

Annual Report Sarina Recycled Water Recycling Facility EPBC 2011-6005 for the period 04 February 2013 to 03 February 2014

Introduction

The action as authorised by EPBC approval 2011/6005 commenced on 04 February 2013 when construction of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility commenced. This is the annual report as per the EPBC Authorisation including any non-compliance with the approval.

Condition 1 – Notifying the department of commencements of work

The department was not notified within 20 days of the commencement of the activity. Mackay Regional Council misinterpreted the definition. Council believed the actual date of commencement of the action was when Mackay Regional Council took over the operation of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility on 14 November 2014 after formal process proving had been completed. A letter was to be completed by the project manager contracted to manage the project and submitted to the EPBC stating this.

In a conversation with an officer from the department on Tuesday 06 October 2015 council became aware of the correct definition of the commencement of the action, and realised that council had misinterpreted the definition and as such failed to meet Condition 1. The correct date of commencement of the activity was 04 February 2013 when earth clearing for the project commenced. The EPBC should have been notified by 25 February 2013; however council misinterpreted the definition of “date of commencement of the activity”.

Condition 2

The annual report for the first twelve months from date of commencement of the action was not completed within 3 months of the commencement of the activity due to council’s misinterpretation of the definition of “commencement of the action”. The report should have been added to council’s website and evidence submitted to the EPBC by 04 May 2014.

Council did not meet this condition due to a misinterpretation of the meaning of the commencement of the activity.

Average Dry Weather Flow and Maximum Peak Weather Flow

There were no flows into or out of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility during the reporting period from 04 February 2013 to 03 February 2014 as the plant was under construction.

Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus

There were no flows into or out of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility during the reporting period from 04 February 2013 to 03 February 2014 as the plant was under construction.

Annual Mass Load Contaminates

There were no flows into or out of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility during the reporting period from 04 February 2013 to 03 February 2014 as the plant was under construction.

Non-compliance with EPBC approval 2011/6005

During the reporting period Mackay Regional Council failed to comply with conditions 1 and 2 of the EPBC approval. This did not come to light until October 2015 when council was informed by an officer of the EPBC that it had misinterpreted the definition of "commencement of action". It had been misinterpreted as the date that council took over operation of the Sarina Water Recycling Facility on 14 November rather than the date that construction of the plant commenced.

The EPBC was notified of the correct commencement date on 08 October 2015.

This misinterpretation of the definition resulted also in the annual report not being submitted within three months of the anniversary date of the commencement of the activity.