



Northern  
Territory  
Government

## WASTE DISCHARGE LICENCE

(Pursuant to section 74 of the *Water Act*)

**Licensee:** Power and Water Corporation

**Licence Number:** **WDL 151-07**

**Registered Business Address:** 15 Iliffe Street  
STUART PARK NT 0820

**ABN:** 15 947 352 360

**Premises:** Katherine Waste Water Treatment Plant  
Lot 5764 and 1472  
Victoria Highway  
KATHERINE NT 0850

**Anniversary Date:** 01 May

**Commencement Date:** 7 May 2020

**Expiry Date:** 6 May 2022

**Licensed Activity:** Discharge of waste water, in the form of treated effluent, from Katherine Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Katherine River subject to conditions of this licence.

**Description:** Power and Water Corporation (PWC) operates the Katherine Wastewater Treatment Plant to treat wastewater produced by the Katherine community.

Excess treated effluent produced by the Katherine Waste Water Treatment Plant is discharged via a gravity fed outfall pipe at the authorised discharge point to the Katherine River.

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## WASTE DISCHARGE LICENCE (WDL 151-07)

### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS LICENCE

#### Definitions of Terms

- A section including the definition of terms used in this Licence can be found at the end of it.
- Terms used in the waste discharge licence which are defined in the *Water Act* (the Act) have the meaning given in that Act unless specifically indicated otherwise.

#### Responsibilities of Licensee

- It is an offence under the *Water Act*, if the holder of a waste discharge licence contravenes or fails to comply with the conditions of a waste discharge licence.
- Licensees must comply at all times with the requirements of the *Water Act* and all applicable laws.
- Except as expressly provided for in this licence, the licensee must not:
  - cause environmental harm either directly or indirectly;
  - allow waste to come into contact with water; or
  - allow water to be polluted.
- Without limiting the conditions of this licence, in conducting the activity, the licensee must do all things reasonable and practicable to:
  - prevent or minimise the likelihood of pollution occurring as a result of, or in connection with, the activity;
  - prevent or minimise the likelihood of environmental harm occurring as a result, or in connection with, the activity;
  - effectively respond to pollution and the risk of pollution occurring as a result of, or in connection with, the activity;
  - effectively respond to environmental harm and the risk of environmental harm occurring as a result of or in connection with the activity; and
  - apply the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

#### Duration of licence

- This licence will remain in force until its expiry date, it is surrendered by the licensee, or until it is suspended or revoked by the Controller of Water Resources.
- As set out in section 94 of the *Water Act*, the holder of a licence may, at any time, surrender the licence.

#### Amendment, Modification or Revocation of Licence (section 93 of the *Water Act*)

- As set out in section 93 of the *Water Act*, the Controller of Water Resources may, by notice:
  - amend or modify the terms and conditions of a licence;
  - revoke a licence; or

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- suspend a licence.

### Public Register

- A copy of this Licence will be placed on a register in accordance with section 95 of the Act.
- A copy of waste discharge licences and any plans for environmental management, reports, submissions or documents required as a condition of a waste discharge licence, will be placed on a register.
- The Administering Agency makes this register freely available from the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) website.

### Beneficial Use Declaration (section 73 of the Water Act)

- Beneficial Use Declaration (BUD) is a legislated process that reduces the effects of water pollution and assists in the protection and management of water. The community decides how a particular water body should be used by choosing one or more Beneficial Use categories.

### Environmental Interests

- This section highlights the beneficial uses as declared under the *Water Act* and the sensitivity of the surrounding land use and environment associated with the location of the approved activity.
  - Declared beneficial uses and or water quality objectives are:
  - Sites of Conservation Significance
  - Ramsar Wetland

### Cultural Interests

- It is the licensee's responsibility to contact the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, appropriate land council or other governing body and ensure that any Authority Certificates required as a result of conducting the licenced activity are obtained and complied with.

### RULES FOR INTERPRETING THE CONDITIONS OF THIS LICENCE

- Where there is a discrepancy between the conditions of this licence and any plan, standard, guideline or other document referred to in this licence, the conditions of this licence prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- Any reference to any standard (Australian or international) in this licence means the relevant parts of the current version of that standard.
- A reference to any guideline or code of practice (or to the relevant parts of any guideline or code of practice) in this licence means the current version of the guideline or code of practice.
- Under section 76 of the *Water Act*, any contravention of or failure to comply with this licence by the licensee may be an offence.
- In this licence, unless the contrary intention appears, words that are defined in the *Water Act* are intended to have the meaning given to them in that Act.

