

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Notice of decision - Temporary emissions licence TEL100824398

This notice is issued by the administering authority pursuant to section 357F of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, to advise you of a decision or action

Central SEQ Distributor – Retailer Authority
T/A Queensland Urban Utilities
Level 10, 31 Duncan Street
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Attention: Monique Gastaldin
Email: Monique.Gastaldin@urbanutilities.com.au

Your reference: A-TEL-NEW-100824393, TEL100824398
Our reference: C-EATEL-100824397, EA0001209

1 Application details

Application for temporary emissions licence (TEL) for rainfall associated with Cyclone Alfred at various sewage pumping station locations in south-east Queensland, relating to environmental authority EA0001209.

2 Decision

Thank you for your application for a temporary emissions licence. Your application, which was received by this office on 04/03/2025, has been granted on different terms than those submitted.

3 Reason for the decision

This application for a temporary emissions licence proposed to override the following conditions of EA0001209:

- Refer to attached document – 20250304 TEL for SPS TC Alfred 2025 Application, dated 05 March 2025.

The application proposed to override several conditions within environmental authority (EA) EA0001209 relating to releases to water. TEL conditions regarding notification and monitoring have not been approved as requested, based on discussions with DETSI Compliance and in relation to enforceability and remediation actions required.



In addition, it is also noted that the following sewage pumping station is not included in the temporary emissions licence as it is not authorised under environmental authority EA0001209: SPS366 – 133-143 Woodend Road, Woodend. This temporary emissions licence does not apply to that pumping station.

4 Amendment by agreement

As per s357J(b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, this temporary emissions licence has been amended by agreement to make the following changes:

1. Amendment of wording of Condition TEL-2 (a) from “*the release is as a result of a wet weather event...*” to “*the release is as a result of a wet weather event or in anticipation of a wet weather event related to the applicable event...*”; and
2. Correction of typo 2024 to 2025 in Applicable event definition; and
3. Correction of typo in section 3 Reasons for decision “*monitoring not have been*” to “*monitoring have not been*”.

5 Human rights

A human rights assessment was carried out in relation to this decision and it was determined that the decision is compatible with human rights

6 Review and appeal rights

You may apply to the administering authority for a review of this decision within 10 business days after receiving this notice. You may also appeal against this internal review decision to the Land Court. Information about your review and appeal rights is attached to this notice. This information is guidance only and you may have other legal rights and obligations.

7 Temporary emissions licence

This temporary emissions licence commences on 05/03/2025 and ends as per condition TEL-1 of this temporary emissions licence.

Conditions of EA0001209 that do not apply for the duration of this TEL

The licence overrides the following conditions of your environmental authority, approval number EA0001209, only for sewage pumping stations adversely affected by the **applicable event**:

Varied Condition 10 - Release to land and waters

The operator must ensure that contaminants are not released to land or waters (including to the bed and banks of any waters) as a result of the activity unless the release is an overflow, and all reasonably practicable actions have been taken to prevent the release.

Varied condition definition:

Overflow means a release of contaminants where the inflow exceeds the maximum design capacity of the sewage pump station.

Varied Condition 11 - Notifiable release

The administering authority must be notified via the Pollution Hotline as soon as practicable but no later than 24 hours after becoming aware of a sewage release that:

(a) poses a threat to public health (for example, contamination of waters with primary recreation values); (b) results in any observable environmental impact (for example, fish kill, distress to wildlife, marine plants or other aquatic life); (c) involves discharge to, or is likely to impact, a sensitive environment (for example, Ramsar wetland, marine park, or area designated as a conservation zone under a relevant planning scheme); or (d) is 10 000 L or more during dry weather.
Condition 12 Within 24 hours after becoming aware of a notifiable release in accordance with condition 11, email or written notification of the release must be submitted to the administering authority outlining the event, its nature and the circumstances in which it happened.
Condition 13 A final report must be provided to the administering authority within 14 business days of the conclusion of the spill response and remediation of a notifiable release, but no later than 20 business days after the commencement of the release.
Condition 24 The operator must ensure that there are appropriate physical systems in place to anticipate a potential release.
Condition 25 Any system developed in line with condition 24 must be able to operate for a sufficient time to allow for notification of the potential release to the operator and an appropriate response.
Condition 26 Any identification of a potential release must be responded to by the operator.

Conditions 24 and 25 only do not apply in accordance with condition TEL-11 of this temporary emissions licence.

Conditions of the TEL

The following conditions apply to this licence:

Agency interest: General	
Condition number	Condition
TEL-1	This temporary emissions licence (TEL): a) takes effect on 5 March 2025; and b) will cease on: i. 2 April 2025; or ii. when impacts from the applicable event at the relevant sewage pumping station are rectified or can otherwise be managed in compliance with the existing conditions of EA0001209; whichever occurs first; and c) applies only to sewage pumping stations adversely affected by the applicable event.

