Environmental Enforcement Order

Section 362 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994
Contravention of condition of environmental authority

Order id:	STAT-E-100963187
Issued to:	United Petroleum Pty Ltd (ACN 085 779 255) Level 1 9 McKechine Drive EIGHT MILE PLAINS, QLD 4113 For the purpose of this notice you means the recipient of this notice or your authorised representative.
Site address:	2618 Bruce Highway, Gunalda, Qld 4570 & Lot 1 on Plan SP350177 (formerly Lot 1 on Plan RP212272) ("the premises").
Cc:	United Petroleum Environmental (environmental@unitedpetroleum.com.au)
Issued by:	Mark Watson, Principal Environment Officer, Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation at 12 First Avenue, Maroochydore, an authorised person of the administering authority ("the delegate").  Signed by delegate
Date:	~~28 October 2025~~ 31 October 2025
Relevant matter/ enforcement grounds:	Section 359(c) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to secure compliance with the general environmental duty. Section 359(e)(ii) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to secure compliance with condition/s of your environmental authority, specifically conditions G2, G4, G7, L1, L3, L4, L8, L9 WT2 of BRID0059effective 13 June 2018.
Service method:	Via registered post and email

Grounds

This amended EEO (amended notice) is issued to correct contact details in the notice. The amended notice replaces the EEO issued by the department on 28 October 2025.

New text in the amended notice is shown as underlined.

This amended EEO is issued on the following grounds that relate to the relevant matter.

Under section 362(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) the administering authority may issue an order (an environmental enforcement order) to a person if the authority believes an enforcement ground exists for the person.

Under section 359 of the Act, each of the following is a ground (an enforcement ground) on which to issue an environmental enforcement order to a person.

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Section 359(c) of the Act states *it is necessary to issue an environmental enforcement order to secure the person's compliance with the general environmental duty.*

> The department requires you to take reasonable measures to secure compliance with the general environmental duty. The general environmental duty is detailed in section 319 of the Act which states *'A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the harm (the general environmental duty).*

Section 359(e) of the Act states *it is necessary to issue an environmental enforcement order to secure the person's compliance with —*

> *(ii) a condition of an environmental authority.*

The department requires you to take reasonable measures to secure compliance with condition/s G2, G4, G7, L1, L3, L4, L8, L9 WT2 and WT3 of environmental authority BRID0059 (the EA) dated 13 June 2018.

What are you required to do?

Please read this EEO carefully and carry out all the required actions listed below by the required dates.

Terms used in this order have the meaning defined in the Background and Definitions section of the EEO, or if not defined, in the Act.

If you have any questions about this EEO, please contact Sunshine Coast Compliance Centre by email at sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au or telephone 5459 6132.

Required actions:

1. By ~~28 October 2025~~ 31 October 2025, you must cease releasing effluent to land or waters until the Sewage Treatment Works (STW) is demonstrated to be compliant with the EA, including the treatment plant and irrigation area.
2. By ~~4 November 2025~~ 14 November 2025, you must engage an **appropriately qualified person(s) (AQP)** to carry out the requirements of this EEO and confirm the engagement(s) in writing to sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au. The written confirmation of the engagement must include each AQP's academic and professional qualifications, suitable skills, experience and training, relevant to the nominated subject matter and that the AQP can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis of performance in relation to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature relevant to this notice.

Assessment of STW

3. The **AQP** must conduct a detailed technical assessment of the STW, including the irrigation area and groundwater monitoring requirements. The assessment must include identification of the maintenance and repair requirements necessary to bring the system into compliance with the EA.

   The AQP must prepare a report detailing the technical assessment and recommended actions required to bring the system into compliance with the EA.

4. By ~~18 November 2025~~ 1 December 2025, you must incorporate the recommended actions from Requirement 3 into an action plan outlining actions to be taken by the AQP(s) to bring the system into compliance with the EA for all aspects of the STW and irrigation area. The action plan must include a detailed timeline for completion and identify parties responsible for completion of each action item. You must provide a copy of the report developed under requirement 3 and the action plan to the department for comment at sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au.

5. By 10 days after the department provides comment on the action plan, developed in accordance with Requirement 4 of the EEO, you must incorporate the department's comments and submit the updated action plan to sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au.

