

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority P-EA-100127979

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

Environmental authority number: P-EA-100127979

Environmental authority takes effect on 13 October 2021.

The first annual fee is payable within 20 business days of the take effect date.

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is the same day each year as the take effect date. The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
Whitsunday Regional Council	83-85 Main Street PROSERPINE QLD 4800

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
ERA 63 - Sewage Treatment - 1(a-i) - Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of 21 to 100EP - if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	16/CP852395

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
- 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:

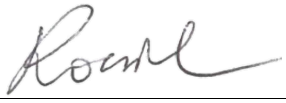
- a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority - on the nominated day; or
- b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect-on the stated day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

The anniversary day of this environmental authority is the same day each year as the original take effect date unless you apply to change the anniversary day. The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day. An annual return will be due each year on 01 April.

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.



Signature

12/10/2021

Date

Dorota Rosiak
Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:

Department of Environment and Science
GPO Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001
Phone: 1300 130 372
Email:
IndustryandDevelopment.Assessment@des.qld.gov.au

Privacy statement

Pursuant to section 540 of the EP Act, the Department is required to maintain a register of certain documents and information authorised under the EP Act. A copy of this document will be kept on the public register. The register is available for inspection by members of the public who are able take extracts, or copies of the documents from the register. Documents that are required to be kept on the register are published in their entirety, unless alteration is required by the EP Act. There is no general discretion allowing the Department to withhold documents or information required to be kept on the public register. For more information on the Department's public register, search 'public register' at www.qld.gov.au. For queries about privacy matters please email privacy@des.qld.gov.au or telephone 13 74 68.

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 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 Resources (to clear vegetation), and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (to clear marine plants or to obtain a quarry material allocation).

Obligations under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*

If you are operating a quarry, other than a sand and gravel quarry where there is no crushing capability, you will be required to comply with the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*. For more information on your obligations under this legislation contact Mine Safety and Health at <https://www.rshq.qld.gov.au/>, or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or your local Mines Inspectorate Office.

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. If you are unsure that you have the most current version of the environmental authority relating to this site please visit <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/env-authorities/> to access all environmental authorities currently approved.

Conditions of environmental authority

Environmentally relevant activity	Location/s
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 16/CP852395 66 Station Road, Lake Proserpine, QLD 4800

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

Agency interest: General	
Condition number	Condition
G1	The activity conducted under this environmental authority must meet the following requirements: (a) The total daily inflow to the sewage treatment plant must not exceed 9,300 L/day; and (b) Release of treated effluent to land must be spread out evenly across the effluent disposal area; and (c) A minimum effluent disposal area of 0.7 ha must be utilised; and (d) Releases of treated effluent must only occur within the effluent disposal area as outlined in <i>Appendix 1: Attachment 1 - Site Plan</i>.
G2	All reasonable and practicable measures must be taken to prevent or minimise environmental harm caused by the activity .
G3	Any contravention of a condition of this environmental authority must be reported to the administering authority via the Pollution Hotline on 1300 130 372 as soon as practicable, but no more than 24 hours after becoming aware of the contravention.
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.
G6	All information and records required by the conditions of this environmental authority must be provided to the administering authority: (a) within the time specified by the administering authority; and (b) in the format requested by the administering authority.
G7	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.

G8	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 <i>in situ</i> monitoring of electrical conductivity and pH.
G9	An annual monitoring report must be prepared for each financial year and provided to the administering authority upon request.
G10	The following details for all environmental complaints received must be recorded: (a) date and time the complaint was received; and (b) name and contact details of the complainant (if provided and authorised by the complainant); and (c) nature of the complaint; and (d) investigations undertaken; and (e) conclusions formed; and (f) actions taken.
G11	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 environmental harm alleged by the administering authority to have arisen from the activity.
G12	The results, including an analysis of the results, of monitoring required by condition G11 must be provided to the administering authority within 10 business days after you receive the monitoring results.
G13	Within three months of the environmental authority taking effect, written procedures must be developed which: (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 (e) the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> to be conducted as part of staff inductions and at least annually thereafter; and (f) establish processes to review environmental risks, incidents, performance and complaints.
G14	Written procedures required by condition G13 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.

G15	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 procedure developed in accordance with condition G13.
G16	You must install and maintain wet weather storage with a volume of at least 50 kL of storage for treated wastewater.
G17	Chemicals and fuels in containers of greater than 15 litres must be stored within a secondary containment system.
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 waters .
WT2	Contaminants must not be released to groundwater or at a location where they are likely to release to groundwater .
WT3	Sewage pump stations whose failure would or would be likely to result in a release of contaminants to waters must be fitted with: (a) stand-by pumps; and (b) pump-failure alarms; and (c) high level alarms to warn of imminent pump station overflow.
WT4	All alarms required under condition WT3 must: (a) be able to operate without mains power (if such power failure occurs); and (b) when in operation, must notify the appropriate person to respond to the alarm.
WT5	Stormwater contaminated by the activity must be managed to minimise or prevent any adverse effect on the environmental values of the receiving environment.
Agency interest: Noise	
Condition number	Condition
N1	Noise generated by the activity must not cause environmental nuisance at a sensitive place or commercial place .
Agency interest: Waste	
Condition number	Condition

