

Licence Variation



Licence - 835

FEDERATION COUNCIL
ABN 30 762 048 084
PO BOX 77
COROWA NSW 2646

Attention: Ben Falconer

Notice Number 1633337
File Number EF13/2829
Date 06-Oct-2023

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF LICENCE NO. 835

BACKGROUND

- A. FEDERATION COUNCIL (“the licensee”) is the holder of Environment Protection Licence No. 835 (“the licence”) issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (“the Act”). The licence authorises the carrying out of sewage treatment activities at 27 NIXON STREET, COROWA, NSW, 2646 (“the premises”).
- B. On 7 July 2023 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received a report that the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) was discharging into a stormwater drain that flows into the Murray River. The EPA has since been notified of multiple discharges from the treated effluent storage pond at the premises and have been informed by the licensee that they are a result of a combination of three years of high rainfall and ageing infrastructure.
- C. A site inspection of the STP’s treated effluent utilisation area was undertaken by the EPA on 8 August 2023 and found that irrigation was occurring on an oversaturated area and that there was limited evidence that the area was being managed to prevent nutrient overloading.
- D. On 22 August 2023 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) met with the licensee to discuss the ongoing issues with the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant. The EPA understand from the meeting that Federation Council are currently working towards securing funding for the upgrade and/or replacement of the existing STP and that an Options Paper is currently being prepared by NSW Public Works. The EPA are aware that the cost of the replacement of the existing STP is estimated to be \$26 Million.
- E. The EPA has concerns about the ongoing discharges of effluent from the premises as well as the management of the utilisation area. The EPA requires immediate controls and management practices to be implemented to minimise impacts to the environment.

These controls include the following:

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- Requirement for additional water quality monitoring to be carried out within the STP catchment, including both upstream and downstream of the Murray River. This is to provide baseline data on the existing water quality in the catchment;
 - Requirement for additional monitoring of the quality of the treated effluent held in the storage pond; and
 - Development and implementation of an Irrigation Management Plan and Irrigation Management Report that has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation (DEC 2004).
- F. The EPA also requires that an Options Assessment Report be provided for the upgrade and/or replacement of the Corowa STP.
- G. On 3 October 2023 a draft licence was sent to the Licensee for comment.
- H. On 4 October 2023 the draft licence was accepted by the Licensee.
- I. The Licence has been varied .

VARIATION OF LICENCE NO. 835

1. By this notice the EPA varies licence No. 835. The attached licence document contains all variations that are made to the licence by this notice.
2. The following variations have been made to the licence:
 - P1.2 - Addition of monitoring points 17 - 23;
 - M2.2 - Addition of monitoring requirements for points 17 - 23;
 - U1 - Addition of a Pollution Reduction Program - Options Assessment; and
 - E1.1 and E1.2 - Addition of requirements for an Irrigation Management Plan and Irrigation Management Report.

.....
Briohny Seaman
A/ Unit Head
Environment Protection Authority
(by Delegation)

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NOTICE

Licence Variation



- This notice is issued under section 58(5) of the Act.
- Details provided in this notice, along with an updated version of the licence, will be available on the EPA's Public Register (<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeo/index.htm>) in accordance with section 308 of the Act.

Appeals against this decision

- You can appeal to the Land and Environment Court against this decision. The deadline for lodging the appeal is 21 days after you were given notice of this decision.

When this notice begins to operate

- The variations to the licence specified in this notice begin to operate immediately from the date of this notice, unless another date is specified in this notice.
- If an appeal is made against this decision to vary the licence and the Land and Environment Court directs that the decision is stayed the decision does not operate until the stay ceases to have effect or the Land and Environment Court confirms the decision or the appeal is withdrawn (whichever occurs first).

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Licence Details

Number:	835
Anniversary Date:	01-February

Licensee

FEDERATION COUNCIL

PO BOX 77

COROWA NSW 2646

Premises

COROWA SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

27 NIXON STREET

COROWA NSW 2646

Scheduled Activity

Sewage treatment

Fee Based Activity

Sewage treatment processing by small plants

Scale

> 219-1000 ML annual maximum volume of discharge

Contact Us

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Information about this licence

Dictionary

A definition of terms used in the licence can be found in the dictionary at the end of this licence.

Responsibilities of licensee

Separate to the requirements of this licence, general obligations of licensees are set out in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 ("the Act") and the Regulations made under the Act. These include obligations to:

- ensure persons associated with you comply with this licence, as set out in section 64 of the Act;
- control the pollution of waters and the pollution of air (see for example sections 120 - 132 of the Act);
- report incidents causing or threatening material environmental harm to the environment, as set out in Part 5.7 of the Act.

Variation of licence conditions

The licence holder can apply to vary the conditions of this licence. An application form for this purpose is available from the EPA.

The EPA may also vary the conditions of the licence at any time by written notice without an application being made.

Where a licence has been granted in relation to development which was assessed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in accordance with the procedures applying to integrated development, the EPA may not impose conditions which are inconsistent with the development consent conditions until the licence is first reviewed under Part 3.6 of the Act.

Duration of licence

This licence will remain in force until the licence is surrendered by the licence holder or until it is suspended or revoked by the EPA or the Minister. A licence may only be surrendered with the written approval of the EPA.

