

Operating licence

Environment Protection Act 2017

Licence number	OL000001306
Issue date	30 August 2000
Last amended	29 January 2025
Expiry date	31 December 9999
Licence holder	MELBOURNE WATER CORPORATION
ABN	81945386953
Activity site(s)	160 South Rd Cocoroc VIC 3030 AU New Farm Rd, Werribee, VIC, 3030, AU
Prescribed permission activities	A01 (Reportable priority waste management) A03 (Sewage treatment) K01 (Power generation)

Issued under section 74(1)(a) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (the Act).



Andreas Elvin
Team Leader Operating Licences
Delegate of Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)

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Context

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is Victoria's environmental regulator acting in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (the Act). Our regulatory role is to work with community, industry and business to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste on Victoria's environment and people.

Why we issue operating licences

A range of operating activity types are prescribed in the Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (the Regulations) because they give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment. We issue operating licences so applicants can lawfully undertake prescribed operating activities. Section 45 of the Act provides that a person must not engage in a prescribed operating activity except as authorised by an operating licence in respect of that activity.

When we issue operating licences

EPA can issue an operating licence under section 74(1) of the Act. When issuing an operating licence, EPA takes into account a number of factors, including the measures an applicant has taken or proposes to take in order to comply with the Act when engaging in the prescribed permission activity.

EPA can amend, suspend or revoke a licence for a range of reasons. This can include in response to changes in activities, risks or licence holder performance. All operating licence details are publicly accessible via the EPA Public Register.

Key information and obligations

Interpretation

For the purposes of this operating licence "You" means the "licence holder" identified on the first page. Unless a contrary intention appears, words or terms used in the conditions of your licence have the same meaning as in the Act, and in any regulations made pursuant to the Act.

Compliance

Your licence is subject to conditions. These conditions confer legal obligations on you as the licence holder. Some of these are general in nature, while others require you to do (or not to do) specific things. The requirements of these conditions do not detract from each other in any way, nor do they affect any other duties or obligations with which you are required to comply by law. You must fulfil all duties and perform all obligations set out in this licence or otherwise required by law.

Strict penalties apply for non-compliance with any part of your operating licence.

You must comply with the Act and regulations administered by EPA. This includes, but is not limited to, compliance with the general environmental duty (GED).

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Duties under the Act

Under the Act, you have legal obligations in relation to your prescribed and non-prescribed activities. These legal obligations exist to minimise risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

You may be committing an offence and be liable to a penalty under the Act if your actions or omissions constitute a breach of these legal obligations.

General environmental duty

The Act places the onus on you to understand the risks associated with your operation or activity and requires you to minimise the risk of harm. This is called the general environmental duty (GED).

Sections 6 and 25 of the Act provide the legal basis for the GED. These sections state that a person engaging in an activity which may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste must eliminate or minimise those risks, as far as reasonably practicable.

Duty to notify EPA of notifiable incidents

A notifiable incident is a pollution incident that causes or threatens to cause material harm to human health or the environment or is a prescribed notifiable incident. Under section 32 of the Act, you have an obligation to notify EPA of a notifiable incident as soon as practicable after you become aware of the incident.

Duty to take action to respond to harm caused by pollution incident

Under section 31 of the Act, if a pollution incident has occurred as a result of an activity (whether by act or omission) and the pollution incident causes or is likely to cause harm to human health or the environment, a person who is engaging in that activity must, so far as reasonably practicable, restore the affected area to the state it was in before the pollution incident occurred.

Duty to notify of contaminated land

Under section 40(1) of the Act, a person in management or control of land must notify EPA if the land has been contaminated by notifiable contamination as soon as practicable after the person becomes aware of the notifiable contamination.

Notifiable contamination means contamination which is prescribed in the Regulations, or contamination for which the cost of action to remediate the land is likely to exceed \$50,000, or any other prescribed amount.

Duties relating to industrial waste, priority wastes and reportable priority wastes

Under parts 6.4 and 6.5 of the Act, a person has obligations in relation to the generation, receiving, recording, managing, transporting, and disposal of industrial, priority wastes and reportable priority wastes. These duties include:

- Duties of persons depositing industrial waste.

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- Duties of persons receiving industrial waste.
- Duty of persons involved in transporting industrial waste.
- Duties of persons managing priority waste.
- Duty to investigate alternatives to waste disposal.
- Duty to notify of transaction in reportable priority waste.
- Duty of persons transporting reportable priority waste.

For further information on waste classifications see schedule 5 of the Regulations.