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### LICENCE CONDITIONS

#### GENERAL

1. The licensee must ensure the contact details recorded with Administering Agency for this licence are correct at all times.
2. The licensee must at all times have a 24 hour emergency contact.
3. The licensee must notify the Administering Agency prior to making any operational change that will cause, or is likely to cause, an increase in the potential for environmental harm.
4. The licensee must cause clear and legible signage, in English, to be displayed in a prominent location at each public entrance to the premises that includes the following details:
  - 4.1. waste discharge licence number issued under the *Water Act*; and
  - 4.2. 24 hour emergency contact details.
5. The licensee must cause a copy of this licence to be available for inspection by any person, in hard copy form, at the registered business address.
6. The licensee must provide to the Administering Agency, within 10 business days of a request, a copy of any document, monitoring data or other information in relation to the activity, in the format requested by the Administering Agency.
7. All notices, reports, documents or other correspondence required to be provided as a condition of this licence, unless otherwise specified as a condition of this licence, must be provided in electronic form by emailing [waste@nt.gov.au](mailto:waste@nt.gov.au).
8. The licensee must maintain and implement the current version of the documents listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: License Documents**

Document Title	Document Reference Number
Katherine Waste Stabilisation Ponds Improvement Plan 03/01/2018 to 10/12/2019	EN2011/0018-108~0003

9. Within 10 business days of any amendment being made to a document listed in Table 1 the licensee must provide the amended document to the Administering Agency, along with:
  - 9.1. a tabulated summary of the amendment(s) with document references;
  - 9.2. reasons for the amendment(s); and
  - 9.3. an assessment of environmental risk associated with the amendment(s).
10. The Administering Agency may require the licensee to revise or amend and resubmit any amended document. Where the Administering Agency requires a document to be resubmitted, the licensee must submit it to the Administering Agency by the date specified by the Administering Agency.

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11. The licensee must, for the duration of this licence, implement, maintain and follow a Consultation and Communication Plan which includes a strategy for communicating with persons who are likely to have a real interest in, or be affected by, the activity.
12. The licensee must operate and maintain a community feedback number.
13. The licensee must display the community feedback number:
  - 13.1. where the licensee has a website, in a prominent location on the licensee's website;
  - 13.2. in the Consultation and Communication Plan; and
  - 13.3. in other publicly available documents relating to the activity.
14. The licensee must maintain a Complaint Log for all complaints received by the licensee in relation to the activity.
15. The licensee must ensure that the Complaint Log includes, for each complaint received by the licensee, the following information:
  - 15.1. the person to whom the complaint was made;
  - 15.2. the person responsible for managing the complaint;
  - 15.3. the date and time the complaint was reported;
  - 15.4. the date and time of the event(s) that led to the complaint;
  - 15.5. the contact details of the complainant if known, or where no details are provided a note to that effect;
  - 15.6. the nature of the complaint;
  - 15.7. the nature of event(s) giving rise to the complaint;
  - 15.8. prevailing weather conditions at the time (where relevant to the complaint);
  - 15.9. the action taken in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant; and
  - 15.10. if no action was taken, why no action was taken.
16. The licensee must implement, maintain and follow an Emergency Response Plan that addresses procedures for responding to emergencies associated with the activity that may cause environmental harm.

### **EARLY SURRENDER OF LICENCE**

17. Any reports, records or other information required or able to be provided by the licensee under this licence must be submitted to the Administering Agency prior to the licensee surrendering the licence. If the date on which a report, record or other information is required falls after the date the licensee requests to surrender this licence, the licensee must provide the report, record or information as far as possible using data available to the licensee up to and including the date the request to surrender the licence is made.

