

MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL

MAREEBA SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Transitional Environmental Program

Milestone Report September 2015

1. Introduction

The Mareeba Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) services the township of Mareeba. Mareeba is located approximately 60 km north west of Cairns in Far North Queensland. The local authority for Mareeba is the Mareeba Shire Council (MSC) which owns and operates the existing STP.

MSC operates its Mareeba STP under an Environmental Authority. The existing STP at Mareeba is an aging facility and is hydraulically overloaded and does not meet license conditions for several parameters including ammonia-N and BOD.

MSC seeks to provide improvement to the treatment process particularly focusing on hydraulic capacity and discharge effluent quality. The works are intended to provide Mareeba with a sustainable future for the plant to cater for future growth in the Mareeba region.

2. Background

On 17 November 2014, DEHP approved MSC's voluntary draft Transitional Environmental Program (TEP). The approved TEP details the way forward for MSC to achieve compliance with its Environmental Authority. The TEP contains objectives and milestones that must be met. This report describes MSC's progress towards achieving those objectives and completing the milestones.

3. Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Compliance with EA Condition 5F.WT1 (Surface Waters Release Limits)

On 24 August 2015, DEHP approved an amendment to the TEP to accommodate new surface water limits imposed under amended Environmental Authority EPPR01792213.

The new license limits have been included as part of the tender specification for the Mareeba WWTP. The tender is currently being advertised and closes 27 October 2015.

MSC has identified compliance risk with the new surface waters limits as the new limits were not as MSC had applied for or considered reasonable on the grounds of financial implications and receiving environment. Compromise was made where DEHP agreed that if through the tender process it was

identified that the Mareeba Shire community could not afford the tender submissions that met the new water quality limits, then MSC may apply to amend the licence again. This agreement is reflected in the comment section of the new licence. Should this scenario eventuate, MSC will re-apply for a licence and TEP amendment.

Objective 2: 5F.WT2 (Monitoring of Volume of Release)

A flow meter to measure the quantity of effluent has been included in the preliminary process design. Preferred brand and type of flow meter and instruments has been selected.

Objective 3: 5F.G7(Receiving Environment Monitoring Program).

Environmental monitoring has been undertaken in accordance with the Receiving Environment Monitoring Program. Please find attached the first round report.

Objective 4: 5F.G1 (Inflows that must be bypassed)

Wastewater Operators continue to diligently monitor inflows requiring bypassing of the inlet works to prevent gross solids carry over or ragging in downstream structures. No inflows have required bypassing in recent months.