Further information and resources

To aid compliance with the Act and the Regulations, Environment Reference Standards (ERS), Compliance Codes, Position Statements and Guidelines have been developed to address a range of environmental objectives, permitted and non-permitted activities and risks.

You should understand how the Victorian environment protection framework applies to you and your activity, operation or business by making yourself familiar with the Act, Regulations, Compliance Codes and other relevant guidance material.

To assist you with understanding your obligations refer to www.epa.vic.gov.au.

Amendment

You can apply at any time to EPA for an amendment to your licence under section 57 of the Act. EPA may also decide to amend a licence under its own initiative according to section 58 of the Act.

Transfer

A person may apply to EPA for the transfer of this licence to a new licence holder pursuant to section 56 of the Act.

Duration of licence

This operating licence is subject to the expiry date identified on the first page. It will remain in force until that time unless it is first surrendered by the licence holder (with consent from EPA), or it is suspended or revoked by EPA.

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Operating licence structure

Your operating licence has multiple parts:

- Conditions
- Appendix 1 – locality plan
- Appendix 2 – activity plan
- Appendix 3 – contour plan
- Appendix 4 – waste acceptance table
- Appendix 5 – air discharge tables
- Appendix 6 – water discharge table
- Appendix 7 – landfill cell table

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Conditions

General conditions

OL_G01	A copy of this licence must be kept at the activity site and be easily accessible to persons who are engaging in an activity conducted at the activity site. Information regarding the requirements of the licence and the Act duties must be included in site induction and training information.
OL_G02	<p>You must immediately notify the Authority by calling 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A discharge, emission or deposit which gives rise to, or may give rise to, actual or potential harm to human health or the environment;b) A malfunction, breakdown or failure of risk control measures at the activity site which could reasonably be expected to give rise to actual or potential harm to human health or the environment; orc) Any breach of the licence.
OL_G03	<p>You must notify the Authority within 48 hours of the occurrence of any the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Any change to your name or address (including your registered address and activity site as applicable);(b) You become, or are likely to become, an insolvent under administration;(c) You become, or are likely to become, an externally administered company under the Corporations Act; or(d) A change to an officer (as defined in the Act). <p>You must update your information in the EPA Interaction Portal if any other relevant administrative details for your business change.</p>
OL_G04a	You must provide to the Authority with a Permission Information and Performance Statement (PIPS) in the form determined by the Authority within 2 months of receiving notification in writing from the Authority. The PIPS may be released to the public (in whole or in part).
OL_G04b	<p>Information and monitoring records used for the preparation of, inclusion in, or support of, any reporting or notification that is required of you by the Authority (including data reporting, performance reporting, documents evidencing any risk and monitoring program) must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) retained for five years; andb) made available to the Authority on request.
OL_G05	<p>1. You must develop a risk management and monitoring program for your activities which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) identifies all the risks of harm to human health and the environment which may

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- arise from the activities you are engaging in at your activity site;
 - (b) clearly defines your environmental performance objectives;
 - (c) clearly defines your risk control performance objectives;
 - (d) describes how the environmental and risk control performance objectives are being achieved;
 - (e) identifies and describes how you will continue to eliminate or minimise the risks in 1(a) (above) so far as reasonably practicable (SFARP); and
 - (f) describes how the information collated in compliance with this clause, is or will be disseminated, used or otherwise considered by you or any other entity.
2. The risk management and monitoring program must be:
- (a) documented in writing;
 - (b) signed by a duly authorised officer of the licensed entity; and
 - (c) made available to the Authority on request.
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OL_G07	<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) develop and maintain a decommissioning plan that is in accordance with the current decommissioning guidelines published by the Authority;(b) provide the decommissioning plan to the Authority upon request;(c) supply to the Authority an updated detailed decommissioning plan 40 business days prior to commencement of decommissioning, if you propose to divest a section of the licensed site, cease part or all of the licensed activity or reduce the basis upon which the licence was granted to a point where licensing is no longer required; and(d) decommission the licensed site in accordance with the detailed decommissioning plan, to the satisfaction of the Authority and within any reasonable timeframe which may be specified by the Authority.
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Standard conditions

