental authority.

Schedule 1—Approved plans



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