Licence review

The Act requires that the EPA review your licence at least every 5 years after the issue of the licence, as set out in Part 3.6 and Schedule 5 of the Act. You will receive advance notice of the licence review.

Fees and annual return to be sent to the EPA

For each licence fee period you must pay:

- an administrative fee; and
- a load-based fee (if applicable).



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The EPA publication “A Guide to Licensing” contains information about how to calculate your licence fees. The licence requires that an Annual Return, comprising a Statement of Compliance and a summary of any monitoring required by the licence (including the recording of complaints), be submitted to the EPA. The Annual Return must be submitted within 60 days after the end of each reporting period. See condition R1 regarding the Annual Return reporting requirements.

Usually the licence fee period is the same as the reporting period.

Transfer of licence

The licence holder can apply to transfer the licence to another person. An application form for this purpose is available from the EPA.

Public register and access to monitoring data

Part 9.5 of the Act requires the EPA to keep a public register of details and decisions of the EPA in relation to, for example:

- licence applications;
- licence conditions and variations;
- statements of compliance;
- load based licensing information; and
- load reduction agreements.

Under s320 of the Act application can be made to the EPA for access to monitoring data which has been submitted to the EPA by licensees.

This licence is issued to:

FEDERATION COUNCIL
PO BOX 77
COROWA NSW 2646

subject to the conditions which follow.

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1 Administrative Conditions

A1 What the licence authorises and regulates

A1.1 This licence authorises the carrying out of the scheduled activities listed below at the premises specified in A2. The activities are listed according to their scheduled activity classification, fee-based activity classification and the scale of the operation.

Unless otherwise further restricted by a condition of this licence, the scale at which the activity is carried out must not exceed the maximum scale specified in this condition.

Scheduled Activity	Fee Based Activity	Scale
Sewage treatment	Sewage treatment processing by small plants	> 219 - 1000 ML annual maximum volume of discharge

A1.2 The objectives of this licence are to:

- a) prevent as far as practicable sewage overflows and sewage treatment plant bypasses;
- b) require proper and efficient management of the system to minimise harm to the environment and public health; and
- c) require practical measures to be taken to protect the environment and public health from sewage overflows and sewage treatment plant effluent.

A1.3 This licence is to be construed in a manner that will promote the objectives referred to in the condition above.

A2 Premises or plant to which this licence applies

A2.1 The licence applies to the following premises:

Premises Details
COROWA SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
27 NIXON STREET
COROWA
NSW 2646
LOT 2 DP 187583, LOT 518 DP 753734, LOT 1 DP 828101, LOT 2 DP 852272, LOT 1 DP 1182703

A2.2 The premises also includes the reticulation system owned and operated by the licensee that is associated with the sewage treatment plant(s) identified in condition A2.1.

A2.3 The premises also includes the utilisation area located at Lot 2 DP 852272 as shown on map titled "Corowa Sewerage Scheme Effluent Disposal General Arrangement, Figure 2" submitted to the EPA with the licence Information Form 04/01/00.

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A3 Information supplied to the EPA

A3.1 Works and activities must be carried out in accordance with the proposal contained in the licence application, except as expressly provided by a condition of this licence.

In this condition the reference to "the licence application" includes a reference to:

- a) the applications for any licences (including former pollution control approvals) which this licence replaces under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 1998; and
- b) the licence information form provided by the licensee to the EPA to assist the EPA in connection with the issuing of this licence.

2 Discharges to Air and Water and Applications to Land

P1 Location of monitoring/discharge points and areas

P1.1 The following utilisation areas referred to in the table below are identified in this licence for the purposes of the monitoring and/or the setting of limits for any application of solids or liquids to the utilisation area.

P1.2 The following points referred to in the table are identified in this licence for the purposes of the monitoring and/or the setting of limits for discharges of pollutants to water from the point.

Water and land

EPA Identification no.	Type of Monitoring Point	Type of Discharge Point	Location Description
1	Volume monitoring	Volume monitoring	Flow meter on the discharge pump from the storage dam labelled "storage ponds" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
2	Effluent quality monitoring		Discharge from the storage dam labelled "storage ponds" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
3	Soil quality monitoring		Effluent Utilisation Area labelled "Lucerne paddocks" as shown in Figure 3.5 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.

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4	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH3B" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
5	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH4B" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
6	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH5B" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
7	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH1" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
8	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH2" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
9	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH6" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
10	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH7" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
11	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH8" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.

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12	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "BH9" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
13	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "Lucerne Paddock - Upgradient" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
14	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "Lucerne Paddock - Downgradient" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
15	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "Effluent Storage/Treatment Plant - Upgradient" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
16	Groundwater quality monitoring	Monitoring well labelled "Effluent Storage/Treatment Plant - Downgradient" as shown in Figure 3.2 of the document titled "Federation Council Corowa STW Groundwater Investigation" (dated 1 November 2019), EPA electronic record DOC18/822442-10.
17	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Stormwater drain, upstream of the spillway of the final treated effluent storage pond. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.
18	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Stormwater drain, upstream of the effluent application area. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.
19	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Stormwater drain, downstream of the spillway of the final treated effluent storage pond. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.
20	Effluent Quality Monitoring	Spillway of the final treated effluent storage pond. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.

