

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 45C

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND AN APPROVED PROPOSAL
AND IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS WITHOUT INQUIRY**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Water Corporation

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES

Alkimos Seawater Desalination Plant

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT and ANY APPROVED CHANGES

Ministerial Statement 1207, issued 10 August 2023

Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 1207, issued 17 April 2024

Attachment 2 to Ministerial Statement 1207, issued 21 January 2025

DECISION

Pursuant to s. 45C (1) (c) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Chair acting as delegate for the Minister for Environment gives approval to the following amendments of the approved proposal:

- Increase the marine development envelope from 11.42 hectares (ha) to 77.79 ha
- Decrease the maximum irreversible loss of benthic communities and habitats from 0.13 ha to 0.10 ha
- Increase the maximum disturbance to benthic communities and habitats from 8.39 ha to 8.68 ha
- Change the outlet design from two 7 metre diameter rosette diffusers to a single linear diffuser
- Change the definition of the Low Ecological Protection Area (LEPA) to accommodate the proposed change to the diffuser
- Change condition A1 to reduce the maximum salinity limit from 75,200 milligrams per litre (mg/L) to 68,000 mg/L
- Change the proposal description.

The amended proposal content document and Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 1207 are attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- The reduction to maximum salinity discharge limit in condition A1 is likely to result in an improved environmental outcome for marine environmental quality, with less stratification and a lower probability of a dissolved oxygen depletion in the near- and far-field.
- The increase in the marine development envelope is to provide flexibility for the placement of the linear diffuser within the Low Ecological Protection Area (LEPA). While the marine development envelope is increasing, the authorised extent of irreversible loss of benthic communities and habitats is reduced, and the maximum extent of disturbance is only marginally increased.
- No new benthic communities and habitat type were identified from the proposed new marine development envelope, which is comprised of bare sand at the outfall area, and macroalgal reef and bare sand at the intake site.
- The change to the definition of the LEPA does not significantly change its size and maintains the requirement for a 100 metre radius from the linear diffuser.
- Underwater noise is likely to be reduced given fewer large high-energy piles are required for the amendment, minimising risks to marine fauna.
- There are no new environmental factors likely to be significantly affected as a result of the amendment.
- The amended proposal, if implemented, is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and is therefore not considered a significant amendment. In considering this, the effects of the amendments on their own, the effect of the amendments in the context of the existing approved proposals, cumulative impacts, and holistic impacts have been considered.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.
- The existing conditions in Ministerial Statement 1207 are sufficient to ensure that the EPA factor objectives are likely to be met.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proposal and conditions as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to be able to be implemented under s. 45 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Walsh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Darren Walsh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIR

13 March 2025

Attachment 1 – Amended proposal content document

Attachment 2 – Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 1207