OL_DW02.08	<p>Discharge of treated wastewater during wet weather conditions must be in accordance with specifications in "Discharge to Water" section of EPA Publication 1322 'Licence Management Guidelines'.</p>
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OL_WA01	<p>You must ensure all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Only waste of a type shown in Appendix 4 of this licence is accepted at the activity site; andb) If it is identified that any waste has been received at the activity site that is of a type not shown in Appendix 4 in contravention of paragraph a) above, such waste must be placed in a designated and sign-posted temporary storage area and sent for disposal to a site licensed by the Authority to receive such waste within 21 days of the date it was received.
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OL_WA02	Wastes accepted at the activity site may only be treated or disposed of in accordance with Appendix 4.
OL_WM11	For all wastes of a type listed in Appendix 4, you must keep records of: (a) incoming and outgoing movements of waste; (b) the current location of waste at your activity site; and (c) the waste type of any waste located at your activity site. These records must be retained for five years and be made available to the Authority on request.
OL_WM14	All plant and equipment must be maintained and operated in proper working condition, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Specific conditions

OL_DA01	Discharge of waste to air must be in accordance with Appendix 5.
OL_DA02	Visible emissions to air other than steam must not be discharged from the activity site, except as permitted by this licence.
OL_DW02	Discharge of waste to surface waters must be in accordance with Appendix 6.
OL_DW02.01.04	The licence limit for each indicator in Appendix 6 is specified as a flow weighted average (FWA) for discharge points DP1 to DP9, where the FWA equals the total waste load divided by the total flow rate, and the waste load from each discharge point (DP) equals the concentration of waste multiplied by the flow rate for that DP.
OL_DW03	You must ensure that the receiving environment at the following distance from the relevant discharge points achieves background levels in relation to the mixing zone as shown in Appendix 2 for these indicators: The mixing zone extends from 2 kilometres to the north-east of discharge point 1 to 2 kilometres to the south-west of discharge point 4 and for 2 kilometres offshore for Escherichia Coli, Chlorophyll a and Total Dissolved Solids and for a 200 metre radius, for Toxicants and Dissolved Oxygen from any of the the licensed waste discharge points.
OL_DW04	You must install and maintain signage in the vicinity of the mixing zone displaying: (a) the extent and nature of the mixing zone; (b) your name; (c) your EPA licence number; and (d) the discharge point number.

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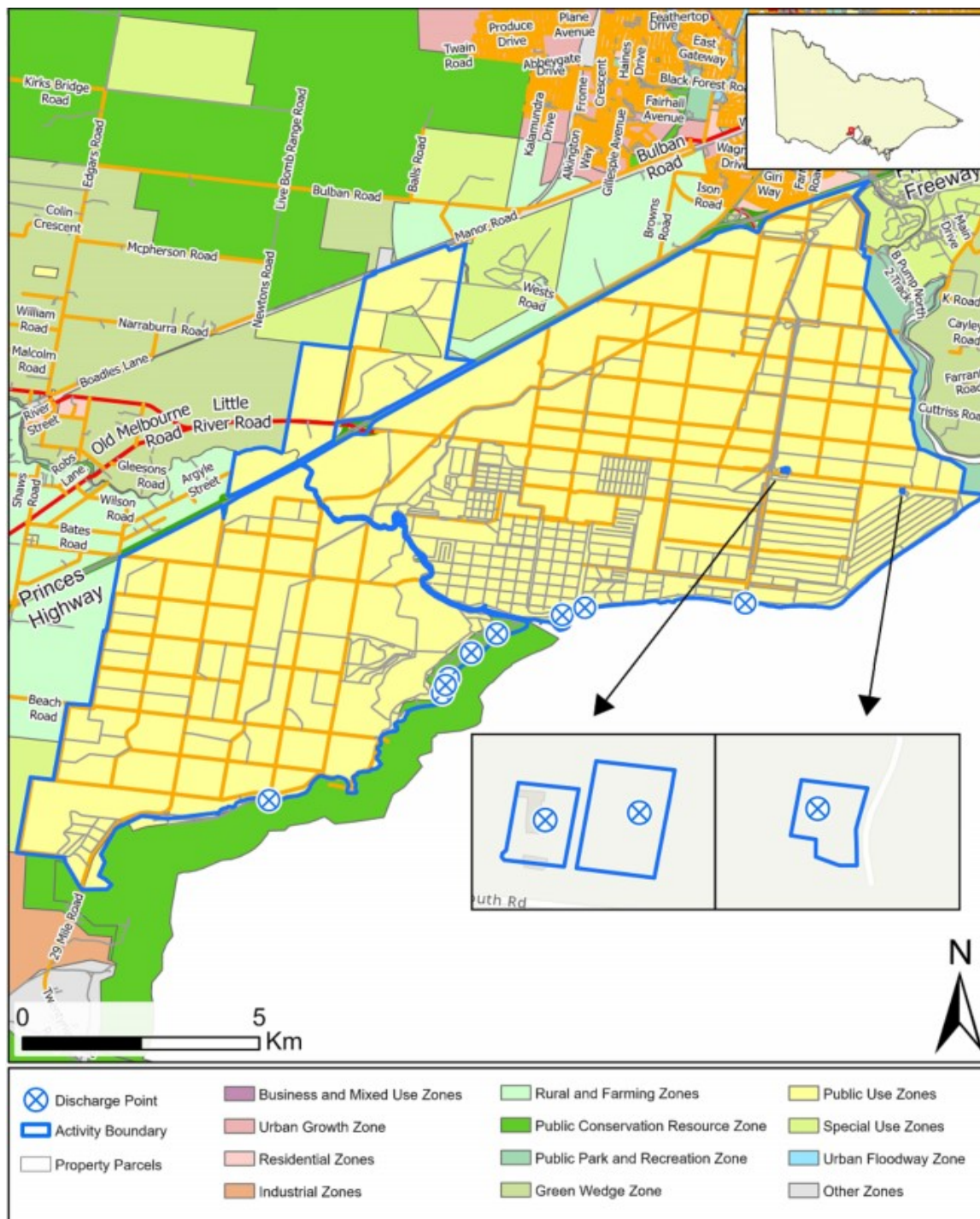
OL_RW11	Your risk management and monitoring program (RMMP) referenced in condition OL_G05 must include and maintain a Health and Environment Management Plan (HEMP) that is in accordance with the "Victorian guideline for water recycling" (EPA Publication 1910), as amended from time to time.
OL_WA01.02.02	Only untreated sewage that does not exceed an annual median limit for total dissolved solids of 1000 mg/L may be accepted at the site.
OL_WM01.03	You can only treat up to a month average of 270,000 litres of waste (sum of K100, K200 and K210) at the activity site per day, ensuring the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) load is maintained at less than or equal to 3% average incoming COD load, as a part of the co-digestion.
OL_WM01.08	You must not treat more than 25 dry tonnes of K400-H per day when averaged over any given month in the lagoons at the activity site until 31 December 2029. To continue receiving and treating K400-H beyond this date, you must apply for an operating licence amendment. A dry tonne represents the residual weight of solid material once all water has been removed.
OL_WM13	Notwithstanding the discharge limits set out in this licence, the licence holder's risk management and monitoring program must address: (a) Causes of short-term variation in emissions (which may include equipment or process failures and replacement of components); (b) Opportunities to reduce long term and event-driven emissions through practices or controls; and (c) Key indicators of emission variation including process and system indicators.

