

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Decision to approve a transitional environmental program

This notice is issued by the administering authority pursuant to section 340 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the Act) to advise of a decision made on draft transitional environmental program (TEP).

RTA Weipa Pty Ltd
123 Albert Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Your reference: EPPR03383115
Our reference: MAN19460, CR68203, 101/0008737

7 December 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Take notice: that under the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) this notice advising of the decision to approve a draft transitional environmental program (TEP) titled "Lorim Point STP Draft Transitional Environmental Program" (received 2 October 2015) is issued to RTA Weipa Pty Ltd (you) by the administering authority. The administering authority is the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department).

This notice is issued with respect to the activities of RTA Weipa Pty Ltd at the premise on land described as Lot 14 on SP120446 and Lot 15 on SP116851 situated at Lorim Point, Weipa, specifically in relation to the operation of a sewage treatment plant (STP).

A. Application details

Your application for the approval of a draft TEP was received by the department on 2 October 2015.

This TEP relates to upgrading the treatment process at Lorim Point STP focussing on discharge effluent quality. The purpose of this TEP is for the operator of Lorim Point STP to achieve compliance with condition C4 of environmental authority EPPR03383115.

B. Decision

The administering authority has decided to approve your application with conditions.

Please note that under section 354 failure to comply with the approved TEP will remove your immunity from prosecution for the continuation of the original offence stated in the program notice, received by the department on 2 October 2015.

The approved TEP reference number MAN19460 consists of the following:

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- the submitted application documents including any amendments made at the request of, or with the agreement of, the department; and
- any conditions imposed by the department.

The TEP will remain in force until **24 December 2017**

An annual return and the payment of the assessment fee is due within 22 business days after the anniversary day, each year.

The anniversary day is 23 December.

C. Conditions

The draft TEP is approved subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 1.

D. Grounds

- Based on the information provided in the TEP the department has included conditions which are necessary to ensure the TEP achieves the desired outcomes.
- Water quality release information has been used to determine release limit values within the conditions set out in Schedule 1.

E. Reviews and appeals

The provisions regarding review of decisions and appeals may be found in sections 519 to 539 of the Act.

A person who is dissatisfied with certain decisions of the department, may be able to apply to have the department review that original decision.

Generally, a request to have a decision reviewed must be made:

- within 10 business days of the decision being notified to the person;
- be supported by enough information to enable the department to decide the application for review; and
- be made using the application for review of an original decision form (EM709).¹

Where an application has been made for a decision to be reviewed, the applicant may also apply to the relevant court for a stay of the decision to secure the effectiveness of the review.

Once the original decision has been reviewed, a person who is dissatisfied with the review decision may be able to appeal against that decision to the relevant court within 22 business days after receiving notice of the review decision.

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

For further information about reviews and appeals see the information sheet - internal review and appeal to the Planning and Environment Court (EM1866).

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

¹ This is the publication number. The publication number can be used as a search term to find the latest version of a publication at www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

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F. Fee and annual return

Fees apply for the assessment of a draft TEP and any subsequent annual returns lodged. The applicable fees are outlined in the attached operational policy - Transitional environmental program fees (EM335).

A total fee of \$3116.85 has been determined as appropriate for the assessment of the application, and is in accordance with the operational policy. This fee is payable and an invoice will follow shortly. As your TEP is valid for 12 months or more, an annual return and assessment fee apply while the TEP has effect. These must be submitted to the administering authority no later than 22 business days after each anniversary of the day the TEP was approved. A blank annual return for a TEP has been attached.

G. Additional information

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the Act that if an owner or occupier of land becomes aware that a notifiable activity (as defined in schedule 3 and schedule 4 of the Act) is being carried out on the land, or that the land has been, or is being, contaminated by a hazardous contaminant, the owner or occupier must, within 22 business days after becoming so aware, give written notice to the department in the approved form.

Obligations under the Act

In addition to the requirements of the TEP and the conditions imposed, the holder must also meet their obligations under the Act, and the regulations made under the Act. For example:

- the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:
 - general environmental duty (section 319); and
 - duty to notify of environmental harm (sections 320 - 320G);
- the holder must also ensure that they do not commit offences of:
 - causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437 - 439);
 - causing environmental nuisance (section 440);
 - depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG); and
 - placing contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443).

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Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, please contact Calvin Quick of the department on telephone number 07 4222 5161.