EA Amendment

6. By ~~4 November 2025~~ 6 November 2025, you must engage with the department to determine whether an amendment to the EA is required. This review must consider whether the system upgrade conducted post-issuance of the EA necessitates an EA amendment and if any recommended changes identified during the review conducted under requirement 3 of this EEO require an EA amendment. This must occur concurrently to ensure your actions and the final operation of the STW will meet the department's compliance expectations.

Staff Capability and Training

7. By ~~30 January 2026~~ 3 February 2026, you must prepare updated written procedures as required under conditions G7 and submit the written procedures to sunshincoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au.
8. By ~~30 January 2026~~ 3 February 2026, you must update the irrigation area management and monitoring program (IAMMP) to reflect the approved STW to effectively monitor the condition of the land to which contaminants are released in accordance with condition L8 and submit the plan to sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au.
9. By ~~27 February 2026~~ 3 March 2026, you must implement a training and awareness program for all staff and contractors operating under the EA on the requirements of the Act and EA. You must provide evidence that implementation has occurred, via a report, training records, photos or other means, to sunshinecoast.esr@detsi.qld.gov.au

Potential environmental harm

10. By ~~30 January 2026~~ 3 February 2026, you must investigate, prepare and submit a report on the nature and extent of potential environmental harm associated with the uncontrolled release of effluent to the environment that has likely occurred during the period in which the STW and associated infrastructure, including the irrigation area, has been in disrepair. The investigation must consider impacts to environmental values from releases to land and waters, including groundwater and make recommendations on actions to remediate any potential environmental harm identified. A copy of the report must be provided to the department for comment.
11. By 15 days after the department provides comment on the report developed in accordance with requirement 10 of the EEO, you must consider the department's comments, update the report accordingly and provide a copy to the department and begin implementing the recommended actions.

Monitoring

12. By ~~4 November 2025~~ 14 November 2025, you must commence environmental monitoring as required under conditions L1, L9, and WT2 of the EA. For a period of 12 months, provide all monitoring results to the department as they become available. Results must be reviewed by an AQP and compared against relevant nominated assessment criteria. The AQP must review and provide recommendations for improvements implemented in a timely manner.

Background and Definitions

1. The department is the administering authority and has responsibility for enforcing the Act.
2. You are the holder of EA BRID0059 dated 13 June 2018.
3. The department is satisfied that you are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the premises under the EA.
4. Relevant conditions relating to the requirements of the EEO include: G2, G4, G7, L1, L3, L4, L8, L9 WT2, WT3. A copy is included in Appendix A.

5. On 25 August 2025, the department undertook a site inspection of the premises. Authorised officers observed potential EA non-compliances at the premises and noted that site representatives had little knowledge of the EA or the conditions therein.
6. On 2 September 2025, the department issued a post-inspection pre-enforcement letter to you requesting additional information and providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the EA and outline why the department should not proceed with enforcement action for the alleged non-compliances identified.
7. On 17 September 2025, you provided a formal response to the pre-enforcement letter. There was an additional exchange of correspondence between 17 October 2025 and 19 October 2025 with departmental officers.
8. A review of the information you provided identified non-compliances with the EA. Non-compliances identified include:
    - The irrigation area was in disrepair and not functioning as designed, resulting in visible soil erosion and damage to soil structure, surface ponding of effluent and surface movement of effluent outside the boundary of the approved irrigation area. This constitutes a breach of EA conditions G2, L3 and L8.
    - No monitoring of effluent quality, groundwater or soil condition was conducted during the period when United Petroleum was solely responsible for compliance with the EA (July 2024 to 25 August 2025). United Petroleum was also unable to demonstrate monitoring had been conducted by provision of results during the period True Water were engaged to manage compliance with the EA. This constitutes a breach of conditions G2, L1, L8, L9, WT2 and WT3
    - Site representatives displayed limited understanding of EA conditions and requirements under the Act during the inspection on 25 August 2025. It was found that no procedures were available to onsite staff describing how to operate, maintain and monitor the current STW and irrigation area. This constitutes a breach of condition G2 and G7.
    - In accordance with EA condition L4, the daily volume of contaminants released to land is required to be determined or estimated by a flow meter or other appropriate method. On 25 August 2025, it was observed that there was no flow meter installed. The site representative was surprised by this finding. United Petroleum did not provide evidence that an alternative appropriate method was being applied, and records kept of such determinations. This constitutes a breach of condition G2 and L4.
    - Effluent appeared to be releasing to the environment in an uncontrolled manner outside of the irrigation area. This was later confirmed by Calm Water upon inspection. This constitutes a breach of condition G2 and G4.
9. In correspondence from United Petroleum between 17 – 19 September 2025 commitments were made to "*ensure the system is operating as it should*", to begin ground water monitoring and proposed the following way forward:

