

# Notice

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1970

### SECTION 22(1)

#### NOTICE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION

**TO: CENTRAL GIPPSLAND REGION WATER CORPORATION) (A.B.N. 75 830 750 413)**

**OF: HAZELWOOD RD, TRARALGON VIC 3844**

**WHEREAS** an application by you for a works approval number 1003382, in respect of premises situated at Settlement Road, Drouin VIC 3818, was received by the Environment Protection Authority ("the Authority") on 16 November 2018.

**AND WHEREAS** the Authority considers the information specified herein is necessary and relevant to the consideration of the application.

**NOW TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to section 22(1)(a) of the Environment Protection Act ("the Act") you are **HEREBY REQUIRED** to supply to the Authority by 28 March 2019 the information specified in the Attachment to this Notice.

**DATED: 15 March 2019**



RICHARD HOOK  
DELEGATE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY



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Protection  
Authority Victoria**

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## **Attachment – S22 Notice request**

All responses to the questions below must be supported by sufficient documentation including scientific justification and accompanying literature and/or data to enable EPA to make a thorough and rigorous assessment of the application.

### **Referral comments response**

- 1) Please provide responses to the issues raised in the referral comments provided by Melbourne Water, included as Appendix A.

### **Wastewater treatment - Membrane Bio-reactor (MBR)**

- 2) Please provide details of the Membrane Bio-reactor (MBR) contingency arrangements, such as additional freeboard or alternative facilities, for use as holding volume in emergency situations.
- 3) Please provide details justifying application of a peak wet weather flow factor of 3 x average dry weather flow rate and/or facilities for peak flow equalisation during periods of peak demand.
- 4) Please provide details of the expected MBR effluent quality, including an assessment of metal concentrations.

### **Surface water discharge**

- 5) Please provide further consideration of the impacts to the beneficial uses of the waterway, including the value of the waterway, for determining the proportionality of the cost, risk to, and value of the receiving environment.
- 6) Please provide details of a discharge strategy for managing and minimising the risks to beneficial uses from ammonia, nitrogen, and phosphorous, including but not necessarily limited to, details of discharge seasonality and discharge dilution ratios.
- 7) Please provide an analysis of options to improve the quality of the discharge to reduce ammonia, nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations and the mixing zone impact.

To note, EPA may approve a works approval and/or licence amendment that allows the discharge of water of a lower quality than would otherwise be acceptable if the licence holder agrees to implement and maintain offset measures that will offer an equivalent or greater level of protection for surface water beneficial uses with the affected catchment or segment of the environment. If Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation would like to adopt such a strategy please provide details of offset arrangements in accordance with Clause 24 of State Environment Protection Policy (Waters).

**Appendix A – Melbourne Water referral response comments**

1. *It would have been helpful if Melbourne Water was included in the project's stakeholder and community engagement plan, and particularly the ERA, as a referral authority for the waterway in which the treatment plant discharges. We prefer to constructively participate in projects rather than only get involved once the work has been done.*
2. *The ERA should be updated with the most recent SEPP and Melbourne Water Healthy Waterways Strategy documents. The dates on documents indicate that they were submitted after both of these new guidance docs had been released.*
3. *As noted by a number of the reports there is very limited data on metals (N=1) and contaminants other than nutrients and E coli in Shillinglaw Creek. This does not provide a lot of confidence in the assessment. It would be good to assess the MBR capabilities with regard to treatment.*
4. *The proposed mixing zones are extensive. Furthermore, it is suggested that "compliance of future Drouin WWTP discharges into Shillinglaw and King Parrot Creeks may be best managed by applying a revised mixing zone into the licence. A drawing of the proposed mixing zone will be negotiated with the EPA following commissioning of the MBR." The extent of the mixing zone should be understood, including forecast discharge growth into the future, and agreed as part of the Works Approval process.*
5. *The ERA for the proposed works (attachment 9) fails to consider the risks to an ephemeral creek posed by changes to hydrology resulting from the higher discharge. It should also consider the risks to beneficial uses vs. just changes to mixing zone.*
6. *The upstream monitoring site for Shillinglaw Creek is very close to the discharge point. It would be good to confirm that 'upstream' water quality reflects the waterway without STP impact, i.e. without groundwater influence or backwatering.*
7. *Re: Attachment 9 Table 9 – It is unclear why upstream concentrations would change with scenario.*
8. *The increases of in P discharge with the proposed MBR are of concern (4-6 times SEPP) especially given the risk of P contamination associated with run off from land disposal (RMCG report, attachment 20).*
9. *Several listed species have been caught in fish surveys. Melbourne Water could get some specific internal advice on the potential for impacts to fish for both the existing and future discharges. The specific values in this catchment also need further consideration in conjunction with the 2018 Healthy Waterways Strategy.*