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21	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Stormwater drain, Spring Drive/Skehans Lane. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.
22	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Murray River - upstream of the Corowa STP. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.
23	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	Murray River, -downstream of the Corowa STP. As shown in DOC23/784200-3 provided to the EPA on 27 September 2023.

3 Limit Conditions

L1 Pollution of waters

- L1.1 Except as may be expressly provided in any other condition of this licence, the licensee must comply with section 120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
- L1.2 The licensee may only discharge untreated or partially treated sewage from the sewage treatment plant and/or the reticulation system subject to the conditions of this licence, including Sections O1 and O2.

L2 Load limits

- L2.1 The actual load of an assessable pollutant discharged from the premises during the reporting period must not exceed the load limit specified for the assessable pollutant in the table below.
- L2.2 The actual load of an assessable pollutant must be calculated in accordance with the relevant load calculation protocol.

Assessable Pollutant	Load limit (kg)
BOD (Enclosed Water)	21380.00
Nitrogen (total) (Enclosed Water)	42760.00
Oil and Grease (Enclosed Water)	10690.00
Phosphorus (total) (Enclosed Water)	10690.00
Total suspended solids (Enclosed Water)	32070.00

Note: The load limits referred to in condition L2.1 do not apply to discharges from the reticulation system.

Note: An assessable pollutant is a pollutant which affects the licence fee payable for the licence.

L3 Volume and mass limits

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- L3.1 For each discharge point or utilisation area specified below (by a point number), the volume/mass of:
- liquids discharged to water; or;
 - solids or liquids applied to the area;
- must not exceed the volume/mass limit specified for that discharge point or area.

Point	Unit of Measure	Volume/Mass Limit
1	kilolitres per day	5000

L4 Waste

- L4.1 The licensee must not cause, permit or allow any waste generated outside the premises to be received at the premises for storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal or any waste generated at the premises to be disposed of at the premises, except as expressly permitted by the licence.
- L4.2 This condition only applies to the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of waste at the premises if those activities require an environment protection licence.
- L4.3 The licensee may receive and/or transfer sewage and Group C waste generated outside the premises for treatment, processing or reprocessing at the premises. The licensee must take reasonable steps to ensure that sewage received at the premises has been lawfully discharged in accordance with a trade waste agreement or customer contract (as applicable) in force between the licensee and the generator of the waste. The licensee must treat, process or reprocess the sewage and Group C waste in accordance with this licence prior to discharge from the premises.
- L4.4 The licensee may receive, store, treat, process or reprocess and/or transfer at the premises sewage products generated or stored outside the premises by the licensee's other sewage treatment systems. Sewage products must be received, treated, processed or reprocessed in accordance with this licence.

L5 Potentially offensive odour

- L5.1 No condition in this licence identifies a potentially offensive odour for the purposes of section 129 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

Note: Section 129 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 provides that the licensee must not cause or permit the emission of any offensive odour from the premises but provides a defence if the emission is identified in the relevant environment protection licence as a potentially offensive odour and the odour was emitted in accordance with the conditions of a licence directed at minimising odour.

4 Operating Conditions

O1 Activities must be carried out in a competent manner

- O1.1 Licensed activities must be carried out in a competent manner.
This includes:

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- a) the processing, handling, movement and storage of materials and substances used to carry out the activity; and
- b) the treatment, storage, processing, reprocessing, transport and disposal of waste generated by the activity.

Note: The requirements of O1.1 apply to the whole of the premises, including the reticulation system.

O1.2 Biosolids at the premises must be stored, treated, processed, classified, transported and disposed in accordance with the Biosolids Guidelines, or as otherwise approved in writing by the EPA.

O2 Maintenance of plant and equipment

- O2.1 All plant and equipment installed at the premises or used in connection with the licensed activity:
- a) must be maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
 - b) must be operated in a proper and efficient manner.

Note: The requirements of O2.1 apply to the whole of the premises, including the reticulation system.

O3 Effluent application to land

O3.1 The quantity of effluent applied to the utilisation area(s) must not exceed the capacity of the utilisation area(s) to effectively utilise the effluent.

For the purpose of this condition, "effectively utilise" includes the ability of the soil to absorb the nutrient, salt and hydraulic loads and the applied organic material without causing harm to the environment.

O3.2 Effluent application to the utilisation area(s) must not occur in a manner that causes surface run-off from the utilisation area(s).

O3.3 Spray from effluent application to the utilisation area(s) must not drift beyond the boundary of the utilisation area(s) to which it has been applied.

O3.4 Effluent liquid waste pipelines and fittings must be clearly identified. Standard watertaps, hoses and valves must not be fitted to the pipelines of the effluent system. The effluent system must not be connected to other pipelines. Lockable valves or removable handles must be used where there is public access to the effluent.

O3.5 Adequate notices, warning the public not to drink or otherwise use the treated effluent, must be erected on the site. These notices must be legible English and in any other languages as may be necessary, and must indicate at least that the water in use is "Reclaimed Water - Unfit for Drinking".

O4 Emergency response

O4.1 In the event of an overflow or bypass that harms or is likely to harm the environment, the licensee must use all practicable measures to minimise the impact of the overflow or bypass on the environment and public health. These measures are to be implemented as soon as practical after the licensee or one of the licensee's employees or agents becomes aware of the overflow or bypass.

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O5 Processes and management

O5.1 The licensee must ensure that any extensions to the reticulation system after 1 January 2004 are planned, designed, constructed and installed to prevent as far as practicable overflows from the premises.