W1	Unless otherwise permitted by this environmental authority, all waste generated in carrying out the activity must be lawfully reused, recycled or removed to a facility that can lawfully accept the waste.																																													
Agency interest: Land																																														
Condition																																														
L1	The only contaminants to be released to land are treated effluent in accordance with <i>Table 1 – Treated effluent release limits and monitoring requirements</i> and the associated requirements. Table 1 – Treated effluent release limits and monitoring requirements <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Quality Characteristic (units)</th><th rowspan="2">Authorised release location(s)</th><th colspan="3">Release Limit</th><th rowspan="2">Minimum Monitoring Frequency</th></tr><tr><th>Minimum</th><th>Mean**</th><th>Maximum</th></tr><tr><td>Irrigation rate (mm/day)</td><td rowspan="7">Effluent disposal area per condition G1(d)</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>Daily</td></tr><tr><td>Irrigation volume (L/day)</td><td></td><td></td><td>9300</td><td>Daily</td></tr><tr><td>Total Nitrogen (as TN) mg/L</td><td></td><td></td><td>50</td><td>Monthly*</td></tr><tr><td>Total Phosphorus (as TP) mg/L</td><td></td><td></td><td>15</td><td>Monthly*</td></tr><tr><td>pH (pH units)</td><td>6.0</td><td></td><td>8.5</td><td>Monthly*</td></tr><tr><td>E.coli (CFU/100ml)</td><td></td><td></td><td><100</td><td>Monthly*</td></tr><tr><td>Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)</td><td></td><td></td><td>1600</td><td>Monthly*</td></tr></table> Associated requirements - Monitoring must be in accordance with the most recent edition of the administering authority's <i>Monitoring and Sampling Manual</i>; and - All monitoring devices must be effectively calibrated and maintained in accordance with manufacturers specifications; and - Monitoring must be undertaken when treated sewage effluent is being applied, unless effluent application has ceased for longer than the relevant parameters specified minimum frequency (e.g. if TP was only required to be monitored once a week, then a TP sample would not be required after the first week following cessation of the release); and - Samples must be representative of the release; and - Indicators for TN and TP are recommended to be done as grab samples; and - A suitable flow meter is to be installed at the outlet of the treatment system/s to provide an accurate reading of flows.	Quality Characteristic (units)	Authorised release location(s)	Release Limit			Minimum Monitoring Frequency	Minimum	Mean**	Maximum	Irrigation rate (mm/day)	Effluent disposal area per condition G1(d)		2	5	Daily	Irrigation volume (L/day)			9300	Daily	Total Nitrogen (as TN) mg/L			50	Monthly*	Total Phosphorus (as TP) mg/L			15	Monthly*	pH (pH units)	6.0		8.5	Monthly*	E.coli (CFU/100ml)			<100	Monthly*	Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)			1600	Monthly*
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	* Monitoring frequency may be undertaken 3 monthly where the previous three (3) consecutive samples comply with all limits in Table 1. If 3 monthly monitoring indicates exceedance of limits in Table 1, monitoring must be undertaken monthly. ** Mean means a limit applied to consecutive samples taken over a 6 month period (on a rolling basis for limit calculations) where consecutive samples are taken at the minimum frequency specified in Table 1.
L2	Contaminants released to land in accordance with condition L1 must be monitored in accordance with <i>Table 1 – Treated effluent release limits and monitoring requirements</i> and the associated requirements.
L2	When weather conditions or soil conditions preclude the release of treated sewage effluent to land, effluent must not be released to land.
L3	Releases to land authorised under conditions L1 and L3 must be done in accordance with documentation that ensures: (a) contaminants are not released to any waters; and (b) ponding of contaminants does not occur; and (c) treated effluent does not run-off into areas beyond effluent disposal areas (as prescribed under condition G1(d)); and (d) soil structure is not degraded as a result of the activity; and (e) soil sodicity and the build-up of nutrients and heavy metals in the soil and subsoil are minimised; and (f) spray drift or overspray does not carry beyond effluent disposal areas (as prescribed under condition G1(d)); and (g) effluent disposal areas (as prescribed under condition G1(d)) are maintained with an appropriate crop in a viable state for transpiration and nutrient uptake; and (h) sufficient buffer zones are maintained between effluent disposal areas and sensitive environmental receptors.

Definitions

Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section. 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(s) 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 means the Department of Environment and Science or its successor or predecessors.

Appropriately qualified person(s) means 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 and/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.

Day(s) means any 24-hour period of a calendar day.

Effluent disposal areas means in the areas as shown in Appendix 1: Attachment 1 - *Site Plan* - of this environmental authority.

Environmental harm means:

- (1) is any adverse effects, or potential adverse effect (weather temporary or permanent) and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency) on an environmental value, and includes environmental nuisance.
- (2) **Environmental harm** may be caused by an activity
 - (a) whether the harm is a direct or indirect result of the activity; or
 - (b) whether the harm results from the activity alone or from the combined effects of the activity and other activities or factors.

Groundwater means water that occurs naturally in, or is introduced artificially into, an aquifer.

Measures has the broadest interpretation and includes plan, equipment, physical objects, monitoring, procedures, actions, directions and competency.

Monitor, monitored and monitoring means 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).

Records 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, release of contaminant(s) and release(s) means:

- (a) a direct or indirect release of contaminants into the environment; and
- (b) to deposit, discharge, emit or disturb a contaminant(s); or
- (c) to cause or allow a contaminant(s) to be deposited, discharged, emitted or disturbed; or
- (d) to fail to prevent the contaminant from being deposited, discharged emitted or disturbed; or
- (e) to allow the contaminant(s) to escape; or
- (f) to fail to prevent the contaminant(s) from escaping.

Sensitive place includes any of the following places:

- (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 park or garden; 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.

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, or anyone acting under the environmental authority.

Appendix 1: Attachment 1 - Site Plan