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### OPERATIONAL

18. The licensee must, without limiting any other condition of this licence, in conducting the activity do all things reasonable and practicable to ensure the activity does not adversely affect the Declared Beneficial Uses and Objectives as declared from time to time, including those applying to the surface water from all natural waterways located in the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District and all groundwater located in the District NT Gazette S57 20 July 2018. The Beneficial Uses are:
- Agriculture
  - Aquaculture
  - Public water supply
  - Environment
  - Cultural
  - Industry
  - Rural stock
  - Domestic
19. No change, replacement or alteration of plant and equipment is permitted if the change, replacement or alteration increases the risk of environmental harm for the licensed activity, unless approved by the Administering Agency.

### DISCHARGES

#### Discharges to water

20. This licence authorises discharge to water from the authorised discharge point as identified in Table 2 and shown in Appendix 1, and as otherwise allowed in accordance with the conditions of this licence.
21. The licensee must ensure that all discharge events at the authorised discharge point consists only of wastewater from the source specified in Table 2.

**Table 2: Authorised Discharge Points**

Authorised Discharge Point	Description	Location
SKa100	The discharge pipe which allows the discharge of excess treated effluent from the WWTP to the Katherine River	Latitude: -14.504548 Longitude: 132.229728

22. The licensee must ensure that all discharge events at the authorised discharge point take place when Katherine River Gauging Station, GS814-0001, is at a minimum flow of 66.78 kL/s.

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23. The licensee must measure and record for each discharge event:
  - 23.1. the time the discharge commenced and the duration of the discharge;
  - 23.2. the discharge rate of flow; and
  - 23.3. the discharge volume.
24. The licensee must ensure that the discharge from all discharge events at the authorised discharge point does not:
  - 24.1. contain any floating debris, oil, grease, petroleum hydrocarbon sheen, scum, litter or other objectionable matter;
  - 24.2. cause or generate odours which would adversely affect the use of surrounding waters;
  - 24.3. cause algal blooms in the receiving water;
  - 24.4. cause visible change in the behaviour of fish or other aquatic organisms in the receiving water;
  - 24.5. cause mortality of fish or other aquatic organisms; or
  - 24.6. cause adverse impacts on plants.

### MONITORING

25. The licensee must conduct monitoring in accordance with Appendix 2 from the commencement date of this licence.
26. The licensee must ensure that all samples and field environmental data are representative of the conditions at the time of sampling.
27. The licensee must ensure that all samples and field environmental data are collected in accordance with recognised Australian Standards and guidelines (such as AS/NZS 5667, ANZG 2018)
28. The licensee must ensure that all monitoring samples are analysed at a laboratory with current NATA accreditation or equivalent, for the parameters to be measured.
29. The licensee must for all land based monitoring points specified in Appendix 1:
  - 29.1. install and maintain appropriate identification signage so that they are reasonably identifiable at all times; and
  - 29.2. maintain safe access and egress, as is reasonably practicable.
30. The licensee must ensure any samples collected in accordance with this licence, are obtained by, or under the supervision of a qualified sampler.
31. The licensee must ensure that, for each sample collected in accordance with this licence that the following information must be recorded and retained:
  - 31.1. the date on which the sample was collected;
  - 31.2. the time at which the sample was collected;
  - 31.3. the location at which the sample was collected;
  - 31.4. the name of the person who collected the sample;



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- 31.5. the chain of custody forms relating to the sample;
- 31.6. the field measurements (if any) and analytical results (if any) relating to the sample; and
- 31.7. laboratory quality assurance and quality control documentation.