Note: "The premises" includes both the new and the previously existing parts of the sewage treatment system.

O6 Waste management

O6.1 If biosolids are removed from the premises, the licensee must record the:

- a) date;
- b) estimated weight of biosolids;
- c) identity of the person removing biosolids.

O7 Other operating conditions

O7.1 The licensee must not enter into any trade waste agreement to discharge organophosphate pesticides (including chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion) into the sewerage system.

O7.2 Prohibition on acceptance of pesticides

The licensee must not consent to any discharge of organochlorine pesticides (such as dieldrin, heptachlor and chlordane) into the sewerage system.

O7.3 New sewage pumping stations

Dry weather overflows resulting in pollution of waters from any sewage pumping station(s) installed within the sewage treatment system after 1 January 2004 are not permitted.

O7.4 Sewage or effluent must not be discharged from Point 2 unless it has been treated in accordance with the requirements of the table below. The flows noted in the table below are the inflows to the premises sewage treatment plant(s).

Required treatment process	Flow range
Primary sedimentation, trickling filtration, secondary sedimentation and tertiary ponding	0 - 87 L/sec

5 Monitoring and Recording Conditions

M1 Monitoring records

M1.1 The results of any monitoring required to be conducted by this licence or a load calculation protocol must be recorded and retained as set out in this condition.

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M1.2 All records required to be kept by this licence must be:

- a) in a legible form, or in a form that can readily be reduced to a legible form;
- b) kept for at least 4 years after the monitoring or event to which they relate took place; and
- c) produced in a legible form to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see them.

M1.3 The following records must be kept in respect of any samples required to be collected for the purposes of this licence:

- a) the date(s) on which the sample was taken;
- b) the time(s) at which the sample was collected;
- c) the point at which the sample was taken; and
- d) the name of the person who collected the sample.

M1.4 The licensee must undertake the following soil monitoring, analysis and interpretation program:

a. Soil Monitoring sample depths:

Test Depths (cm):

- 0-30
- 30-60

b. Test elements:

i) Annual chemical tests, all depths

pH

Electrical Conductivity

TKN-N

Available Phosphorus

Total Phosphorus

Permability

Exchangeable Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, Aluminium

Available Nitrate

Organic Carbon

Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

c. Test Locations - Establish and maintain representative soil test plots as follows:

- Pivot Irrigation area: 4 irrigated area sample plots
- Flood Irrigation Area: 2 irrigated area sample plots

d. Sustainability assessment:

The licensee must prepare and submit to the EPA no later than 60 days after the end of the reporting period an assessment of the sustainability of the effluent reuse area in accordance with condition R5.2.

This assessment must also document the basis of the claimed effluent reuse weighting in accordance with the relevant load calculation protocol.

M2 Requirement to monitor concentration of pollutants discharged

M2.1 For each monitoring/discharge point or utilisation area specified below (by a point number), the licensee must

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monitor (by sampling and obtaining results by analysis) the concentration of each pollutant specified in Column 1. The licensee must use the sampling method, units of measure, and sample at the frequency, specified opposite in the other columns:

M2.2 Water and/ or Land Monitoring Requirements

POINT 2

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency	Sampling Method
Biochemical oxygen demand	milligrams per litre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Conductivity	microsiemens per centimetre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Nitrogen (total)	milligrams per litre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Oil and Grease	milligrams per litre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Phosphorus (total)	milligrams per litre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	sodium adsorption ratio	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample
Total suspended solids	milligrams per litre	Monthly during discharge	Grab sample

POINT 3

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency	Sampling Method
Available phosphorus	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Cation Exchange Capacity	centimoles per kilogram	Every 3 years	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Chloride	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Electrical conductivity	deciSiemens per metre	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Exchangeable aluminium	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Exchangeable calcium	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Exchangeable magnesium	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Exchangeable potassium	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples

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Exchangeable sodium	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Nitrate	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Organic carbon	percent by weight	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
pH	pH	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Phosphorus Sorption Capacity	phosphorus sorption capacity of soil	Every 3 years	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	sodium adsorption ratio	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples
TKN-N	milligrams per kilogram	2 Times a year	Composite sample prepared from depth profile samples

POINT 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency	Sampling Method
Electrical conductivity	microsiemens per centimetre	Every 6 months	Representative sample
Faecal Coliforms	colony forming units per 100 millilitres	Every 6 months	Representative sample
Nitrogen (nitrate)	milligrams per litre	Every 6 months	Representative sample
pH	pH	Every 6 months	Representative sample
Phosphorus (total)	milligrams per litre	Every 6 months	Representative sample
specific radiation	metres (Australian Height Datum)	Every 3 months	In situ

POINT 17,18,19,20,21,22,23

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency	Sampling Method
Ammonia	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
BOD	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
Faecal Coliforms	colony forming units per 100 millilitres	Monthly	Grab sample
Nitrogen (total)	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
Oil and Grease	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
pH	pH	Monthly	Grab sample
Phosphorus (total)	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample
Total suspended solids	milligrams per litre	Monthly	Grab sample

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M3 Testing methods - concentration limits

M3.1 Subject to any express provision to the contrary in this licence, monitoring for the concentration of a pollutant discharged to waters or applied to a utilisation area must be done in accordance with the Approved Methods Publication unless another method has been approved by the EPA in writing before any tests are conducted.