    United have since engaged Calm Water to assist in ensuring the plant is fit for purpose and in compliance with the EA. Calm Water have reviewed the system and have determined a number of upgrades are required. United have approved Calm Water to undertake the following works:

    - *Install flow meters sufficient to measure flows through the system and to the irrigation field.*
    - *Install and commission an inline chlorine analysis system.*
    - *Install a chloring dosing system.*
    - *Install a glass media filter within an existing tank.*
    - *Miscellaneous parts and piping to allow commissioning.*
    - *Draft an operating diagram for the system.*
    - *Inspect and scope repairs to the irrigation area.*

    With the works Calm Water are completing United will have a complete set of drawings for the WWTP.

United will then apply for a modification to the EA to allow for the revised system design and specifications.

Groundwater monitoring has recently been completed, and we will compile a baseline condition through the effluent irrigation area once works have been completed to ensure representative samples can be taken safely.

10. On 19 September 2025, United Petroleum advised effluent was being transported off site and you had ceased releasing to the irrigation area You provided evidence that United Petroleum had approved commencement of the repairs and maintenance to the plant. You committed to engaging a consultant to review the irrigation area and the potential releases outside the irrigation area for environmental harm.
11. On 24 September 2025, the department sent additional pre-enforcement correspondence advising of further alleged non-compliances and providing you with an opportunity to submit a more detailed action plan that addressed the alleged non-compliances and demonstrated your ability and commitment to voluntarily bring the site into compliance with the EA in a timely manner.
12. On 1 October 2025, you provided a response to the department consisting primarily of a list of action items identified and an indication of progress to date. The response did not include the following as requested by the department:
    a. Timeframe for progress and completion of actions required to address all alleged non-compliances.
    b. Commitment to training staff on their obligations under the Act and EA.
    c. Information on the environmental investigation into potential environmental harm for the effluent releases outside of the irrigation area.
    d. Immediate commencement of all monitoring requirements under condition L1, L9 and WT2 and provision of the results to the department as they become available.
    e. The provision of progress updates on implementing the agreed actions.
13. On 16 October 2025, the department contacted you to advise that you had not submitted the requested weekly update, and of these deficiencies identified above in dot point 12. On 17 October 2025, you provided an update including additional information to demonstrate progress. This submission did not include time frames for coming into compliance, action on investigating potential environmental harm and submitting an application to the department to amend the EA.
14. Therefore, the department does not have confidence United Petroleum will voluntarily bring the site into compliance with the EA and the Act within a reasonable timeframe, and therefore a statutory notice is required to secure compliance with the EA.
15. Section 319 of the Act states:
    A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonably practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm (the general environmental duty "GED").
16. On 25 August 2025, the irrigation area observed was in disrepair and not functioning as designed, resulting in visible soil erosion and damage to soil structure, surface ponding of effluent and surface movement of effluent outside the boundary of the approved irrigation area and, as a result, likely to cause environmental harm.
17. Upon becoming aware in July 2024, the maintenance and operational compliance of the STW was being mismanaged by True Water, you failed to act to bring the STW into compliance with the EA in a reasonable time frame.
18. The Act mandates you must hold an EA to conduct the ERA occurring at the premises, and comply with the conditions of that EA, because a contaminant may be released from that activity and that release has the potential to cause environmental harm.
19. The EA application process involves assessing impacts on environmental values (such as soil, air, and water) and applies conditions to protect environmental values and prevent or minimise environmental harm. Upon approval and initiation of the EA, United Petroleum accepted responsibility for complying with the conditions contained there-in.