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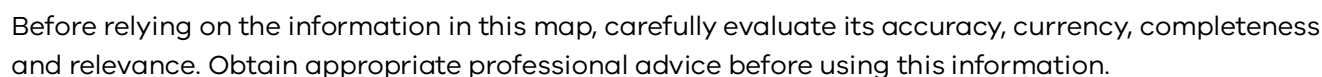
Appendices

Appendix 1 – locality plan



Before relying on the information in this map, carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance. Obtain appropriate professional advice before using this information.

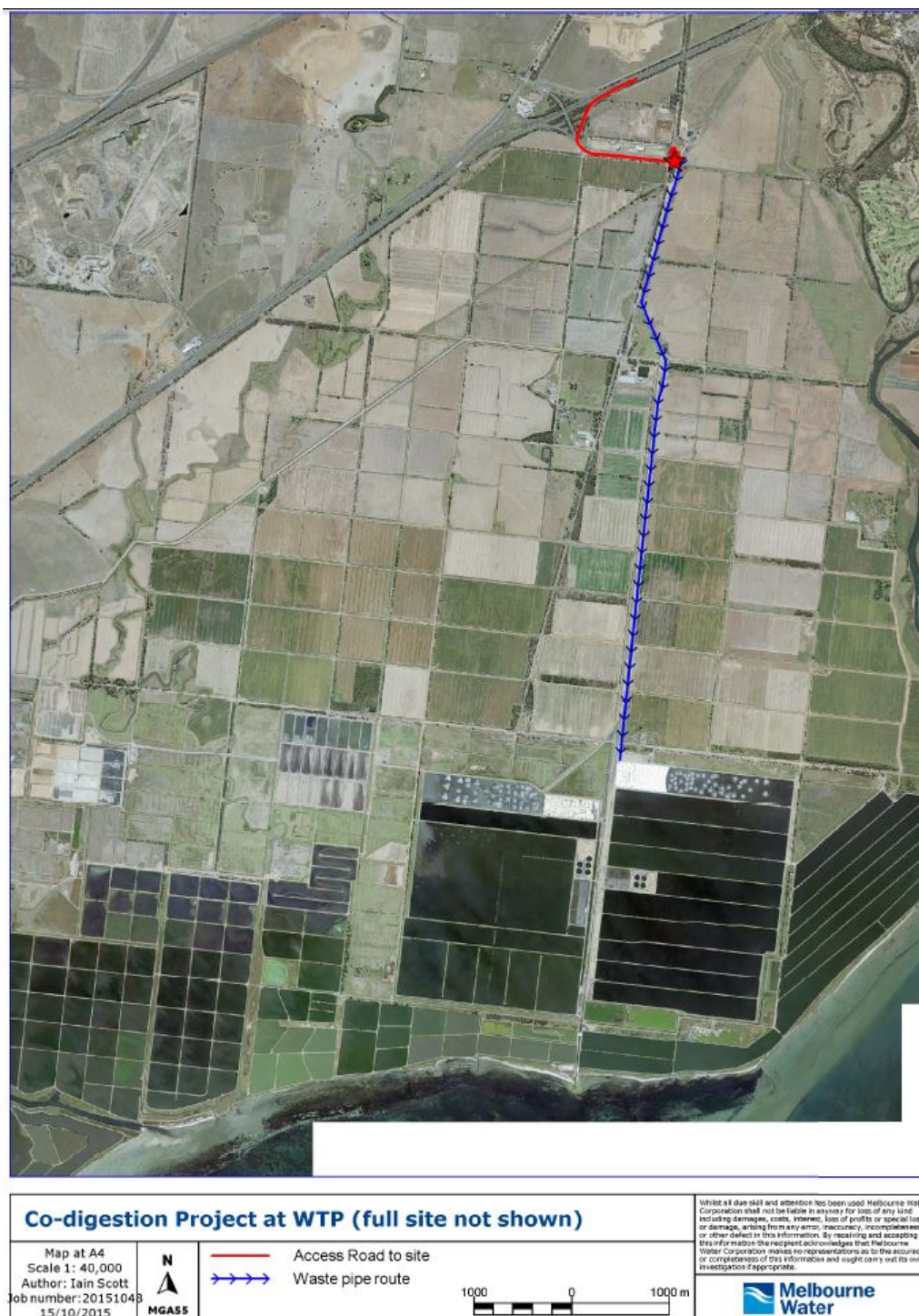
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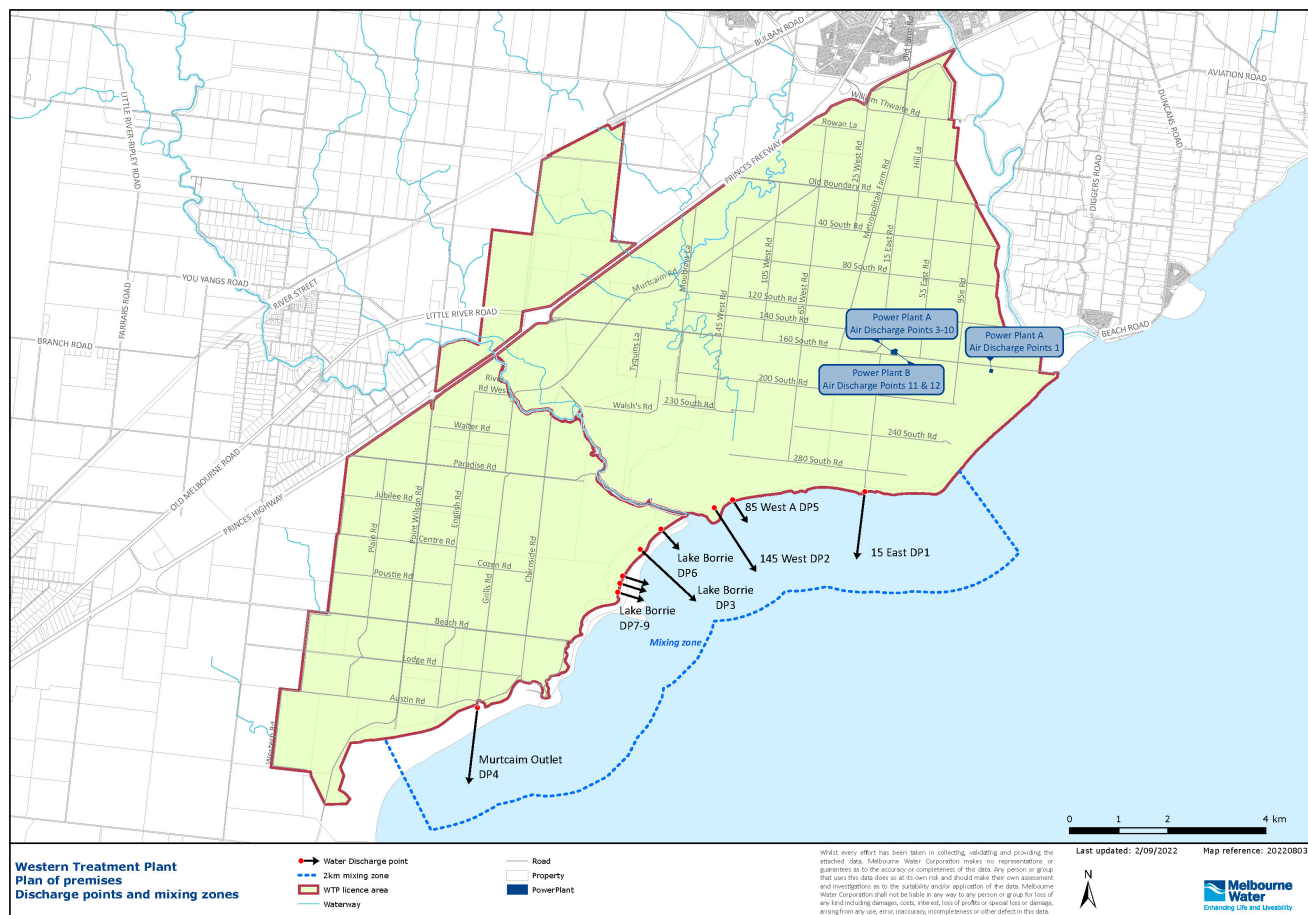
Appendix 2 – activity plan