M4 Testing methods - load limits

Note: Division 4 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022* requires that monitoring of actual loads of assessable pollutants listed in L2.2 must be carried out in accordance with the relevant load calculation protocol set out for the fee-based activity classification listed in the Administrative Conditions of this licence.

M5 Recording of pollution complaints

M5.1 The licensee must keep a legible record of all complaints made to the licensee or any employee or agent of the licensee in relation to pollution arising from any activity to which this licence applies.

M5.2 The record must include details of the following:

- a) the date and time of the complaint;
- b) the method by which the complaint was made;
- c) any personal details of the complainant which were provided by the complainant or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect;
- d) the nature of the complaint;
- e) the action taken by the licensee in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant; and
- f) if no action was taken by the licensee, the reasons why no action was taken.

M5.3 The record of a complaint must be kept for at least 4 years after the complaint was made.

M5.4 The record must be produced to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see them.

M6 Telephone complaints line

M6.1 The licensee must operate during its operating hours a telephone complaints line for the purpose of receiving any complaints from members of the public in relation to activities conducted at the premises or by the vehicle or mobile plant, unless otherwise specified in the licence.

M6.2 The licensee must notify the public of the complaints line telephone number and the fact that it is a complaints line so that the impacted community knows how to make a complaint.

M6.3 The preceding two conditions do not apply until 3 months after: the date of the issue of this licence.

M6.4 For the purpose of condition M6.1, operating hours are defined as twenty-four hours a day, seven days a

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week.

- M6.5 The public notification referred to in condition M6.2 must include specific reference to the fact that the complaints line may be used by the community for the reporting of overflows.

M7 Requirement to monitor volume or mass

M7.1 For each discharge point or utilisation area specified below, the licensee must monitor:

- the volume of liquids discharged to water or applied to the area;
- the mass of solids applied to the area;
- the mass of pollutants emitted to the air;

at the frequency and using the method and units of measure, specified below.

POINT 1

Frequency	Unit of Measure	Sampling Method
Continuous	kilolitres per day	In line instrumentation

- M7.2 In the event that the licensee cannot comply with a volume monitoring method as required by this licence solely due to the failure or malfunction of essential monitoring equipment, volume may be estimated using another agreed method approved in writing by the EPA. This provision only applies for the duration of the failure or malfunction. The licensee is to rectify the failure or malfunction as soon as practicable.

M7.3 The licensee must:

- submit in writing to the EPA a proposal for a method of volume estimation; or
- use a method of volume estimation already approved in writing by the EPA,

to be used in the event that essential monitoring equipment referred to in the previous condition has failed or malfunctioned.

M8 Requirement to record bypass incidents from sewage treatment plants

M8.1 The licensee must record the following details in respect of each bypass of any of the appropriate treatment processes required by condition O3 which may be reasonably expected to adversely affect the quality of the final discharge:

- the EPA point identification number through which the bypass discharged;
- the date, estimated start time and estimated duration of the bypass;
- the estimated volume of the bypass;
- the level of treatment of the sewage at the STP prior to discharge;
- the probable cause of the bypass;
- any actions taken to stop the bypass happening; and
- any actions taken to prevent the bypass happening again.

M8.2 In addition to the details listed in the previous condition, the licensee must also record classification as a wet or dry weather bypass in respect of each bypass referred to in the previous condition. A dry weather bypass

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is a bypass that occurs when the flow rate of sewage at the inflow volume monitoring point of the STP does not exceed 87 litres per second and a wet weather bypass occurs when this flow is equalled or exceeded at any time during the bypass event.

M8.3 From 31 October 2003 the licensee must record the following details in relation to each observed or reported overflow from the reticulation system and from the sewage treatment plant:

- a) the location of the overflow;
- b) the date, estimated start time and estimated duration of the overflow;
- c) the estimated volume of the overflow;
- d) a description of the receiving environment of the overflow;
- e) classification as a dry or wet weather overflow;
- f) the probable cause of the overflow;
- g) any actions taken to stop the overflow happening;
- h) any actions taken to clean up the overflow; and
- i) any actions taken to prevent the overflow happening again.

M9 Other monitoring and recording conditions

M9.1 Biosolids at the premises must be recorded, monitored and classified in accordance with the Biosolids Guidelines, to the extent that those Guidelines are applicable, or as otherwise approved in writing by the EPA.

6 Reporting Conditions

R1 Annual return documents

R1.1 The licensee must complete and supply to the EPA an Annual Return in the approved form comprising:

1. a Statement of Compliance,
2. a Monitoring and Complaints Summary,
3. a Statement of Compliance - Licence Conditions,
4. a Statement of Compliance - Load based Fee,
5. a Statement of Compliance - Requirement to Prepare Pollution Incident Response Management Plan,
6. a Statement of Compliance - Requirement to Publish Pollution Monitoring Data; and
7. a Statement of Compliance - Environmental Management Systems and Practices.

At the end of each reporting period, the EPA will provide to the licensee notification that the Annual Return is due.

R1.2 An Annual Return must be prepared in respect of each reporting period, except as provided below.