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TEL-2	Release to land and waters The operator must ensure that contaminants are not released to land or waters (including to the bed and banks of any waters) as a result of the activity. The only exception to this condition is that a sewage release to land or waters (including to the bed and banks of any waters) may occur as a result of the activity only when the following apply: a) the release is as a result of a wet weather event or in anticipation of a wet weather event related to the applicable event; and b) all reasonable and practicable measures have been taken to prevent the release; and c) the administering authority has been notified in accordance with condition TEL-6 of this TEL.
TEL-3	All practicable measures must be taken to prevent the release of contaminants, except where necessary to prevent impacts to critical infrastructure components.
TEL-4	All practicable measures must be taken to restore operation of any sewage pumping station that becomes non-operational as soon as possible.
TEL-5	Notification to impacted receptors must be made in the case of ongoing releases after floodwater has subsided.
TEL-6	The operator must provide the administering authority with notification reports every weekday or as agreed to with the administering authority, advising of the following for any sewage pump station surcharges or releases to the environment: a) identity of pump stations actively surcharging and/or releasing; and b) comments on changed activity; and c) further information required to be provided to the administering authority upon request.
TEL-7	The operator must provide the administering authority with results of monitoring required under this TEL weekly.
TEL-8	As soon as practicable, information must be provided to the administering authority that details the following: a) the identity of all sewage pumping stations that were inundated in 2022 and what height the switchboards and/or critical components were at the time of inundation; and b) the current height of those sewage pumping station switchboards and/or critical components that were affected in 2022; and c) the identity of all sewage pumping stations that will be non-operational due to removing the switchboard and/or critical components, or have known/predicted operational impacts (i.e. tankering is not viable); and d) anticipated pump station recovery actions and associated timeframes.
TEL-9	Where anticipated actions and associated timeframes described in TEL-8 are modified after information regarding them has been provided to the administering authority , inform the administering authority of the changes within 5 business days.
TEL-10	For releases that have been notified to the administering authority under condition TEL-5, a final report must be provided to the administering authority by 20 business days from the conclusion of this TEL, summarising: a) the surcharge and release response actions; and b) any remediation activities that have occurred and are yet to occur; and c) results from monitoring of releases.
TEL-11	Conditions 24 and 25 of environmental authority EA0001209 continue to apply to all sewage pumping stations, however they are overridden in the following circumstances: a) a sewage pumping station is inundated; or b) a sewage pumping station has been made inoperable to protect the asset; or c) a sewage pumping station has no power.

TEL-12	Any release of sewage from a pumping station must be responded by the operator in a reasonable timeframe where it is practicable to do so.																				
TEL-13	Monitoring must be undertaken unless safety concerns prohibit the monitoring being undertaken.																				
TEL-14	Monitoring must be undertaken; a) following a release to waters and at least weekly during a release; and b) at locations determined by an appropriately qualified person in accordance with the administering authority's Water Quality Sampling Manual which include: i. sufficient sampling locations to determine reasonable background contaminant concentrations, and ii. sufficient sampling locations to identify the extent of any downstream impacts from sewage pumping station releases; and c) for parameters listed in <i>Table 1 – Monitoring parameters</i>. <table border="1"> <caption>Table 1 – Monitoring parameters</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Parameter</th><th>Units</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dissolved oxygen</td><td>mg/L</td></tr> <tr> <td>pH</td><td>pH unit</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conductivity</td><td>uS/cm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Turbidity</td><td>NTU</td></tr> <tr> <td>Faecal coliforms</td><td>cfu/100mL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Enterococci</td><td>cfu/100mL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ammonia</td><td>mg/L</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total nitrogen</td><td>mg/L</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total phosphorus</td><td>mg/L</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Parameter	Units	Dissolved oxygen	mg/L	pH	pH unit	Conductivity	uS/cm	Turbidity	NTU	Faecal coliforms	cfu/100mL	Enterococci	cfu/100mL	Ammonia	mg/L	Total nitrogen	mg/L	Total phosphorus	mg/L
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TEL-15	Monitoring must be undertaken in accordance with the following: a) the administering authority's Water Quality Sampling Manual and all monitoring devices must be effectively calibrated and maintained; and b) when the activity is in operation and samples must be representative of the receiving environment.																				
TEL-16	Actions to remedy impacts to waters affected by releases must be undertaken as soon as practicable where required and information on these actions provided to the administering authority within 5 business days.																				
TEL-17	If any release of contaminants may pose a public health risk: a) sewage overflow notification signs must be erected at appropriate locations, unless safety concerns prohibit signage erection, including, but not limited to, all release points and publicly accessible locations; and b) public health messages must be distributed for land and waters that are impacted by the release/s.																				

Definitions:

Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section and **bolded** throughout this document. Applicants should note that 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 means the environmentally relevant activities, whether resource activities or prescribed activities, to which the environmental authority relates.

Administering authority means the Department of the Environment, Tourism and Science or its successor.

Applicable event means impacts resulting from Tropical Cyclone Alfred, including any/all significant rainfall events occurring in the south-east Queensland catchment reporting to the relevant SPSs from Wednesday 5th March 2025 to Wednesday 2 April 2025.

Day means any 24 hour period.

Land means any land, whether above or below the ordinary high-water mark at spring tides (i.e. includes tidal land).

Measures has the broadest interpretation and includes plant, equipment, physical objects, bunding, containment systems, monitoring, procedures, actions, directions and competency.

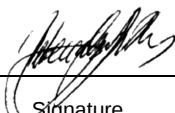
Release of a contaminant into the environment means to:

- a) deposit, discharge, emit or disturb the contaminant; or
- b) cause or allow the contaminant to be deposited, discharged, emitted or disturbed; or
- c) fail to prevent the contaminant from being deposited, discharged emitted or disturbed; or
- d) allow the contaminant to escape; or
- e) fail to prevent the contaminant from escaping.

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.

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Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, Claire Atkins on telephone 07 3330 5581 would be happy to assist you.



Signature

06/03/2025

Date

Rebecca Griffiths
Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and
Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
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Attachments**Attachments**

[Information sheet Internal review and appeals](#) (ESR/2015/1742)