



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications, Sport and the Arts

AIRPORTS (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION) REGULATIONS 1997
REGULATION 5.09

AUTHORISATION

An Authorisation is hereby granted, subject to conditions, under regulation 5.09 of the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997¹ (Cwth) (Regulations).

NAME OF APPLICANT: Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd (TasWater)
ABN 47 162 220 653
OF: 169 Main Road
MOONAH TAS 7009

Act, class of acts or sequence of acts, for which the authorisation is granted:

The periodic discharge of treated effluent, and partially treated effluent from bypass events from the Cambridge Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) discharge point located at Sinclairs Creek, Hobart Airport (being the airport concerned) in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan dated 12 August 2026 submitted in support of the Applicant's application accepted on 12 August 2026, subject to the conditions set out in Appendix A.

Authorisation Period: from date of issue **28 August 2026** to **30 September 2028**.

Reasons for Decision, being the reasons why the Authorisation is needed: As set out in Appendix B.

A stylized signature in black ink.

Cassandra Wadrop
AIRPORT ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Authorisation Number: 01/2026
Date of Issue: **28 August 2026**

Note: A person affected by the decision of the Airport Environment Officer (AEO) to grant, refuse or grant conditionally an Authorisation under regulation 5.09(1) of the Regulations can apply for a review of the decision by the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Communications and the Arts under regulation 9.01 of the Regulations. The Secretary must either affirm the decision or substitutes his/her decision for the decision reviewed, and give written notice of their decision.

Note: Under regulation 7.06 of the Regulations, an AEO may direct the Applicant by way of an environment protection order, to comply with a condition of this Authorisation that the AEO considers that the Applicant is not complying with, including by directing a particular action to be taken, and directing a period for compliance with the direction. Failure to comply with such direction is an offence under the *Airports Act 1996* (Cwth) and results in the Authorisation ceasing to have effect.

Note: Under regulation 9.04, a decision made by the Secretary under regulation 9.02(1) is a reviewable decision for the purposes of the *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024*. A person affected by the decision of the Secretary under regulation 9.02(1) may apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal for review of that decision.

¹ References in this document to the *Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997* are references to those regulations as continued in effect by section 100 of the *Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 2026*.

TasWater to whom the Authorisation No: 01/2026 is issued.

APPENDIX A

Operating Conditions

EMP compliance

- 1) TasWater must comply with and implement the Environmental Management Plan dated 12 August 2026 (**EMP**) submitted in support of the Applicant's application.

Annual EMP compliance reporting

- 2) TasWater must submit to the AEO a comprehensive report on its compliance, and any instances of non-compliance, with the EMP (**EMP Compliance Report**) in accordance with the requirements of clauses 5.17(a) to (c) of the Regulations by the following dates, for the following time periods:
 - (a) By 30 August 2027, covering the period from which the authorisation period begins to 16 August 2027;
 - (b) By 30 August 2028, covering the period from 16 August 2027 to 16 August 2028;
- 3) In addition to the requirements for an annual report set out in regulation 5.17 of the Regulations, each EMP Compliance Report must:
 - (a) Provide a report on the frequency, duration and volume of all pollution events into Sinclairs Creek, both treated and partially treated effluent;
 - (b) Provide a summary of all bypass events, including the timing and volume of each bypass event, during the reporting period. The summary must include a written explanation of the conditions that resulted in discharge events, including rainfall and any operational factors that contributed to the bypass event;
 - (c) Provide an assessment of bypass events that occurred during the reporting period, including a comparison with previous reporting periods and a discussion of any recurring causes, observed trends or other factors that may have influenced the frequency, duration or volume of bypass events;
 - (d) Provide a graph showing the monthly volume of treated effluent discharged to Sinclairs Creek during the reporting period. The graph must be accompanied by written explanation of the conditions that resulted in discharge events;
 - (e) Provide a graph showing the total annual discharge volume in ML for each financial year from 2025-2026 onwards. The graph must distinguish between treated and partially treated effluent discharges;
 - (f) Provide a summary of all environmental complaints received during the reporting period and provide evidence as to how each of the complaints has been addressed and resolved;
 - (g) Detail the progress made in the reporting period towards the long term plan for STP rationalisation referred to as Objective 1 of the EMP;