R1.3 Where this licence is transferred from the licensee to a new licensee:

- a) the transferring licensee must prepare an Annual Return for the period commencing on the first day of the reporting period and ending on the date the application for the transfer of the licence to the new licensee is granted; and
- b) the new licensee must prepare an Annual Return for the period commencing on the date the application for

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the transfer of the licence is granted and ending on the last day of the reporting period.

- R1.4 Where this licence is surrendered by the licensee or revoked by the EPA or Minister, the licensee must prepare an Annual Return in respect of the period commencing on the first day of the reporting period and ending on:
- in relation to the surrender of a licence - the date when notice in writing of approval of the surrender is given; or
 - in relation to the revocation of the licence - the date from which notice revoking the licence operates.
- R1.5 The Annual Return for the reporting period must be supplied to the EPA via eConnect *EPA* or by registered post not later than 60 days after the end of each reporting period or in the case of a transferring licence not later than 60 days after the date the transfer was granted (the 'due date').
- R1.6 Where the licensee is unable to complete a part of the Annual Return by the due date because the licensee was unable to calculate the actual load of a pollutant due to circumstances beyond the licensee's control, the licensee must notify the EPA in writing as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the due date. The notification must specify:
- the assessable pollutants for which the actual load could not be calculated; and
 - the relevant circumstances that were beyond the control of the licensee.
- R1.7 The licensee must retain a copy of the Annual Return supplied to the EPA for a period of at least 4 years after the Annual Return was due to be supplied to the EPA.
- R1.8 Within the Annual Return, the Statements of Compliance must be certified and the Monitoring and Complaints Summary must be signed by:
- the licence holder; or
 - by a person approved in writing by the EPA to sign on behalf of the licence holder.
- R1.9 **Monitoring report**
- The licensee must supply with the Annual Return a report, which provides:
- an analysis and interpretation of monitoring results; and
 - actions to correct identified adverse trends.

Note: The term "reporting period" is defined in the dictionary at the end of this licence. Do not complete the Annual Return until after the end of the reporting period.

Note: An application to transfer a licence must be made in the approved form for this purpose.

R2 Notification of environmental harm

- R2.1 Notifications must be made by telephoning the Environment Line service on 131 555.
- R2.2 The licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within 7 days of the date on which they became aware of the incident.

Note: The licensee or its employees must notify all relevant authorities of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment immediately after the person becomes aware of the incident in accordance with the requirements of Part 5.7 of the Act.

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R3 Written report

- R3.1 Where an authorised officer of the EPA suspects on reasonable grounds that:
- where this licence applies to premises, an event has occurred at the premises; or
 - where this licence applies to vehicles or mobile plant, an event has occurred in connection with the carrying out of the activities authorised by this licence,
- and the event has caused, is causing or is likely to cause material harm to the environment (whether the harm occurs on or off premises to which the licence applies), the authorised officer may request a written report of the event.
- R3.2 The licensee must make all reasonable inquiries in relation to the event and supply the report to the EPA within such time as may be specified in the request.
- R3.3 The request may require a report which includes any or all of the following information:
- the cause, time and duration of the event;
 - the type, volume and concentration of every pollutant discharged as a result of the event;
 - the name, address and business hours telephone number of employees or agents of the licensee, or a specified class of them, who witnessed the event;
 - the name, address and business hours telephone number of every other person (of whom the licensee is aware) who witnessed the event, unless the licensee has been unable to obtain that information after making reasonable effort;
 - action taken by the licensee in relation to the event, including any follow-up contact with any complainants;
 - details of any measure taken or proposed to be taken to prevent or mitigate against a recurrence of such an event; and
 - any other relevant matters.
- R3.4 The EPA may make a written request for further details in relation to any of the above matters if it is not satisfied with the report provided by the licensee. The licensee must provide such further details to the EPA within the time specified in the request.

R4 Other notifications

- R4.1 Where either:
- sewage or partially treated sewage is discharged from the premises as a result of a bypass of the sewage treatment plant, or:
 - an observed or reported overflow has occurred from the reticulation system, and overflow or bypass may pose a risk to public health, the licensee is to promptly give appropriate notification to any parties that are likely to be affected, including:
 - the potentially affected community;
 - the Department of Health;
 - any other government organisation or water utility provider whose administrative role, operations or service provision is likely to be affected or impacted by the overflow or bypass.

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R5 Annual system performance report

R5.1 The licensee must supply to the EPA an Annual System Performance Report not later than 60 days after the end of each reporting period.

R5.2 The report is to supplement the Annual Return and must include but need not be limited to:

- a) the 50 percentile, 90 percentile and 100 percentile values calculated from the monitoring data required by this licence for the reporting period for each pollutant.
- b) the total amounts of biosolids, as classified in the Biosolids Guidelines, disposed of on-site, off-site and to landfill during the reporting period;
- c) a diagram showing the major process elements, discharge points and monitoring points at the premises' sewage treatment plant(s), where there has been any significant change since the previous reporting period or this information has not been provided previously to the EPA;
- d) the number of dry and wet weather bypasses recorded over the reporting period (recorded in accordance with condition M8);
- e) a breakdown of the total number of complaints received by the licensee during the reporting period in relation to the premises into categories of "odours – sewage treatment plant", "odours – reticulation system", "water pollution – sewage treatment plant", "water pollution – reticulation system" and any other category indicated by the complaints;
- f) a summary of observed, reported or recorded wet weather overflows and observed, reported or recorded dry weather overflows and sewage treatment plant bypasses. These data are to be for the current reporting period and for the four previous twelve-month periods, for which data has been collected. Any significant actions taken to address bypasses or overflows are to be noted;
- g) the amount of rainfall measured at a rain gauge at the STP, or at the rain gauge closest to the centre of the catchment of the sewage treatment system, for each month of the reporting period.