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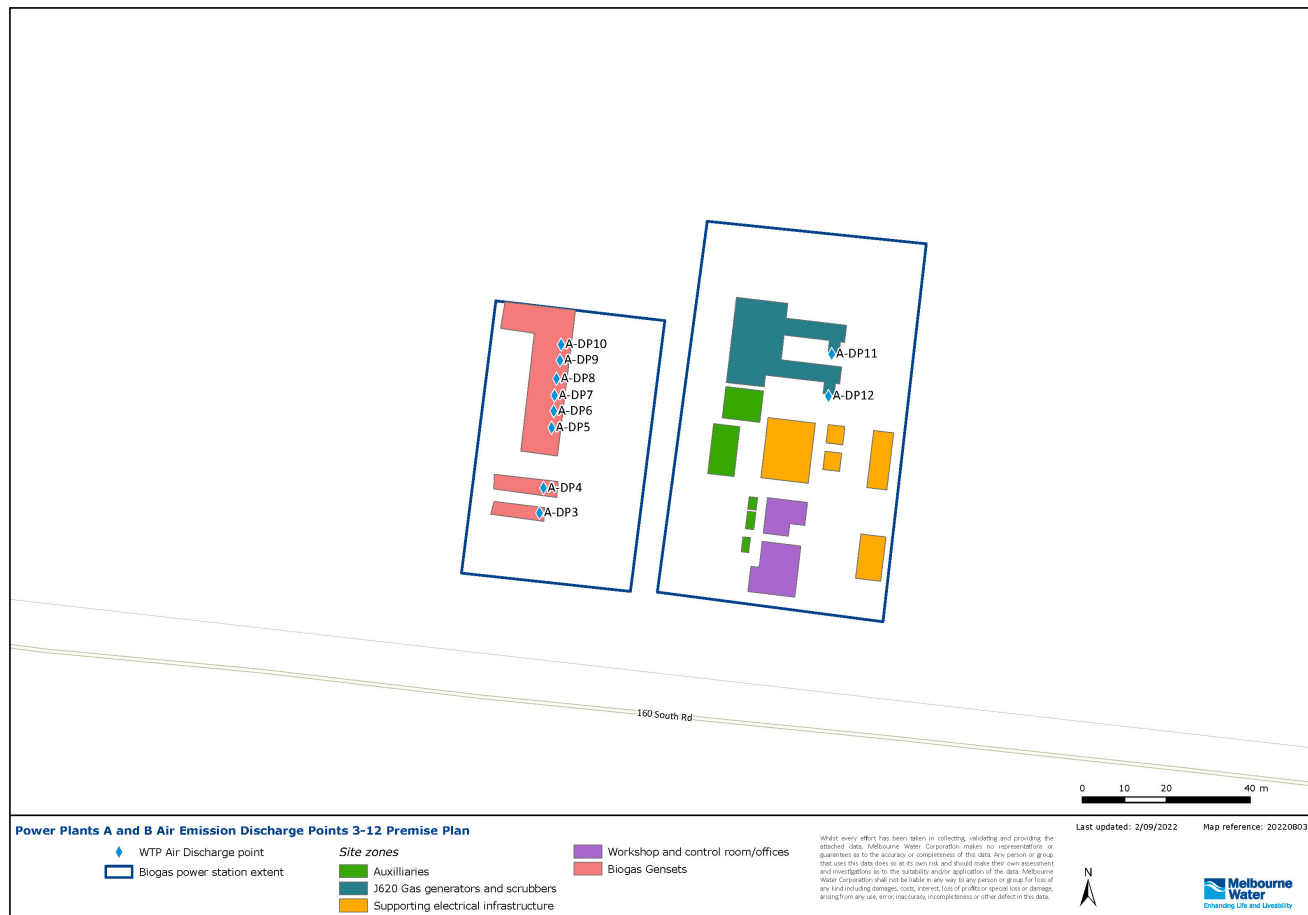
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