

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ISSUE OF A LICENCE BY THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF SA UNDER THE WATER INDUSTRY ACT

Application Form

THIS REGULATORY DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE FINAL ADVICE



**Application form for the issue of a licence by the Essential Services Commission of SA under the
Water Industry Act 2012**

1. THE APPLICANT

1.1 Identity of applicant

District Council of the Copper Coast

1.2 Legal Identity of the applicant

A body corporate under the Local Government Act 1999 established by proclamation on 3 May 1997.

ABN: 36 670 364 373

1.3 Address and Contact Details of applicant

Business Address:

51 Taylor Street KADINA

State: South Australia

Post Code: 5554

Postal Address:

PO Box 396 KADINA

State: South Australia

Post Code: 5554

Telephone: 08) 8828 1200

Facsimile: 08) 8821 2736

E-mail: info@coppercoast.sa.gov.au

1.4 Contact person on behalf of applicant

Full Name: Brenton Bailey

Title: CWMS Officer

Business Address:

51 Taylor Street KADINA

State: South Australia

Post Code: 5554

Postal Address:

PO Box **Postal Address:**

PO Box 396 KADINA

State: South Australia

Post Code: 5554

Telephone: 08) 8828 1200

Facsimile: 08) 8821 2736

E-mail: info@coppercoast.sa.gov.au

1.5: Contact person for licence fees

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2. THE LICENCE

2.1 Detailed description of the retail services for which a licence is sought

Applying for a licence that will authorise all sewerage services provided by the Council.

Currently providing services for;

(i) **Kadina - Newtown SA 5554 – CWMS (Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (STED))**

EPA Licence No: 2356

A copy of EPA Licence No. 2356 is included at **Annex A**.

Sewerage: residential and non-residential

The number of customers is approximately 1550

The Kadina CWMS Scheme serves some 1550 properties and facilities within the townships of Kadina and Newtown using a network of gravity drains, fifteen pumping stations and associated rising mains. The effluent is pumped from the two townships to a lagoon site approximately 1 km north of Kadina where it undergoes secondary treatment in an Oxidation Lagoon. The effluent from the Oxidation Lagoon is held in a Balance Storage Lagoon, together with storm water which is pumped from collection dams located at Lawrence St, Franklin St and the Kadina refuse site, prior to undergoing filtration and disinfection before being pumped to the cemetery, golf course, hockey field and town oval for reuse as irrigation.

(ii) Wallaroo SA 5556 – CWMS (Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (STED))

EPA Licence No: 1571

A copy of EPA Licence No. 1571 is included at **Annex B**.

Sewerage: residential and non-residential

The number of customers is approximately 1950

The Wallaroo CWMS Scheme serves some 1950 properties and facilities within the township of Wallaroo using a network of gravity drains, eighteen pumping stations and associated rising mains. The effluent is pumped from the town to a lagoon site approximately 1.5 km south of Wallaroo where it undergoes secondary treatment in an Oxidation Lagoon. The effluent from the Oxidation Lagoon is held in a Balance Storage Lagoon, together with storm water which is pumped from a buffer tank located at Pump Station A, prior to undergoing filtration and disinfection before being pumped to the golf course and town sports field for reuse as irrigation.

Currently under construction:

(iii) Moonta SA 5558 - CWMS (Combination of STED and full sewerage)

Commenced 30 April 2012

Sewerage: residential and non-residential

The number of customers will be approximately 3665

The Moonta CWMS Scheme will serve some 3665 properties and facilities within the townships of Moonta, Moonta Bay and Port Hughes using a network of gravity mains, eighteen pumping stations and associated rising mains. The sewage/effluent

will be pumped from the three townships to a 1.2ML/day (ADF) treatment plant approximately 1 km east of Port Hughes. The treated wastewater will be held in a storage lagoon prior to being pumped to the area's two golf courses and town sporting oval for reuse as irrigation.

2.2 Date from which Licence is sought

From 1 January 2013

3. SUITABILITY OF APPLICANT TO HOLD A LICENCE

3.1 Standard of honesty and integrity shown by applicant

The Council has not been convicted of any criminal offence. The Council has never been prosecuted under any State or Commonwealth legislation. The Council welcomes any further investigation by the Commission.