20. In summary, in failing to comply with multiple EA conditions, failing to notify the department when becoming aware of operational non-compliances and potential for unapproved environmental impacts, and failing to take corrective actions in a timely manner to remedy the situation, you have failed to comply with your GED under the Act. Therefore, an EEO is required to secure compliance with the GED.
21. The delegate has considered the circumstances (including the standard criteria and human rights) and determined that the required actions are reasonable to remedy or otherwise address the relevant matters.
22. This EEO takes effect from the date of service and remains in force until stayed, amended, revoked or finalised.

Definitions that apply to this notice:

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.

Authorised representative means a representative that has been nominated by the person this EEO relates to, for acting on their behalf when dealing with the Queensland Government to manage matters. For more information, read the guideline Authorisation letter to nominate an Authorised Holder Representative (available at www.qld.gov.au using the publication number ESR/2019/5168 as a search term).

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.

Warnings and information about this EEO

A PERSON WHO IS BOUND BY THIS EEO AND WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS EEO, WITHOUT A REASONABLE EXCUSE, COMMITS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ACT.

- The maximum penalty for wilfully contravening an EEO is 1655 penalty units, totalling $276, 219.50 for an individual, or $1,381, 097.50 for a corporation.
- The maximum penalty for contravening an EEO is 600 penalty units, totalling $100, 140 for an individual, or $500,700 for a corporation.

Note that under section 493 of the Act that each executive officer of the corporation may be taken to have also committed an offence, of failing to ensure the corporation complies with the Act.

If you propose to dispose of the premises or business to which the EEO relates, you must advise the buyer of the existence of this EEO. Failure to provide written notice to the buyer of the existence of the order is an offence under section 369C of the Act with a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units, totalling $8,345 for an individual, or $41,725 for a corporation.

Further information about EEOs can be found on the department's website.

Review and appeal rights

Under Chapter 11, Part 3 of the Act, a dissatisfied person may apply for a review of this EEO within 10 business days of receiving this EEO; and a dissatisfied person who is dissatisfied with the review decision may appeal against the decision to the Court.

A request for review is to be made using the approved form ‘Application for review of original decision’ (available on the department's website). Applications for reviews are to be sent to Permit and Licence Management, Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation: via email at palm@detsi.qld.gov.au, or by mail to the following address: GPO Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001.

A person whose interests are or would be adversely affected by a decision of the department may be able to request a statement of reasons for a decision or a statutory order review under the *Judicial Review Act 1991*.

You may have other legal rights or obligations and should seek your own legal advice.

Privacy statement

Section 540 of the Act requires the department to maintain a register of certain documents and information authorised under the 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 redaction in part is required by the Act. 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@detsi.qld.gov.au or telephone 13 74 68.

Accessibility

Contact us if you need this information in an accessible format such as large print or audio.

Interpreter assistance



If you need interpreter assistance or want this document translated, please contact us and advise your preferred language. If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

Appendix A: Relevant conditions of EA

Condition G2: All reasonable and practicable **measures** must be taken to minimise the likelihood of environmental harm being caused.

Condition G4: Other than as permitted by this environmental authority, the **release of a contaminant into the environment** must not occur**.**

Condition G7: The activity must be undertaken in accordance with written procedures that:

a) identify potential risks to the environment from the activity during routine operations, closure and an emergency;
b) establish and maintain control measures that minimise the potential for environmental harm;
c) ensure plant, equipment and measures are maintained in a proper and effective condition;
d) ensure plant, equipment and measures are operated in a proper and effective manner;
e) ensure that staff are trained and aware of their obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1994; and
f) ensure that reviews of environmental performance are undertaken at least annually.

Condition L1

The only contaminants to be released to land are treated sewage effluent in accordance with the release limits specified in *Table 1 – Treated effluent release limits to irrigation area* and the associated requirements.

Table 1 - Treated effluent release limits to irrigation area

Monitoring Point	Quality Characteristic	Unit	Release Limit		Monitoring Frequency
MP1	**Total Nitrogen**	mg/L	50	Maximum	Monthly
MP1	**Total Phosphorus**	mg/L	15	Maximum	Monthly
MP1	pH	pH units	6.0 to 8.5	Range	Monthly
MP1	Biological Oxygen Demand	mg/L	30	Maximum	Monthly
MP1	Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	40	Maximum	Monthly
MP1	Faecal Coliforms	cfu/100mL	1000	Maximum	Monthly
MP1	Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1500	Maximum	Monthly

Note: MP1 monitoring point samples must be taken from a designated sampling point on the effluent discharge line, immediately downstream of the disinfection system.