- (h) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to STP interim improvements referred to as Objective 2 of the EMP;
 - (i) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to Recycled Water Scheme (RWS) improvements referred to as Objective 3 of the EMP;
 - (j) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to source control improvements referred to as Objective 4 of the EMP;
 - (k) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to monitoring program improvements referred to as Objective 5 of the EMP;
 - (l) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to reporting referred to as Objective 6 of the EMP;
 - (m) Detail the progress made in the reporting period to further reduce the concentration of discharge and improve compliance with the Regulations, including the water pollution limits in Schedule 2 of the Regulations;
 - (n) Detail the photos, general observations, and water quality sampling results for discharge events and incidents involving, or potentially resulting in, environmental harm; and
 - (o) Detail evidence of improvement in the receiving environment in consideration of affected ecosystems and the health and wellbeing of the community (water quality, community expectations, aquaculture operations).
- 4) TasWater must achieve the percentage volume reduction targets for treated effluent discharges to Sinclairs Creek identified in Part 6 of the EMP. Compliance with this condition is to be reported in each EMP Compliance report, including:
- a. The total volume of treated effluent generated during the reporting period;
 - b. The total volume and percentage of treated effluent discharged to Sinclairs Creek during the reporting period;
 - c. The total volume and percentage of treated effluent sent to the recycled water scheme during the reporting period; and
 - d. A comparison of actual performance against each applicable percentage volume reduction target.
- 5) In each annual EMP Compliance Report, TasWater is to present any shortcomings in the achievement of proposed EMP targets, objectives and actions and set out any corrective actions required to achieve compliance with the relevant targets and timeframes.

Monthly reporting

- 6) TasWater must submit Monthly Reports to the AEO within 21 days of the end of each month, commencing with a report in September 2026.
- 7) Monthly Reports must, in relation to treated effluent discharges only:
- a. State whether any treated effluent discharge occurred during the reporting month and, if none occurred, provide a statement that no treated effluent discharge occurred during that month;
 - b. Detail each treated effluent discharge event for the reporting month, including the date, time and volume of treated effluent discharged;

- c. Provide trend analysis of the number of treated effluent discharge events and discharge volumes compared to previous months since the commencement of the authorisation;
- d. Provide the results of water quality sampling and analysis undertaken;
- e. Identify any exceedance of an authorised limit, including the relevant substance, the measured result, the applicable limit, and any corrective action taken or proposed; and
- f. Provide details of any notifications made in relation to a treated effluent discharge events, including the person or entity notified, the date and time of the notification, and the method by which the notification was made.

Communication of compliance and compliance reporting

- 8) By 16 September 2027 and 16 September 2028, finalised copies of the Annual EMP Compliance Report for the applicable reporting period must be published on the TasWater website.
- 9) TasWater must convene quarterly compliance review meetings with the AEO and Hobart International Airport Pty Ltd (Hobart Airport) commencing with the quarter ending 30 September 2026.
- 10) TasWater must:
 - a. Hold each quarterly compliance review meeting within 21 days of the end of each reporting quarter;
 - b. Chair each quarterly compliance review meeting;
 - c. Coordinate attendance and meeting logistics;
 - d. Prepare minutes of each quarterly compliance review meeting; and
 - e. Distribute the meeting minutes to attendees within 10 business days of the meeting.
- 11) Each quarterly compliance review meeting must include:
 - a. Demonstration of compliance with delivery timeframes set out in the EMP as applicable for each quarter and performance indicators for actions on Objectives 1 to 6 referred to in Part 6 of the EMP;
 - b. Details of the type and volume of discharge, photos, general observations, and water quality sampling results for discharge events and incidents of environmental harm; and
 - c. Any corrective actions, improvement measures or emerging issues identified during the reporting quarter.

Performance and other conditions

- 12) TasWater must notify the AEO and Hobart Airport by email of any bypass events within 24 hours of TasWater becoming aware of the event, including date, time, estimated duration of the bypass event, the estimated volume of pollution and the cause.
- 13) TasWater must, as soon as reasonably practicable following a bypass event, undertake water quality sampling and provide a written report to the AEO that includes:
 - a. The date and time of the bypass event;