### RECORDING AND REPORTING

32. The licensee must as soon as practicable, by emailing [waste@nt.gov.au](mailto:waste@nt.gov.au), notify the Administering Agency when a discharge begins via the authorised discharge point identified in Table 2.
33. The licensee must as soon as practicable, by emailing [waste@nt.gov.au](mailto:waste@nt.gov.au), notify the Administering Agency when a discharge ceases from the authorised discharge point identified in Table 2.
34. The licensee must keep records of all non-compliances with this licence. These records must be adequate to enable the licensee to comply with the non-compliance notification conditions of this licence.
35. The licensee must notify the Administering Agency of any non-compliance with this licence by emailing [waste@nt.gov.au](mailto:waste@nt.gov.au), as soon as practicable (and in any case within 24 hours after) after first becoming aware of the non-compliance.
36. The licensee must include in the notification of non-compliance the following information:
  - 36.1. when the non-compliance was detected and by whom;
  - 36.2. the date and time of the non-compliance;
  - 36.3. the actual and potential causes and contributing factors to the non-compliance;
  - 36.4. the risk of environmental harm arising from the non-compliance;
  - 36.5. the action(s) that have or will be undertaken to mitigate any environmental harm arising from the non-compliance;
  - 36.6. corrective actions that have or will be undertaken to ensure the non-compliance does not reoccur;
  - 36.7. if no action was taken, why no action was taken; and
  - 36.8. a date when an incident investigation report will be submitted to the Administering Agency.
37. The licensee must submit a completed Annual Return, by emailing [waste@nt.gov.au](mailto:waste@nt.gov.au), within 30 business days after each anniversary date of this licence, which report relates to the preceding 12 month period.
38. The licensee must complete and provide to the Administering Agency a Monitoring Report, as prescribed, by 31 October for each year of the licence, which report relates to the preceding 12 month period.
39. The licensee must ensure that each Monitoring Report:
  - 39.1. is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Administering Agency 'Guideline for Reporting on Environmental Monitoring';

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- 39.2. includes a tabulation of all monitoring data required as a condition of this licence, including river height and flow telemetry at GS814-0001;
- 39.3. includes volume of waste water and nutrient load discharged to Katherine River;
- 39.4. includes the current version of the conceptual site model;
- 39.5. includes long term trend analysis of monitoring data to demonstrate any environmental impact associated with the activity over a minimum period of three years (where the data is available);
- 39.6. includes an assessment of environmental impact from the activity as informed by the monitoring results; and
- 39.7. includes recommendations as informed by the monitoring results for implementation in the following licence period.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT**

- 40. The licensee must submit to the Administering Agency by 30 November 2022, an updated Environmental Risk Assessment, informed by the data collected in this licence period.
- 41. The licensee must submit to the Administering Agency by 31 October 2022, an updated Performance Improvement Plan as identified in Table 1.
- 42. The licensee must ensure that the updated Performance Improvement Plan includes:
  - 42.1. a progress report on all actions identified in table 2 of the Performance Improvement Plan, particularly the implementation of reasonable and practicable measures to ensure sludge management is undertaken in a manner that minimises off site impacts of sludge contaminants; and
  - 42.2. a progress report on all actions identified in table 3 of the Performance Improvement Plan, particularly actions categorised as 'in progress' and 'not due not yet commenced'.

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### END NOTES

This licence is a renewal and supersedes WDL151-06.

WDL151-06 was issued on 04 January 2017 and expired on 10 December 2019.

WDL151-05 was issued on 03 January 2015 and expired on 03 January 2017.

WDL151-04 was an amendment and was issued on 02 August 2013 and expired on 03 January 2015.

WDL151-03 was an amendment and was issued on 22 March 2013 and expired on 03 January 2015.

WDL151-02 was issued on 03 January 2013 and expired on 03 January 2015.


WDL151-01 was issued on 01 November 2011 and expired on 01 May 2012.

WDL151 was issued on 27 October 2006 and expired on 30 October 2011.

The end notes are to assist with historical records

### END OF LICENCE CONDITIONS

This licence is not valid unless signed below:



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JOANNE TOWNSEND

Controller of Water Resources

Dated the 7 May 2020

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### DEFINITIONS

In this licence, unless a contrary intention appears:

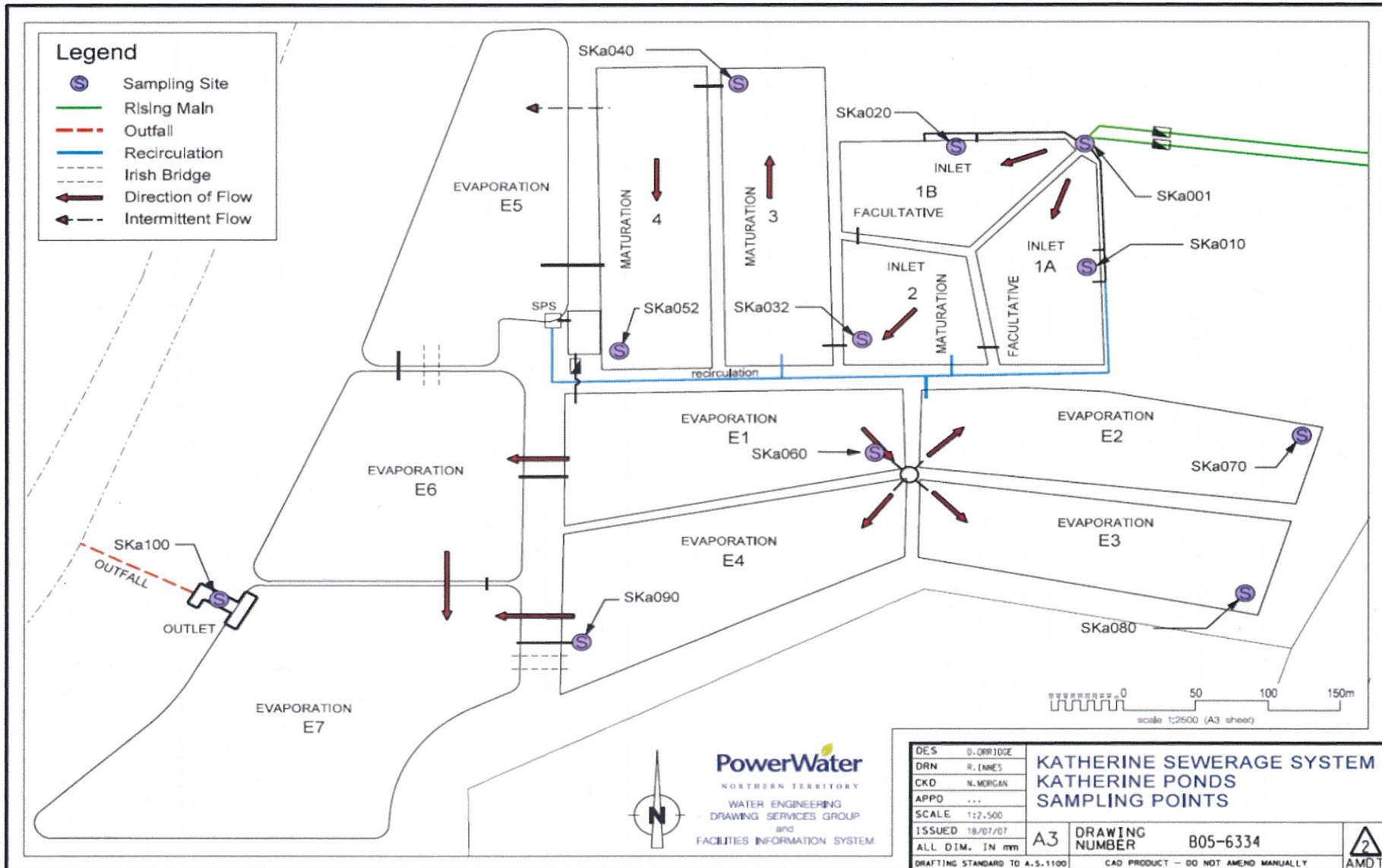
Term	Definition
24 hour emergency contact	the phone number of a person who can be contacted at any time and be capable of responding to and providing information about any incident associated with the activity.
Activity	the Licenced activity as described on the covering page of this licence.
Administering Agency	means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or if dissolved, another Government Department with responsibility for administering the Water Act.
Annual Return	an Administering Agency prescribed format for demonstrating and reporting compliance with the conditions of this licence.
ANZG 2018	Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality
Business days	a day not Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday, in the Northern Territory.
Community feedback number	a telephone number enabling members of the public to contact, at any time, a person or voice mail system that can accept, on behalf of the licensee, enquiries or complaints about the activity, and to which the licensee must respond.
Complaint Log	a register of complaints to be maintained by the Licensee that records the details of each complaint received in relation to the activity.
Consultation and Communication Plan	a written plan documenting proposed consultation and communications for the activity before, during and after the activity which includes a strategy for communicating with members of the public who are likely to have a real interest in, or be affected by, the activity.
Contact details	includes the 24 hour emergency contact, and name, position title and phone number of a representative of the licensee who can be contacted about the licence and activity.
Contaminant	a solid, liquid or gas or any combination of such substances and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) noise, odour, heat and electromagnetic radiation;</li><li>(b) a prescribed substance or prescribed class of substances; and</li><li>(c) a substance having a prescribed property or prescribed class of properties.</li></ul>
Discharges	allow a liquid, gas or other substance to flow out from where it has been confined.
Emergency Response Plan	a written plan documenting the licensee's procedures for responding to emergencies caused by, resulting from or associated with the activity and that may cause environmental harm.
Environmental harm	any harm to or adverse effect on, or potential harm to or potential adverse effect on, the environment
incident	includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) an accident, emergency or malfunction; and</li><li>(b) a deliberate action, whether or not that action was taken by the person conducting the activity in the course of which the incident occurred.</li></ul>
Land	includes water and air on, above or under land.