3.2 Standard of honesty and integrity shown by the elected members and CEO of the applicant

All of the elected members and the CEO have not been found guilty of any criminal offence.

All of the elected members and the CEO have not been prosecuted under any Territory, State or Commonwealth legislation or been the subject of disciplinary action.

The Council welcomes any further investigation by the Commission.

3.3 Names and addresses of:

- ***PRINCIPLE MEMBER***

Full Name: Paul Thomas

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Mayor

- ***ELECTED MEMBERS***

Full Name: Su Bell

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Phil Brand

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: William Clarke

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Craig Costello

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: John Gross

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Adrian Hatcher

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Dean Rodda

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Beverley Schultz

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: Brent Walker

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

Full Name: David Woodforde

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Councillor

- **CEO**

Full Name: Peter Harder

Date of Birth:

Office Held: CEO

- **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Full Name: Wade Della Torre

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Director Infrastructure Services

Full Name: Muller Mentz

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Director Environmental Resources

Full Name: Katrina Borlace

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Director Corporate Services

Full Name: Greg O'Connor

Date of Birth:

Office Held: Director Community Services

3.4 Names and addresses of major shareholders of applicant

N/A

3.5 Details of the group members

N/A

3.6 Additional information

Is the applicant a resident of, or does it have permanent establishment in, Australia?

Yes

Is the applicant under external administration (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001) or under similar form of administration under any laws applicable to it in any jurisdiction?

N/A

Is the applicant immune from suit in respect of the obligations under the Water Industry Act 2012?

No

Is the applicant capable of being sued in its own name in a court of Australia?

Yes

3.7 Financial resources available to the applicant

A copy of the Audited Financial Statements for 2011/12 and 2010/11 is included at **Annex C**.

A copy of the Adopted Annual Business Plan and Budget is included at **Annex D**.

A copy of the Long Term Financial Plan is included at **Annex E**.

A copy of the Asset Accounting Policy is included at **Annex F**.

3.8 Human resources available to the applicant

Council employees:

3.9 Technical resources available to the applicant

Refer to 3.8.

A copy of the rates notice is included at **Annex G**.

A copy of the Proposed Rate Notice Schedule is included at **Annex H**.

A copy of the Rating Policy is included at **Annex I**.

Reminder notices are issued quarterly if in arrears.

A copy of the Complaints Handling and Grievance Procedure Policy is included at **Annex J**.

A copy of the Records Management Policy is included at **Annex K**.

A copy of the OHS&W Policy and Injury management Plan is included at **Annex L**.

A copy of the Draft Kadina CWMS Contingency Plan is included at **Annex M**.

3.10 Contracts

Following practical completion, the Moonta WWTP will be commissioned and operated by Alano Water for a period of twelve months IAW the Department of Health monitoring and reporting requirements.

3.11 Suitable and appropriate infrastructure

The Commission is referred to the Council's response at 3.7 above, in particular it's Asset Accounting Policy.

The Council owns the Kadina and Wallaroo CWMS treatment facilities, gravity network, pipelines, pump stations and ancillary equipment.

The original design standard for the Kadina STEDS (formally referred to as Common Effluent Drainage System - CEDS) is not known. The system was designed as per the legislative framework of the time and installed in accordance with CEDS Specification – Job No 3490 (August 1975), prepared by Ginos and Gilbert Pty Ltd, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers, 186 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton S.A. All materials and processes etc. not specified in the above specifications were to be IAW the requirements of the relevant specifications or codes of the Standards Association of Australia.

There have been a number of allotments and developments added to the original system. The more recent alterations and additions have been designed in accordance with the requirements of the Public and Environmental Health (Waste Control) Regulations 1995 and the SA Health Commission *SA STEDS Guidelines, Design Criteria and Standards for Septic Tank Effluent Drainage Schemes* and the *SA STEDS Construction Manual and Technical Specifications*.

The Wallaroo STED Scheme and treatment lagoons have been designed IAW the requirements of the *SA STEDS Guidelines, Design Criteria and Standards for Septic Tank Effluent Drainage Schemes* and the *SA STEDS Construction Manual and Technical Specifications* issued by the South Australian Health Commission February 1990 including amendment issued 12 December 1990.

