



Environmental Protection Authority

Ms S Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
Water Corporation
PO Box 100
LEEDERVILLE WA 6902

Our Ref 13-278948
Enquiries Michael Christensen
Phone 6145 0815

Dear Ms Murphy

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

PROPOSAL: Perth Groundwater Replenishment Scheme
LOCATION: Water Corporation's Beenyup Site
LOCALITY: City of Joondalup
PROPONENT: Water Corporation
DECISION: Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

Thank you for your letter referring the above matter to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Nevertheless, the staff of the Office of the EPA has provided the attached advice to you as the proponent, and other relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal.

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing 16 September 2013. Information on the appeals process is available through the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website, www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au, or by telephoning 6467 5190.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Sutton
Director
Assessment and Compliance Division

2 September 2013

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PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

**WATER CORPORATION – PERTH GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT
SCHEME**

Summary

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) received a referral under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) by the Water Corporation for a proposal to recharge 14 gigalitres per annum of recycled wastewater to the Leederville and Yarragadee aquifers, located on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Although the proposal raises environmental issues, the EPA considers that the proposal is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and does not warrant formal environmental impact assessment (EIA) under the EP Act. The EPA considers that the presence of other statutory decision-making processes will meet the EPA's objectives for the factors listed below and the principles of EIA.

1. Environmental Issues

The EPA considers the following environmental factors are applicable to this proposal.

- a. Inland Waters Environmental Quality
- b. Marine Environmental Quality
- c. Human Health

2. Advice and Recommendations regarding Environmental Issues

The EPA notes that the Water Corporation has finalised a three year Groundwater Replenishment Trial (GWRT), for the recharge of recycled wastewater to the Leederville aquifer. It is noted that the objectives of the trial and compliance with established guidelines for groundwater quality were achieved.

The Water Corporation has developed the Groundwater Replenishment Regulatory Framework to apply to this proposal. The framework has been endorsed by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (previously Department of Environment and Conservation), Department of Water (DoW) and Department of Health (DoH) in December 2012 for a five year period (attached to the referral document in Appendix 8).

It is further noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DoH and the Water Corporation has been developed and recently reviewed which incorporates the risk management framework in the National Water Quality Management Strategy.

In implementing the proposal, the EPA expects the Water Corporation to comply with the requirements in both the endorsed Regulatory Framework and the MoU. The EPA also expects that there continues to be regular reporting on the

performance of the proposal to the relevant agencies to improve on the systems performance and monitoring regime.

Office of the EPA advises the proponent to make publicly available on its website the referral documentation on which this decision is based. It should also make available the results of the on-going environmental water quality monitoring and any contingency monitoring and measures undertaken.

As well as reporting and working closely with the regulatory agencies, the EPA expects the proponent to continue to inform and engage with its stakeholders. The EPA notes public consultation and engagement for the implementation and operation of this proposal is detailed through Water Corporations Communication Strategy for 2013-2016 (attached to the referral in Appendix 12). The EPA supports the methods for informing the public of the relevant information and data from the proposal in a clear and easily understood way such as through the traffic light monitoring reports on the Water Corporation website.