Effluent Reuse Area Annual Report Requirements.

a) The licensee must prepare, on an annual basis, a report which analyses the principal findings of the wastewater and solid waste disposal program monitoring and environmental monitoring program. In addition, the report must include sections dealing with the analysis and interpretation of the monitoring data and make an assessment of the impact of the development on the environment. These sections must be prepared by a person with relevant experience and qualifications on behalf of the licensee.

The report shall include:

- i. control of odour emissions;
- ii. solid wastes management;
- iii. liquid wastes management;
- iv. soils management;
- v. protection of surface and groundwaters;
- vi. storage dam management;
- vii. findings of any audit.

b) The licensee must adjust, if necessary, the monitoring programs and requirements referred to above in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Authority.

R5.3 The Annual System Performance Report must be presented in a format approved in writing by the EPA.

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R6 Other reporting conditions

- R6.1 When the licensee notifies the Department of Health or Safe Food NSW Shellfish Quality Assurance Program of a bypass or overflow incident, the licensee must also notify the EPA by telephoning its Pollution Line service on 131 555. Notifications are to be given as soon as practicable after the licensee or one of the licensee's employees or agents becomes aware of the incident, and must include all relevant information including the information required under condition M9.1 or M7.1.

7 General Conditions

G1 Copy of licence kept at the premises or plant

- G1.1 A copy of this licence must be kept at the premises to which the licence applies.

- G1.2 The licence must be produced to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see it.

- G1.3 The licence must be available for inspection by any employee or agent of the licensee working at the premises.

Note: For the purposes of this condition, "the premises" refers to each Sewage Treatment Plant(s) described in condition A2.1.

G2 Contact number for incidents and responsible employees

- G2.1 The licensee must operate 24-hour telephone contact lines for the purpose of enabling the EPA to directly contact one or more representatives of the licensee who can:
- a) respond at all times to incidents relating to the premises; and
 - b) contact the licensee's senior employees or agents authorised at all times to:
 - i) speak on behalf of the licensee; and
 - ii) provide any information or document required under this licence.

- G2.2 The licensee is to inform the EPA in writing of the appointment of any subsequent contact persons, or changes to the person's contact details as soon as practicable and in any event within fourteen days of the appointment or change.

G3 Signage

- G3.1 The location of EPA point number(s) 2 must be clearly marked by signs that indicate the point identification number used in this licence and be located as close as practical to the point.

8 Pollution Studies and Reduction Programs

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U1 Options Assessment Report

U1.1 The Licensee must engage a suitably qualified person(s) to undertake an Options Assessment Report for the upgrade and/or replacement of the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP). This report must:

- Provide an assessment of the current STP performance during scenarios of extreme wet, typical wet, medium and extreme dry weather conditions;
- The short term management options for the existing plant, including measures to prevent any discharges from the Premises; and
- The long term replacement of the STP.

The Options Assessment Report needs to consider options to manage and dispose of wastewater from the STP. Any proposal to discharge effluent from the Premises must include an assessment that demonstrates the discharge water quality is consistent with the Water Quality Objectives and the framework of the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2000 (ANZECC Guideline) for receiving waters.

The Options Assessment Report must be provided to the EPA via electronic mail to info@epa.nsw.gov.au by 31 December 2023.

9 Special Conditions

E1 Irrigation Management Plan

E1.1 An Irrigation Management Plan must be developed and provided to the EPA via electronic mail to info@epa.nsw.gov.au for approval by 30 November 2023. The Irrigation Management Plan must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Guidelines - Use of Effluent by Irrigation (DEC, 2004) and must include, but not be limited to:

- a) The location and design of tailwater and stormwater runoff controls;
- b) Details of the proposed soil quality monitoring including locations of surface and subsurface monitoring;
- c) Details of management practices that will be implemented on irrigated areas to maintain and manage sustainable hydraulic and nutrient loads. This includes details on volumes to be applied per hectare to allow the reuse area an ability to effectively utilise the effluent;
- d) Details of the proposed cropping regimes; and
- e) Management measures to be implemented to ensure public access is controlled during times of irrigation and for four hours post irrigation or until the irrigated area is dry.

The Irrigation Management Plan should be prepared by a person or organisation within qualifications and experience in soil science and water quality who are able to provide specialised advice on the impacts of current effluent irrigation practices and on future sustainable management of the irrigated area.

E1.2 An Irrigation Management Report is to be submitted with the Annual Return that includes, but is not limited to, the following data:

- A current map of the effluent utilisation area;
- A summary of the monitoring data collected from the irrigation area including a trend analysis of the data



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and mitigation measures to be implemented should the trends analysis identify negative risks to the environment; and

- A table with date, time, duration and location of all irrigation occurring at the effluent utilisation area.