Signature



Date

Rob Little

Delegate of the Chief Executive

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:

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CAIRNS QLD 4870

Ph: (07) 4222 5161

Email: calvin.quick@ehp.qld.gov.au

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Schedule 1—Conditions of transitional environmental program MAN19460

The transitional environmental program at the location described above must be conducted in accordance with the following conditions of approval.

Condition number	Condition
1	Where there is any conflict with this decision notice and the Environmental Authority, the conditions in the decision notice and approved transitional environmental program prevail.
2	All other conditions of the environmental authority which do not conflict with this decision notice and the approved transitional environmental program must be complied with.
3	The holder of this decision notice must report in writing to the administering authority in accordance with the Implementation Timeframes of the approved transitional environmental program. The reporting must summarise the progress in the carrying out of the approved transitional environmental program, including performance indicators, completion dates, monitoring results over the period of the transitional environmental program and planned future works.
4	The holder of this decision notice must submit an updated Site Based Management Plan at the end of the transitional environmental program.
5	With the exception of Faecal Coliform limits, all Quality Characteristics listed in condition C4 of the Environmental Authority must be complied with for the duration of the transitional environmental program
6	For the duration of the transitional environmental program, the following maximum limits apply: Faecal Coliforms must not exceed a maximum of 50,000 CFU/100mL
7	Where Faecal Coliforms exceed 50,000 CFU/100mL the holder of this decision notice must complete an investigation to determine the cause of the exceedance and the potential for environmental harm and provide a written report to the administering authority within 14 days, outlining: - details of the investigation carried out; and - details of the environmental impacts observed; and - actions taken to prevent environmental harm.
8	On a minimum monthly basis, for the duration of this transitional environmental program, Faecal Coliforms (or as otherwise specified in footnotes 2 and 3 of Table 1 - Surface Water Release Limits in condition C4 of the environmental authority) must be monitored at a representative location in the receiving environment, for the outfall pipeline.

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Attachments

Information sheet – Internal review and appeal to Planning and Environment Court (EM1866)

Operational policy - Transitional Environmental Program Fees (EM335)

Form: Annual return for transitional environmental program (EM667)

Attachment 1 – Actions, Timetable and Performance Indicators

Attachment 1 – Actions, Timetable and Performance Indicators

Stage	Objective of Stage	How the Stage will Reduce Faecal Coliforms	Actions	Dates	Performance Indicators
1. Biological Optimisation	Biologically optimise the plant through equipment changes and operational changes, to increase its ability to treat influent sufficiently	Modifications will include the installation of an inlet filter screen to assist in the removal of objects such as rags, plastics, and metals to prevent damage and clogging of plant equipment. This will additionally assist in decreasing the desludging times Modification will direct the screened wastewater into the bioreactor at a location away from the weir. This modification will also allow the volumes of screened waste water to be recorded.	Construct a 5m x 3m concrete slab with a perimeter bund (with a ramp at one end) for the screen to be placed on. The concrete slab will also feature a concrete channel that drains into the adjacent sludge holding tank.	To be completed by December 31 st 2015	Concrete slab and channel constructed.
			Install one (1) in-tank screen extractor with a 5mm screen including discharge chute, bagging unit, control panel, and manual internal bypass screen	To be completed by December 31 st 2015	In-tank screen extractor installed.
			Redirect the waste water inflow lines to the new screen and installing a new flow meter on the inlet to the screen	To be completed by 31 st December 2015	Waste water inflow lines redirected New flow meter installed on inlet to screen.
			Install all pipework, valves and fittings for the screen to bioreactor outflow line and the storm water bypass line.	To be completed by 31 st December 2015	All pipework, valves and fittings for screen installed.
			Install all electrical and control panel components	To be completed by 31 st December 2015	All electrical and control panel components installed.
			Remove redundant valve pit, distribution box, and flow meter from old inlet line	To be completed by 31 st January 2016.	Redundant valve pit, distribution box and flow meter removed.

