



Ballina Shire Council



Annual Summary of Monitoring Data for Council's Environmental Protection Licences

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Environmental Protection Licences

What is an Environmental Protection Licence?

The following is sourced from the Office of Environment & Heritage Website, last updated 13 May, 2011. Accessed 29 June 2012.
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licensing/licencePOEO.htm>

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) establishes the NSW environmental regulatory framework, and includes a licensing requirement for certain activities.

Environment protection licences are a central means to control the localised, cumulative and acute impacts of pollution in NSW. In particular they aim to:

- protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment in NSW, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development
- provide increased opportunities for public involvement and participation in environment protection
- ensure that the community has access to relevant and meaningful information about pollution
- rationalise, simplify and strengthen the regulatory framework for environment protection
- improve the efficiency of administration of the environment protection legislation
- reduce risks to human health and prevent the degradation of the environment by the use of mechanisms that promote the following:
 - pollution prevention and cleaner production
 - the reduction to harmless levels of the discharge of substances likely to cause harm to the environment
 - the reduction in the use of materials and the re-use or recycling of materials
 - the making of progressive environmental improvements, including the reduction of pollution at source
 - the monitoring and reporting of environmental quality on a regular basis.

Requirement to Publish Data

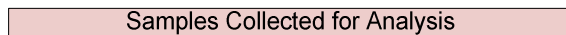
The pollution monitoring data on in this report provided pursuant to section 66(6) of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act), which was amended in 2011. There is now a requirement that holders of an environment protection licence make their pollution monitoring data publicly available in a timely manner. The intention of this new requirement is to improve the general public's access to information regarding the environmental performance of licensed facilities.

Council is not required to publish monitoring data collected prior to 31 March 2012 and has until 1 July 2012 to publish monitoring data on its website. Copies of all the obtained data are available on written request.

More information about the requirements to publish data can be found at:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/poelegisamend2011.htm>

Frequency and Contents of Reporting

Council will publish monthly summaries of monitoring data within two weeks of receiving the last results that relate to that month. It can typically take up to a week to receive final results and so summary reports will be published three weeks after the end of the reporting month.



Reporting Deadline

The report contains summary data of analysis results for samples collected within the year.

Interpretive Information

UWMS

Urban Water Management Strategy

WWTP

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Sample Frequency

Defines how often the item should be tested. For operational purposes Council tests some locations more frequently than the licence requirement. Some testings is triggered by events (such as rainfall or operation conditions), the full complexity of the trigger events may not be shown in this report and reference should be made to the license.

Statistical Information

The summary data shows minimum, average and maximum values for the time period. Many samples are recorded below detectable limits, returning a value of, say, “< 2 mg/l”. This report ignores non-numerical information (such as “<” for less than or “~” for approximately) in calculating and displaying information. This is not the correct statistical method for displaying this information but does not impact the display of exceedance information.

Description of Council's Facilities

Alstonville Wastewater Treatment Plant

The villages of Alstonville and Wollongbar are serviced by a common wastewater scheme based on a nominal 8000EPWWTP located at Alstonville. The treatment of wastewater consists of screening, grit removal, intermittently decanted extended aeration activated sludge tanks, tertiary pond maturation, followed by disinfection by ultraviolet radiation.

Effluent for reuse is chlorinated and sent to a reservoir for use by local agricultural irrigators. The remaining treated effluent is then discharged into the water cycle at Maguires Creek.

Biosolids from the Alstonville WWTP is stabilised in sludge lagoons before a dewatering process and subsequent transportation off site for beneficial land use.

Ballina and Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plants

The Ballina and Lennox Head area are served by two wastewater treatment plants, being the Ballina WWTP with a design capacity of 12,000 EP and Lennox Head WWTP with a design capacity of 18,000 EP. Both plants are approaching load capacity.

Council commenced the development of an integrated Urban Water Management Strategy (UWMS), which was adopted by Council in September 2003.