Council, as the manager of CWMS assets, is responsible for the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing systems within the Council area. Council will maintain a plan of its CWMS network and schedule regular upgrades/maintenance of the systems.

Council has developed a long-term plan to manage and maintain its CWMS network and is committed to provide sustainable CWMS's across townships in the Copper Coast that meets the needs of the community while complying with the Department of Health (DoH) and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

3.12 Risk management

TBD

3.13 Licences held by the applicant in other Australian jurisdictions

N/A

3.14 Previous unsuccessful licence applications in other Australian jurisdictions

N/A

3.15 Licences held by associates of the applicant

N/A

3.16 Compliance program

The Council is authorised by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to undertake activities of environmental significance under Schedule 1 Part A of the Environment Protection Act 1993 and is subject to the conditions of licence as an operator of a Sewage Treatment Works or Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme. Refer to Annexes A&B.

IAW the Activity Management Conditions of their licences, Council maintain approved and verified site monitoring programs for their wastewater collection, treatment and reuse systems and provide annual reporting to the Environment Protection Authority and Department of Health including effluent quality monitoring results and system malfunctions.

3.17 Additional information

- The Kadina – Newtown CWMS was commissioned in 1977.

The Wallaroo CWMS was commissioned in 1993.

The Moonta – Moonta Bay – Port Hughes CWMS was commenced

- Before the Council adopts its final Annual Business Plan it must prepare a draft Annual Business Plan and undertake a public consultation process that, as a minimum, meets the requirements of Section 123 (4) of the Local Government Act 1999. During the public consultation period, copies of the Council's draft Annual Business Plan and other associated documents must be made available for inspection and purchase by the public at the principle office of the Council.

Once adopted by the Council, copies of the final Annual Business Plan and Budget for the financial year, must be made available for inspection or purchase at the principal office of the Council. A summary of the Annual Business Plan must be included with the first rates notice which is sent to ratepayers and available at the Council offices.

This document presents the Annual Business Plan for the District Council of the Copper Coast for the financial year. Once the public consultation program is completed, and the submissions on the draft Annual Business Plan considered, it will, together with the Annual Budget for the financial year, be adopted.

- Under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council is required to have a Long Term Financial Plan (for a minimum of 10 years) as part of their suite of Strategic Management Plans. Annex E details the Council's financial sustainability objectives in the provision of major community infrastructure (including CWMS) and outlines key financial strategic performance targets.

A copy of the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) Policy outlining ratepayers and developers contribution towards the maintenance costs of existing CWMS infrastructure, the financing of upgrades to existing infrastructure resulting from new development and the construction of new CWMS resulting from new development is included at **Annex N**.

4. FACTORS SPECIFIED IN THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION ACT 2002

Most of the townships in regional South Australia are provided with wastewater services by Local Government through various forms of CWMS. Councils did not “chose” to become involved in the provision of wastewater services as historically this was the role the South Australian Engineering and Water Supply Department (E&WS) and subsequently SA Water under the *Sewerage Act 1929*.

From the early 1960s the State Government sought to encourage Councils to construct a cheaper form of communal drainage in regional towns based on linking existing septic tanks.

The then *Local Government Act 1934* was amended to provide Councils with the necessary powers to construct and charge for these schemes. Councils were provided with financial subsidies and technical assistance originally by the Department of Health and subsequently by the Department of Local Government and the E&WS. The LGA agreed to take over the management of the State Government subsidy program in 2005. Over time 39 Councils manage more than 170 separate CWMS.

In regional areas, the provision of CWMS was a public service provided by a Council when the State Government’s water utility was unwilling to do so, presumably on the basis of scale and economic considerations.

It should be noted that the State Government’s water security plan “Water for Good”, sets ambitious targets for the harvesting and recycling of stormwater in the Greater Adelaide and regional areas. The vast majority of stormwater harvesting is undertaken by Councils and it would be a perverse policy outcome if Councils were confronted with a regulatory regime which created disincentives for harvesting, recycling and sale of stormwater resources.

Care should be taken to ensure that where Councils are involved in CWMS operations or stormwater harvesting and recycling projects, which include the sale of water resources, that regulation by ESCOSA is commensurate with the scale of the scheme(s).



THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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