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Term	Definition
Maintain	kept in a manner that it does not present or cause a risk of environmental harm or a hazard to persons or property or, for the purposes of documents including plans, a process of reviewing and amending documentation to ensure it is relevant.
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia.
Non-compliance	failure or refusal to comply, whether by act or omission, with obligations or requirements and includes any exceedance of a licence limit.
Non-compliance notification	an Administering Agency prescribed format for notifying the Administering Agency of a non-compliance.
Plant and equipment	all material items used in association with the activity, including (but not limited to) storage vessels and containers, pipe work and hosing, vehicles (including vessels), tools, and measuring equipment.
Pollute	in relation to water, means directly or indirectly to alter the physical, thermal, chemical, biological or radioactive properties of the water so as to render it less fit for a prescribed beneficial use for which it is or may reasonably be used, or to cause a condition which is hazardous or potentially hazardous to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) public health, safety or welfare;</li><li>(b) animals, birds, fish or aquatic life or other organisms; or</li><li>(c) plants.</li></ul>
Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) a contaminant or waste that is emitted, discharged, deposited or disturbed or that escapes; or</li><li>(b) a contaminant or waste, effect or phenomenon, that is present in the environment as a consequence of an emission, discharge, deposition, escape or disturbance or a contaminant or waste.</li></ul>
Qualified person	a person registered under Section 68 of the WMPC Act.
Qualified sampler	a person who has training and experience in obtaining samples from the relevant environmental medium.
Waste	Includes matter or a thing, whether wholly or partly in a solid, liquid or gaseous state, which, if added to water, may pollute the water.
Wastewater	water that contains a contaminant or waste.
Water	means water, whether or not it contains impurities.
WMPC Act	the Northern Territory <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act</i> .

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## APPENDIX 1: Site plan and flow diagram for Katherine Wastewater Treatment Plant





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### APPENDIX 2: Discharge Monitoring Plan

		<b>Monitoring Location</b>	
		Site Code	Ska100
		Longitude	-14.504548
		Latitude	132.229728
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	
<b>Field Measurements</b>			
pH	pH units	D	
Electrical Conductivity	µs/cm	D	
Dissolved Oxygen	% saturation	D	
Temperature	°C	D	
<b>Nutrient Indicators</b>			
Filterable Reactive Phosphorus	mg/L	D	
Total Phosphorus (P)	mg/L	D	
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> -N)	mg/L	D	
Total Nitrogen (as N)	mg/L	D	
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> -N)	mg/L	D	
Nitrite (as N)	mg/L	D	
Nitrogen Oxides (as N)	mg/L	D	
<b>Bacteriological</b>			
Escherichia coli	MPN/100mL	D	
Enterococcus spp	MPN/100mL	D	
<b>Metals and Metalloids</b>			
Arsenic	µg/L	A	
Cadmium	µg/L	A	
Chromium	µg/L	A	
Copper	µg/L	A	
Nickel	µg/L	A	
Lead	µg/L	A	
Zinc	µg/L	A	
Mercury	µg/L	A	
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>			
Biological Oxygen Demand	mg/L	D	
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	D	
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	D	

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Volatile Suspended Solids	mg/L	D
Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	D
<b>Other</b>		
PFAS (in any form)	µg/L	A
<p>Key:</p> <p>D – Once per Discharge and where a discharge event continues for 7 days or more, sampling must be conducted at intervals of not more than 7 days apart.</p> <p>A – Annual: at least once per year in which a discharge has occurred and during a discharge event.</p>		