Associated requirements

1. Monitoring must be in accordance with the **administering authority's** *Water Quality Sampling Manual* and all monitoring
devices must be effectively calibrated and maintained.

Condition L3 The irrigation of effluent must only occur via subsurface irrigation and be carried out in a manner such that:

a) vegetation is not damaged;
b) soil erosion and soil structure damage is avoided;
c) there is no surface ponding of effluent;
d) percolation of effluent beyond the plant root zone is minimised;

e) the capacity of the land to assimilate nitrogen, phosphorus, salts and water is not exceeded; and
f) the quality of ground water is not adversely affected.

Condition L4: The daily volume of contaminants released to land must be determined or estimated by an appropriate method (for example a flow meter), and records kept of such determinations and estimates.

Condition L8: An Irrigation area management and monitoring program (IAMMP), must be developed and implemented to effectively monitor the condition of the land to which contaminants are released within 12 months of commissioning of the sewage treatment plant. As a minimum, the IAMMP must include:

a. procedures to ensure that effluent is evenly distributed across the effluent irrigation areas and is not distributed beyond the boundary of the effluent irrigation areas;
b. designs of all effluent disposal areas, which confirms buffer distances between the areas of irrigation and environmentally sensitive areas (including wetlands);
c. procedures to review the daily influent volumes (at least annually) using actual flow data and appropriate modelling to ensure that suitably sized irrigation areas are afforded for effluent irrigation.
d. procedures for the management of harvesting of vegetation within the effluent irrigation area to ensure the required level of nutrient removal is achieved;
e. procedures to ensure that vehicle traffic (excluding pedestrian controlled lawnmower) in effluent irrigation areas is kept to a minimum to prevent compaction of soils;
f. soil and sub-soil analysis, including assessment of the soils including types, structure, phosphorus absorption capacity, nutrient status, salinity and sodicity, cation exchange capacity and sodium absorption ratio (SAR) of the contaminant release area(s), to be carried out no less than biennially (once every two years);
g. determination of the quantity and quality of contaminants applied;
h. an assessment of effluent quality monitoring results and the impact of the irrigation of effluent on the contaminant release areas.

Condition L9

Monitoring required by condition L8 shall include the taking of top soil and sub-soil samples from at least 1 site within each irrigation area for the quality characteristics and at the frequency specified in *Table 2 — Soil Impact Monitoring*.

Table 2 - Soil Impact Monitoring

Parameter	Frequency
Total Nitrogen	1 Yearly
Total Phosphorus	1 Yearly
Electrical Conductivity	1 Yearly
pH	1 Yearly
Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	1 Yearly
Exchangeable Cations	1 Yearly

Condition WT2

The registered operator must develop and implement a ground water monitoring program to identify any impacts from effluent irrigation, and to demonstrate contaminants are not adversely affecting groundwater.

The quality characteristics to be monitored for groundwater, and the minimum frequency at which samples must be collected for analysis, are specified in *Table 3 - Parameters for Groundwater Monitoring Program*. Samples must be collected at monitoring points that are representative of potentially affected groundwater hydraulically downgradient, and unaffected groundwater hydraulically upgradient of the effluent distribution area.

Table 3 - Parameters for Groundwater Monitoring Program

Parameters	Minimum Monitoring Frequency
Standing Water Level	Annually (once every year)
pH	Annually (once every year)
Electrical Conductivity	Annually (once every year)
Chloride*	Annually (once every year)
Total Nitrogen	Annually (once every year)
Nitrate	Annually (once every year)
Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	Annually (once every year)
Total Phosphorous	Annually (once every year)
Faecal Coliforms	Annually (once every year)

Note: * Chlorine must be monitored in accordance with *Table 3 — Parameters for Groundwater Monitoring Program* where chlorine is used in the disinfection process.

Condition WT3 Results obtained from sampling of groundwater must be kept and supplied to the **administering authority** on request, in accordance with condition G5 of this approval