- b. The duration of the bypass event;
 - c. The volume of the discharge;
 - d. The cause of the bypass event, including volume of rainfall and any operational factors that contributed to the event;
 - e. The results of water quality sampling and analysis undertaken;
 - f. Identify any exceedance of an authorised limit, including the relevant substance, the measured result, the applicable limit, and any corrective action taken or proposed; and
 - g. Details of any notifications made in relation to the bypass event, including the person or entity notified, the date and time of the notification, and the method by which the notification was made.
- 14) TasWater must notify the AEO and Hobart Airport by email of any incident of environmental harm within 24 hours of TasWater becoming aware of the event.
- 15) TasWater must notify the AEO and Hobart Airport of any complaint by email in relation to the operations and pollution from Cambridge STP, and undertaken or proposed actions, within 2 business days of TasWater becoming aware of the complaint.
- 16) TasWater must provide an updated Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP), approved by HIAPL, to the AEO by 30 September 2026. The updated OEMP must address:
- a. Flooding of Sinclairs Creek;
 - b. Vegetation growth in Sinclairs Creek; and
 - c. Bird strike risk.
- 17) By 28 August 2027, TasWater must complete an assessment of the environmental and human health impacts of bypass events on the receiving environment and any identified beneficial uses, and provide a written report to the AEO. The assessment must consider the frequency, volume and quality of bypass discharges, the results of any monitoring and sampling undertaken, and the potential and actual impacts on the receiving environment.
- 18) TasWater must test samples of soil and/or groundwater sufficient to determine whether contamination has occurred. TasWater must:
- a. Prepare a Sampling and Analysis Quality Plan (SAQP) for testing required under this condition in accordance with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 and PFAS National Environment Management Plan, as updated from time to time;
 - b. Provide the draft SAQP to the AEO and Hobart Airport for review and amend the draft SAQP as reasonably required by the AEO and/or Hobart Airport;
 - c. Provide the final SAQP to the AEO and Hobart Airport before undertaking any testing required under this condition;
 - d. Provide a written report, including the sampling results, to the AEO and Hobart Airport within 60 days after completing the testing; and
 - e. All activities required under this condition, including the completion of testing and submission of the written report, must be completed by no later than 28 August 2027.

- 19) TasWater must:
- a. by 16 August 2027, submit a Water Quality Monitoring Report to the AEO that reports comprehensively on TasWater's monitoring in Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area and that sets out recommended actions for the improvement of water quality at Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area; and
 - b. by 16 August 2028, submit a Water Quality Monitoring Report to the AEO that reports comprehensively on TasWater's monitoring in Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area and that sets out recommended actions for the improvement of water quality at Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area; and
 - c. must undertake any recommendations in the Water Quality Monitoring Reports.
- 20) TasWater must:
- a. by 16 August 2027, complete stream health monitoring, or an equivalent assessment, of Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area and submit a written report to the AEO; and
 - b. by 16 August 2028, complete stream health monitoring, or an equivalent assessment, of Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area and submit a written report to the AEO; and
 - c. The reports must assess the condition and health of Sinclairs Creek and surrounding Pitt Waters area, identify any actual or potential impacts associated with discharges from the Cambridge STP and identify recommendations to maintain or improve stream health; and
 - d. must undertake any recommendations in the stream health reports.
- 21) By 30 October 2026, TasWater must:
- a. prepare a Sampling and Analysis Quality Plan (SAQP) for monitoring and sampling required under the following conditions:
 - i. Condition 7;
 - ii. Condition 13;
 - iii. Condition 19; and
 - iv. Condition 20.
 - b. prepare the SAQP in accordance with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 and PFAS National Environment Management Plan, as updated from time to time.
 - c. provide the draft SAQP to the AEO and Hobart Airport for review and amend the draft SAQP as reasonably required by the AEO and/or Hobart Airport.
 - d. provide the final SAQP to the AEO and Hobart Airport.
- 22) Annual EMP Compliance Reports, Monthly Reports, the Water Quality Monitoring Reports required under condition 19, the stream health monitoring reports required under condition 20 and any other reporting undertaken during this Authorisation must be provided to Hobart Airport within 21 days of their finalisation.

APPENDIX B

Reasons for the decision

Background and relevant statutory provisions

1. The Cambridge Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is located on federally-owned land at Hobart Airport and has and is causing water pollution as defined in the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997 (Cwth) (Regulations). The Cambridge STP is expected to cause periodic discharge of partially treated and treated effluent into Sinclairs Creek.
2. This requires TasWater to obtain an authorisation under the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997 (Cwth) (Regulations) from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts to operate this Cambridge STP.
3. The Applicant made an application in writing under regulation 5.07 of the Regulations to the Hobart Airport Environment Officer (AEO) to that effect (Application). The AEO considered that the application met the requirements for a valid application under regulation 5.07.