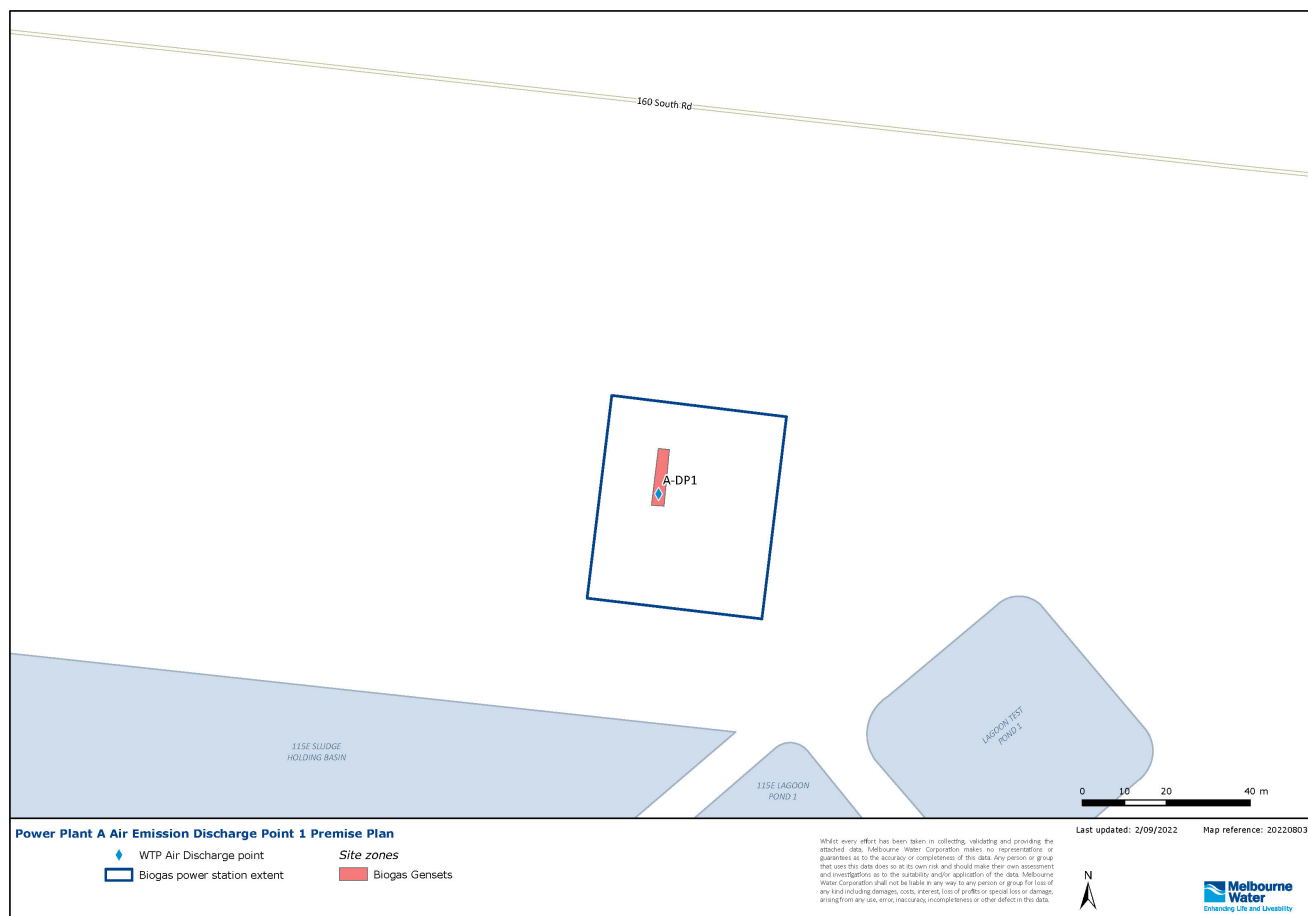
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Appendix 3 – contour plan