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Dictionary

General Dictionary

3DGM [in relation to a concentration limit]	Means the three day geometric mean, which is calculated by multiplying the results of the analysis of three samples collected on consecutive days and then taking the cubed root of that amount. Where one or more of the samples is zero or below the detection limit for the analysis, then 1 or the detection limit respectively should be used in place of those samples
Act	Means the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
activity	Means a scheduled or non-scheduled activity within the meaning of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
actual load	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009
AM	Together with a number, means an ambient air monitoring method of that number prescribed by the <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> .
AMG	Australian Map Grid
anniversary date	The anniversary date is the anniversary each year of the date of issue of the licence. In the case of a licence continued in force by the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the date of issue of the licence is the first anniversary of the date of issue or last renewal of the licence following the commencement of the Act.
annual return	Is defined in R1.1
Approved Methods Publication	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009
assessable pollutants	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009
BOD	Means biochemical oxygen demand
CEM	Together with a number, means a continuous emission monitoring method of that number prescribed by the <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> .
COD	Means chemical oxygen demand
composite sample	Unless otherwise specifically approved in writing by the EPA, a sample consisting of 24 individual samples collected at hourly intervals and each having an equivalent volume.
cond.	Means conductivity
environment	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
environment protection legislation	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991
EPA	Means Environment Protection Authority of New South Wales.
fee-based activity classification	Means the numbered short descriptions in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.
general solid waste (non-putrescible)	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

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flow weighted composite sample	Means a sample whose composites are sized in proportion to the flow at each composites time of collection.
general solid waste (putrescible)	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
grab sample	Means a single sample taken at a point at a single time
hazardous waste	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
licensee	Means the licence holder described at the front of this licence
load calculation protocol	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009
local authority	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
material harm	Has the same meaning as in section 147 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
MBAS	Means methylene blue active substances
Minister	Means the Minister administering the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
mobile plant	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
motor vehicle	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
O&G	Means oil and grease
percentile [in relation to a concentration limit of a sample]	Means that percentage [eg.50%] of the number of samples taken that must meet the concentration limit specified in the licence for that pollutant over a specified period of time. In this licence, the specified period of time is the Reporting Period unless otherwise stated in this licence.
plant	Includes all plant within the meaning of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 as well as motor vehicles.
pollution of waters [or water pollution]	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
premises	Means the premises described in condition A2.1
public authority	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
regional office	Means the relevant EPA office referred to in the Contacting the EPA document accompanying this licence
reporting period	For the purposes of this licence, the reporting period means the period of 12 months after the issue of the licence, and each subsequent period of 12 months. In the case of a licence continued in force by the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the date of issue of the licence is the first anniversary of the date of issue or last renewal of the licence following the commencement of the Act.
restricted solid waste	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
scheduled activity	Means an activity listed in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
special waste	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
TM	Together with a number, means a test method of that number prescribed by the <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> .

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TSP	Means total suspended particles
TSS	Means total suspended solids
Type 1 substance	Means the elements antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead or mercury or any compound containing one or more of those elements
Type 2 substance	Means the elements beryllium, chromium, cobalt, manganese, nickel, selenium, tin or vanadium or any compound containing one or more of those elements
utilisation area	Means any area shown as a utilisation area on a map submitted with the application for this licence
waste	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
waste type	Means liquid, restricted solid waste, general solid waste (putrescible), general solid waste (non-putrescible), special waste or hazardous waste
Wellhead	Has the same meaning as in Schedule 1 to the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2021.

Mr Terry Knowles

Environment Protection Authority

(By Delegation)

Date of this edition: 05-September-2000

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End Notes

- 1 Licence varied by notice 1015372, issued on 10-May-2002, which came into effect on 04-Jun-2002.
- 2 Licence varied by notice 1018272, issued on 06-Sep-2002, which came into effect on 01-Oct-2002.
- 3 Licence varied by notice 1028820, issued on 18-Aug-2003, which came into effect on 12-Sep-2003.
- 4 EPA Condition ID S40934 amended 13-08-04
- 5 Licence varied by notice 1041230, issued on 07-Oct-2004, which came into effect on 01-Nov-2004.
- 6 Licence varied by notice 1044587, issued on 25-Feb-2005, which came into effect on 22-Mar-2005.
- 7 Licence varied by notice 1046607, issued on 19-Apr-2005, which came into effect on 14-May-2005.
- 8 Licence varied by notice 1060517, issued on 01-Aug-2006, which came into effect on 01-Aug-2006.
- 9 Licence varied by notice 1078580, issued on 15-Oct-2007, which came into effect on 15-Oct-2007.
- 10 Licence varied by notice 1093365, issued on 06-Nov-2008, which came into effect on 06-Nov-2008.
- 11 Condition A1.3 Not applicable varied by notice issued on <issue date> which came into effect on <effective date>
- 12 Licence varied by notice 1097968, issued on 03-Mar-2009, which came into effect on 03-Mar-2009.
- 13 Licence varied by notice 1099956, issued on 28-Sep-2009, which came into effect on 28-Sep-2009.
- 14 Licence varied by notice 1504986 issued on 05-Apr-2012
- 15 Licence varied by notice 1531784 issued on 07-Aug-2015
- 16 Licence transferred through application 1545767 approved on 18-Oct-2016 , which came into effect on 12-May-2016
- 17 Licence varied by notice 1574534 issued on 13-Mar-2019
- 18 Licence varied by notice 1597234 issued on 04-Aug-2020