The UWMS confirmed the need to upgrade both the Ballina and Lennox Head WWTPs for the long term along, increasing capacity and including with processes to treat effluent to a suitable quality for reuse throughout the shire.

The Ballina WWTP upgrade will increase capacity to 30,000 EP through the redesign and construction of plant with screening, grit removal, membrane bioreactors, operation and control, followed by disinfection by ultraviolet radiation. It is anticipated the upgrade will be completed in 2013.

The Lennox Head WWTP capacity will be increased to 28,000 EP through the modification to the aeration units, operational controls, chemical dosing and an upgrade to the UV system and pipe work. Works will also include the upgrade of process units at the plant including screening, grit removal, sludge stabilization, sludge dewatering, sludge handling, and filtration. It is anticipated the upgrade will be completed in 2013.

Currently there is an extensive use of recycled water that occurs from both WWTPs. The UWMS includes a number of key initiatives to increase the use of recycled water on a sustainable basis. This will include expansion of the open space irrigation program, dual water supply to major development areas, regeneration wetlands and agricultural reuse applications. When the remaining recycled water can not be used, it will be discharged into the water cycle at Skennars Head (from Lennox Head WWTP) and Fishery Creek Canal (from Ballina WWTP).

Biosolids from Ballina and Lennox Head WWTPs are stabilized in sludge lagoons before being dewatered and transported off site for beneficial land use.

Wardell Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Wardell village is serviced by a wastewater scheme based on a nominal 1750EP WWTP located at Wardell. The treatment of wastewater consists of screening, grit removal, intermittently decanted extended aeration, pond maturation, followed by disinfection by ultraviolet radiation. The population of Wardell is not anticipated to increase rapidly and no increase in the wastewater system capacity is proposed in the short to medium term.

Effluent from this plant is chlorinated and reused for open space irrigation. The remaining treated effluent is then discharged into the water cycled at the Richmond River.

Biosolids from the Wardell WWTP is stabilised in sludge lagoons before a dewatering process and subsequent transportation off site for beneficial land use.

Ballina Waste Management Centre

Ballina Shire Council operates an integrated Waste Management Facility at its premises off Southern Cross Drive, 3 km north of Ballina CBD. The site comprises a closed “northern” landfill, an active “southern” landfill, and a waste transfer station for the temporary storage of recyclables and other wastes being disposed of off-site. The landfill has operated on the site since 1980, and in recent years waste has been baled before being land-filled.

All bulky material is exported for disposal as it is unable to be processed through the bailer. Council introduced a kerbside organics and garden waste service to households in July 2012, and this material is removed from site for processing.

A leachate management system operates to prevent the escape of leachate to the environment. Leachate is collected through a series of wells then pumped to a leachate pond after which it is pre-treated prior to disposal to sewer. A comprehensive monitoring program is in place for surface water quality, groundwater quality and air quality emissions.

Ballina Shire Council – Airport Sandpit.

Located on Southern Cross Drive, the sandpit has not operated since 2001. No pumped discharge has occurred on the site as dewatering has ceased and a pipe spillway allows any excess stormwater to be released.

Council is not currently required to undertake any monitoring at this facility.

Council's Environmental Protection Licences

Table 1 - Council's EPLs

Facility Name	Address	Licence Number
ALSTONVILLE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS	JOHNSTONS ROAD, ALSTONVILLE, NSW 2477	199
BALLINA SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS	FISHERY CREEK ROAD, BALLINA, NSW 2478	588
LENNOX HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS	NORTH CREEK ROAD, LENNOX HEAD, NSW 2478	590
WARDELL SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS	KAYS ROAD, COOLGARDIE, NSW 2478	5785
BALLINA WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE	SOUTHERN CROSS DRIVE, BALLINA, NSW 2478	6350
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL - AIRPORT SANDPIT	SOUTHERN CROSS DRIVE, BALLINA, NSW 2478	5948

A copy of the EPLs can be downloaded from the Office and Environment and Heritage's Website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp>