

Letter

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Closure of an Environmental Protection Order

This letter of closure of an environmental protection order is issued by the administering authority to advise that the environmental protection order issued pursuant to section 360 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 is no longer in effect.

South Stradbroke Caretaking Services Pty Limited
ACN 643 864 804

C/- BDH LEADERS, LEVEL 12, 111 ELIZABETH STREET,
SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

cc: WILLIAM BAYFIELD DOOLEN (Director)

Email: wbd1945@gmail.com

PO Box 582 Fortitude Valley Q 4006

Cc: SIMON NAPOLI

Email: simon@edgcapital.com.au

Your reference: EPPR00805313

Our reference: CPLRC-100009539

05/06/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Take notice: that on Wednesday, 21 April 2021, under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) the administering authority issued an Environmental Protection Order (EPO) to South Stradbroke Caretaking Services Pty Limited (SSCS). The administering authority is the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Science (the department).

The EPO (2021) was issued with respect to the activities of SSCS at Couran Cove Island Resort on land described as Lot 10 on Plan MCP106985 situated at Esplanade, South Stradbroke Island, QLD (the premises). The environmental authority EPPR00805313 dated 14 April 2021 (the EA) authorises environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) 16 -1(a) (extraction and Screening) and ERA 63 -1(b)(i) (Sewage Treatment) to be conducted at the premises. This notice is related to ERA 63 -1(b)(i) (Sewage Treatment).

A. Requirements

The requirements of the EPO (2021) were:

- 1) By 5:00pm on 17 May 2021, you must engage a suitably qualified person to conduct a review of all current plant and equipment utilised in the sewage treatment activity, including the existing irrigation infrastructure/ equipment and release area. This review must include:
 - a) Details of the current state of all plant and equipment; and



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- b) Details of maintenance work and upgrades required for plant and equipment to ensure the sewage treatment plant achieves compliance with the release limits contained in Table 2 of the EA; and
 - c) Details of maintenance work and upgrades of irrigation infrastructure and the irrigation release area required to achieve an even spread of treated effluent over the area marked on EA EPPR00805313 Schedule 1 'Effluent irrigation release area'; and
 - d) A schedule of maintenance work and upgrades for sewage treatment plant and equipment which when implemented will achieve compliance with the release limits in Table 2 of the EA; and
 - e) A schedule of maintenance work and upgrades for the irrigation infrastructure and release area illustrated in EA Schedule 1 - *Effluent irrigation area* which, when implemented, will ensure an even spread of effluent across the effluent irrigation area and achieve compliance with condition L6 of EPPR00505313; and
 - f) A recommended ongoing maintenance program to ensure sewage treatment plant and irrigation plant and equipment is maintained in a proper and efficient condition.
- 2) By 5:00pm on 16 July 2021, provide a report to the department detailing the full findings of the review conducted under requirement 1.
- The report must include the recommended schedule of upgrades and the ongoing maintenance program.
- 3) By 5:00 pm on 18 February 2022 you must:
- a) Undertake all repairs recommended in the review undertaken in requirement 1 to existing irrigation infrastructure detailed on 'Effluent Disposal Area Monitoring Locations' dated September 1998 to ensure an even spread of treated effluent over the area marked on EA EPPR00805313 Schedule 1 'Effluent irrigation release area'; and
 - b) Provide the department with evidence of all repairs, and that an even spread of effluent is being achieved. This must include details of the volumes released per day and methods used to ensure even spread (e.g. isolation of areas).
- 4) You must ensure that effluent is not released during or for 24 hours after significant (>20mm) rainfall.
- 5) By 5:00pm on 17 May 2021, you must engage a suitably qualified person to:
- a) Conduct groundwater monitoring up-gradient and down-gradient of the plant and irrigation area in accordance with EA condition W7 and W8; and
 - b) Utilising previous groundwater monitoring results, assess whether groundwater contamination has occurred and if so, the level of environmental harm caused as a result of such contamination.
- 6) You must submit a report by 5:00 pm on 15 October 2021 to the department detailing the results and analysis conducted under requirement 5.

All information and reports associated with the requirements of this notice must be provided to goldcoast.es@des.qld.gov.au.

B. Compliance with the requirements

In determining compliance with the requirements of the EPO (2021), the department has considered:

- The *Couran Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant Audit & Maintenance Plan* prepared by Simmonds & Bristow Pty Ltd (S&B), July 2021 as per EPO-2021 requirements 1 and 2;
- The *Groundwater Investigation & Report* prepared by S&B, October 2021 as per EPO (2021) requirements 5 and 6;
- The *Couran Cove Sewage Treatment Plant – EPO Status Update Report* prepared by S&B, October 2022 as requested by the department;

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- Reporting provided by S&B since issuing of the EPO (2021) regarding any identified non-compliances with EPPR00805313 and subsequent actions taken.
- Observations during inspections of the premises by authorised officers of the department on 1 and 20 March 2023.
- Financial constraints reported by SSCS.

SSCS advised that due to financial constraints all repairs recommended in the review prepared by S&B as per requirement 3 of the EPO (2021) were unable to be completed. However, the department noted that improvement was made towards repairs of the STP following the issuing of the EPO (2021).

Site inspections conducted by departmental officers in March 2023 determined that substantial progress toward achieving the requirements of the EPO (2021) had been met however requirement 3 remained outstanding, and the requirement for routine monitoring of groundwater and soil under the EA was also outstanding.

C. Obligations

The department has elected to close the EPO (2021). Noting, the department elected to issue a subsequent **EPO (E-100412733) to SSCS on 31 May 2023** to address failures to maintain irrigation infrastructure and failure to complete routine groundwater and soil monitoring.

Accordingly, this letter serves as a notice that the **EPO (2021) issued on 21 April 2021** is being closed and is no longer in effect.

SSCS is reminded of their responsibility to comply with conditions contained in Environmental Authority EPPR00805313 and further to ensure the requirements of EPO (E-100412733) are achieved by the deadlines defined in the notice.

Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, please contact Henry Hunt on telephone number (07) 5626 6871.



Signature

5/06/2023

Date

Eugene Immisch
Compliance Delivery Manager
Department of Environment and Science
Delegate of the Chief Executive
Environmental Protection Act 1994

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