Stage	Objective of Stage	How the Stage will Reduce Faecal Coliforms	Actions	Dates	Performance Indicators
		Modifications will increase the Mixed Liquor Suspended Solids (MLSS) and the sludge age, which will increase the biomass in the bioreactor to effectively treat inflow	Pass existing Bioreactor volume through filter screen. Implement an operating strategy to increase the sludge age to optimal or recommended range in a staged approach: • 7 Days • 9.5 Days • 12.2 Days • 15.6 Days.	To be completed by 31st January 2016 To be completed by : • January 31st 2016 • February 29th 2016 • March 31st 2016 • April 30th 2016	Existing bioreactor volume passed through filter screen. Implement the operating strategy. F:M ratio within recommended range of 0.04 to 0.10 Sludge age increased in line with identified stage approach.
		Assess effectiveness of Stage 1 modifications	Conduct water quality testing to assess the effectiveness of the Stage 1 modifications and detail in a report submitted to the Administering Authority.	Weekly monitoring to be conducted from the 11th December 2015 until June 30th 2016. Report to be submitted by July 31st 2016	Weekly monitoring completed Report to administering authority submitted.
			If Stage 1 modifications are effective in transitioning to compliance to Faecal Coliform release limits in accordance with Condition C4 of Development Approval EHP Permit number SPCE05672613, as required by Environmental Authority EHP Permit number EPPR03383115, no further action under this TEP is required, and a final TEP report will be provided within one month of Stage 1 being completed. If Stage 1 modifications are not effective in transitioning to compliance to Faecal Coliform release limits, RT Weipa will proceed with Stage 2.		

Stage	Objective of Stage	How the Stage will Reduce Faecal Coliforms	Actions	Dates	Performance Indicators
2. Function Design Changes	Modify the plant to improve nutrient removal and include an anoxic treatment phase into the plant cycle	Modifications of pipework will redirect screened waste water into a holding tank to avoid short circuiting and hold peak volumes during high rainfall events. This will improve nutrient removal in the bioreactor. Modifications will include the installation of mixers in the bioreactor. This will reduce nitrate levels. Assess effectiveness of Stage 2 modifications	Clean out sludge lagoon	To be completed by August 31 st 2016	Clean out of sludge lagoon complete.
			If required, construct and install platform/walkway over sludge lagoon. If pumps can be removed safely (see next action) then no platform required	If required, to be completed by October 31 st 2016	Safe access to maintain the submersible pumps is available
			Install new submersible pumps and rails	To be completed by November 30 th 2016	Submersible pumps and rails installed
			Modify pipework to accommodate additional operational changes	To be completed December 31 st 2016	Pipework modified
			Install mixers in the bioreactor	To be completed by November 30 th 2016	Mixers in bioreactor installed
			Modify coding of plant to incorporate changes and add a mixing phase to the cycle	To be completed by December 31 st 2016	Coding of plant modified.
			Conduct water quality testing to assess the effectiveness of the Stage 2 modifications and detail in a report submitted to the Administering Authority.	Weekly monitoring to be conducted from August 1 st 2016 until February 28 th 2017. Report to be submitted by March 31 st 2017.	Weekly monitoring completed Report to administering authority submitted.
			If Stage 2 modifications are effective in transitioning to compliance to Faecal Coliform release limits in accordance with Condition C4 of Development Approval EHP Permit number SPCE05672613, as required by Environmental Authority EHP Permit number EPPR03383115, no further action under this TEP is required, and a final TEP report will be provided within one month of Stage 2 being completed. If Stage 2 modifications are not effective in transitioning to compliance to Faecal Coliform release limits, RT Weipa will proceed with Stage 3.		

Stage	Objective of Stage	How the Stage will Reduce Faecal Coliforms	Actions	Dates	Performance Indicators
3. Upgrade Plant with Selected Option	Install an additional disinfection treatment system that will achieve compliance to Faecal Coliform release limit	Purchase and installation of an additional disinfection treatment system	Assess and select a disinfection treatment system option. Options to be assessed and selected from include, but are not limited to: 1. Hydrogen Peroxide System 2. Packaged Ozone System 3. Packaged Membrane System 4. Chlorine Disinfection System Install selected option	To be completed by July 31 st 2017	Selection of a disinfection treatment system
				To be completed by November 24 th 2017.	Selected option installed.
		Assess effectiveness of Stage 3 modifications	Conduct water quality testing of key parameters to measure the performance of key equipment within the plant. Complete Final TEP close out report	Weekly monitoring to be conducted from April 1st 2017 until November 24th 2017. To be submitted by December 24th 2017.	Weekly monitoring completed Achieve compliance to Faecal Coliform release limits in accordance with Condition C4 of Development Approval EHP Permit number SPCE05672613 as required by Environmental Authority EHP Permit number EPPR03383115