Evidence upon which the decision is based

4. The decision to grant the authorisation subject to conditions (under regulation 5.09) is based upon the following information and considerations.
5. I have considered the following documents:
 - (a) Email from TasWater, dated 21 May 2025, subject 'Application for Authorisation under the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations Section 5.07(1) - Cambridge STP'
 - (b) Letter from TasWater, dated 20 May 2025, subject 'Cambridge STP – Authorisation to Discharge'
 - (c) TasWater, Cambridge Sewage Treatment Plant - Environmental Management Plan 2025-2028, version 2.1, dated 12 August 2026 (the EMP)
 - (d) HIAPL, Hobart Airport Master Plan 2022 (Chapter 11 Airport Environment Strategy)
 - (e) Image (jpeg) of the TasWater Authorisation Advertisement in The Mercury on 8 November 2026
 - (f) Pitt & Sherry, Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement - Development Proposal & Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP), revision 3, 20 November 2006
 - (g) DITRDSCSA, Application for Authorisation under the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations Section 5.07(1) - Cambridge STP Meeting Minutes, 26 August 2025
 - (h) DITRDSCSA, TasWater Authorisation Application Meeting Minutes, 22 December 2025
 - (i) EPA Tasmania, Environment Protection Notice No. 7447/3, 22 October 2019
 - (j) DITRDSCSA, TasWater Draft Authorisation Meeting Minutes, 30 July 2026
6. I have considered the Applicant's responses to requests for further information.

7. I have also considered the written submissions that were made in response to the advertisement of the Application under regulation 5.08, and the responses provided by the Applicant to the submissions made.

Findings and reasons for the decision

8. I have taken the following matters into account:

- (a) I am satisfied that there are no reasonable alternative actions available to the Applicant to achieve the object of the proposed action, including the possibility that the undertaking concerned could be carried out in a different place due to the risk to the levels of service and to public health.
- (b) I am satisfied that the Applicant has taken all reasonably available measures to avoid, or minimise, the need for an authorisation in the facts and circumstances of the Application.
- (c) I have taken into account all reasonably likely consequences of the proposed action, as required by the Regulations:
 - (i) the health and safety of any person; and
 - (ii) any aspect of the environment; and
 - (iii) compliance with the ambient objectives mentioned in Part 2 of Schedule 1.
- (d) I am satisfied that additional environment and health and safety assessments will be undertaken during the Authorisation period.
- (e) I am satisfied that the period of time for the authorisation is reasonable given the facts and circumstances of the Application and in consideration of the timelines provided for each action in the EMP.
- (f) I am satisfied as to the adequacy of the EMP which details the actions that the Applicant proposes to take during the period for which the authorisation has effect, that the Applicant believes will result in incremental improvements over a greater period of time to make satisfactory progress toward ensuring that pollution emissions overall are not more environmentally damaging than would be the case if exact compliance with the accepted limits mentioned in the Schedules to the Regulations were achieved.
- (g) I considered whether the need for an authorisation was to enable remedial work to be carried out on existing airport sourced pollution and was satisfied that it was not.
- (h) I am satisfied as to the likelihood of the EMP being realised with the conditional grant of the authorisation.
- (i) I am satisfied that the objectives in the EMP and the conditions in the authorisation would be consistent with the objectives and proposed measures set out in the Hobart Airport Environment Strategy 2022.
- (j) I have considered whether the grant of the authorisation would have an impact upon the interests of another person and I am satisfied that given the measures towards incremental improvement, the Authorisation would allow for monitoring, compliance reports, and a pathway towards greater compliance of the schedules.
- (k) I am satisfied that the submissions made under regulation 5.08, and the matters raised in the submissions are addressed by the EMP and conditions in the authorisation.

- (l) I have had regard to the importance of the Cambridge STP to the sewer network and public health in Hobart and am satisfied of the need, in the public interest, for the Cambridge STP to operate properly.
- 9. When considering whether to grant a conditional authorisation, I have taken into account the commitments that the Applicant has given to prevent or minimise the pollution and impacts resulting from the actions subject of the Application.
- 10. I have also had regard to the need to prefer, if practicable, a decision that will promote improved compliance by the applicant with these Regulations after the authorisation, if granted, ceases to have effect.
- 11. When considering whether to grant the Authorisation I have taken into account the requirement for an Annual Report to demonstrate compliance with the Authorisation conditions and have regard to regulation 7.06 if a condition of the Authorisation is not met.
- 12. I have imposed conditions I consider appropriate in the authorisation having regard to those matters that I am required to take into account and consideration under the Regulations.