There is no contour plan for this licence.

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Appendix 4 - waste acceptance table

Waste Code	Waste Description	Treatment Code	Treatment Description
K100	Animal effluent and residues, including abattoir wastes and other wastes from animal processing	D8	Biological treatment not otherwise specified
		R3	Recycling/reclamation of organic waste materials which are not used as solvents
K200	Liquid organic wastes including commercial food, not containing other priority wastes listed in items 50 to 53 or 55 to 63 of "Schedule 5—Waste Classification" of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021	D8	Biological treatment not otherwise specified
		R3	Recycling/reclamation of organic waste materials which are not used as solvents
K210	Solid commercial food wastes, not otherwise specified in "Schedule 5—Waste Classification" of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021	D8	Biological treatment not otherwise specified
		R3	Recycling/reclamation of organic waste materials which are not used as solvents
K400-H	Treated sewage solids and sludge that does not meet the permit conditions in the permit in relation to item 23 (A15—Biosolids supply or use) in the Table in Schedule 1 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021	D8	Biological treatment not otherwise specified

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Appendix 5 – air discharge tables

Discharge Point ID	Discharge Point Name	Indicator	Limit Type	Unit	Discharge Limit
1	Generator 3 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 115 Eas	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
10	Generator 9 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
11	Generator 10 (Jenbacher 3.03MW)	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	283.00000
		Oxides of nitrogen (as NO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	94.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	22.00000
12	Generator 11 (Jenbacher 3.03MW)	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	283.00000
		Oxides of nitrogen (as NO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	94.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	22.00000
3	Generator 1 (Deutz 1255kW) - 160 South S	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	80.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
4	Generator 2 (Deutz 1255kW) - 160 South S	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	80.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000

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5	Gnereator 4 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
6	Generator 5 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
7	Generator 6 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
8	Generator 7 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000
9	Generator 8 (Jenbacher 1065kW) - 160 Sou	Carbon monoxide	Maximum	g/min	90.00000
		Oxides of sulfur (as SO ₂)	Maximum	g/min	30.00000

g/min = grams per minute

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Appendix 6 – water discharge table

Discharge Point ID	Discharge Point Name	Indicator	Limit Type	Unit	Discharge Limit
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Flow Rate	Mean	ML/day	700.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Ammonia	Annual median	mg/L	10.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Ammonia	Maximum	mg/L	30.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Anionic surfactants	90th percentile	mg/L	0.80000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Anionic surfactants	Maximum	mg/L	1.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Benzene	Maximum	mg/L	0.01000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Benzene	75th percentile	mg/L	0.00500
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Cadmium	Maximum	µg/L	5.00000

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1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Cadmium	75th percentile	µg/L	1.10000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand	90th percentile	mg/L	20.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand	Annual median	mg/L	10.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Chromium	Maximum	mg/L	0.10000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Chromium	75th percentile	mg/L	0.04000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Colour	90th percentile	pcu	400.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Colour	Annual median	pcu	200.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Copper	Maximum	mg/L	0.10000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Copper	75th percentile	mg/L	0.02800

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1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Lead	75th percentile	mg/L	0.01500
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Lead	Maximum	mg/L	0.06000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Mercury	Maximum	µg/L	1.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Mercury	75th percentile	µg/L	0.40000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Nickel	Maximum	mg/L	0.06000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Nickel	75th percentile	mg/L	0.02900
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Phenol	75th percentile	mg/L	0.04000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Phenol	Maximum	mg/L	0.08000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Suspended solids	Annual median	mg/L	30.00000

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1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Suspended solids	90th percentile	mg/L	60.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Toluene	75th percentile	mg/L	0.00500
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Toluene	Maximum	mg/L	0.01000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Total phosphorus	90th percentile	mg/L	15.00000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	75th percentile	µg/L	0.40000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	Maximum	µg/L	0.80000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Zinc	Maximum	mg/L	0.20000
1 TO 9	Flow weighted average DP1 to DP9	Zinc	75th percentile	mg/L	0.06000

mg/L = milligrams per litre

pcu = Platinum-Cobalt Units µg/L = micrograms per litre

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Appendix 7 – landfill cells

There are no landfill cells for this licence.