

# **Economic Regulation Authority**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### **WATER SERVICES ACT 2012**

Licensee name: Ord Irrigation Co-operative Limited

ABN 33 187 175 858

Operating area: The area set out in the plan referred to in clause 2.5.

Licence number: WL37

Commencement date: 29 November 2002

Version number: 7

Version date: 1 May 2020

Expiry date: 28 November 2027

Signed by the Chair of the Economic Regulation Authority

20 April 2020

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#### 1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 In this *licence*, the following definitions apply unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the Water Services Act 2012 (WA).

#### applicable legislation includes:

- (a) the Act;
- (b) any relevant subsidiary legislation including:
  - (i) regulations made under the Act, and
  - (ii) the Economic Regulation Authority (Licensing Funding) Regulations 2014; and
- (c) any code in force from time to time made pursuant to the *Act*.

asset management system has the same meaning as section 24(2) of the Act.

**asset management system review** means an assessment of the matters set out in section 24(2) of the *Act*.

**audit and review guidelines** means the guidelines prepared by the *ERA* setting out the *ERA*'s requirements for the conduct of *operational audits* and *asset management system reviews*, as published by the *ERA* on its website and as amended from time to time.

**audit report** means a signed, written document that presents the purpose, scope and results of the audit by the *Department of Health* on compliance by the *licensee* of its obligations under an *MoU*, pursuant to clause 7.1.4 of this *licence*.

#### Australian Drinking Water Guidelines means:

- (a) the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Paper 6 National Water Quality Management Strategy (version 3.5) published by the National Health and Medical Research Council, as amended or replaced from time to time; or
- (b) if the *licensee* has an *MoU* for Drinking Water Quality with the *Department of Health*, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Paper of the National Water Quality Management Strategy published by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

**business day** means a day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in Western Australia.

**Code of Conduct** means the *Water Services Code of Conduct (Customer Service Standards) 2018* as amended or replaced from time to time.

**commencement date** means the date specified in clause 2.2.

**complaint** means an expression of dissatisfaction made to or about an organisation, related to its products, services, staff or the handling of a complaint, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required.

customer has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

**Department of Health** means the Department of Health or its successors in Western Australia.

drainage services has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

**dwelling** has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

#### electronic means means:

- (a) the internet;
- (b) email, being:
  - (i) in relation to the *ERA*, the *ERA*'s email address as notified to the *licensee*; and
  - (ii) in relation to the *licensee*, the email address specified in the *licence* application or other such email address as notified in writing to the *ERA*; or
  - (iii) any other similar means,

but does not include facsimile or telephone.

**ERA** means the Economic Regulation Authority.

expiry date means the date specified in clause 2.3.

**financial hardship policy** means a policy referred to in clause 29 of the *Code of Conduct*.

*individual performance standards* mean any individual performance standards approved by the *ERA* pursuant to clause 5.2 and specified in *Schedule* 2 of the *licence*.

irrigation services has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

*last resort supply plan* has the meaning given to that term in section 50 of the *Act*.

#### licence means:

- (a) this document (excluding the pages prior to clause 1, the header and footer of this document, and the amendment record sheet);
- (b) any Schedules to this document; and
- (c) any *individual performance standards* approved by the *ERA* pursuant to clause 5.2.

licensee means Ord Irrigation Co-operative Limited, ABN 33 187 175 858.

**MoU** means a memorandum of understanding referred to in clause 7.1 as amended or replaced from time to time.

National Performance Framework: urban performance reporting indicators and definitions handbook means the handbook published by the Bureau of Meteorology, as amended or replaced from time to time.

**non-potable water supply services** means the collection, treatment, transfer or delivery of water supplied from *water services works* not designed and operated to provide *potable water*.

**notice** means a written notice, agreement, consent, direction, representation, advice, statement or other communication required or given pursuant to, or in connection with, this *licence*.

**operating area(s)** has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the *Act* and is the area specified in clause 2.5.

**operational audit** means an assessment of the matters set out in section 25(2) of the *Act*.

**potable water** means drinking water in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines or as otherwise defined in the MoU between the licensee and the Department of Health.

**potable water supply services** means the collection, treatment, transfer or delivery of water supplied from *water service works* designed and operated to provide *potable water*.

**publish** in relation to a report or information means either:

- (a) posting the report or information on the *licensee's* website; or
- (b) sending the report or information to the *ERA* to be published on the *ERA*'s website.

**related body corporate** has the meaning given to that term in section 50 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cwth).

residential customer has the same meaning as in clause 3 of the Code of Conduct.

reviewable decision means a decision by the ERA pursuant to:

- (a) clause 3.8.1; and
- (b) clause 5.2.2,

of this licence.

**Schedule** means the schedule or schedules which are appended to, and which form part of, this *licence*.

sewerage services has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

**standard terms and conditions of service** has the meaning given to that term in section 71(1) of the *Act*.

supplier of last resort has the meaning given to that term in section 50 of the Act.

**terms and conditions** means the terms and conditions in this *licence* including any terms and conditions contained in the *Schedules*.

water service means the service or services that the *licensee* is authorised to provide by this *licence* being a *drainage service, irrigation service, sewerage service* and/or water supply service as more particularly described in clause 2.

water service works has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

**water services ombudsman scheme** means a scheme approved under section 65 of the *Act*.

*Water,* Sewerage and Irrigation Licence Performance Reporting Handbook means the handbook produced by the *ERA* of the same name as amended or replaced from time to time.

water supply service has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Act.

works holding arrangement means an arrangement as set out in section 23 of the Act.

#### 1.2 Interpretation

1.2.1 A reference in this *licence* to any *applicable legislation* includes, unless the context otherwise requires, any statutory modification, amendment, replacement or reenactment of that *applicable legislation*.

#### 2. LICENCE AUTHORISATION

#### 2.1 Activities authorised under this licence

- 2.1.1 The *licensee* is granted a *licence* for the *operating area(s)* to provide the following *water* services in accordance with the *terms and conditions* of this *licence*:
  - (a) water supply services:
    - (i) Not used
    - (ii) non-potable water supply services
  - (b) Not used
  - (c) Not used
  - (d) irrigation services

#### 2.2 Commencement date

2.2.1 The commencement date of this licence is 29 November 2002.

#### 2.3 Expiry date

2.3.1 The expiry date of this licence is 28 November 2027.

### 2.4 Term [Section 14 of the Act]

- 2.4.1 This *licence* commences on the *commencement date* and continues until the earlier of:
  - (a) the cancellation of the *licence* pursuant to clause 3.5 of this *licence*;
  - (b) the cancellation of the *licence* on application of the *licensee*, pursuant to clause 3.6 of this *licence*; or
  - (c) the expiry date.

#### 2.5 Operating area

2.5.1 The operating area is set out in plan(s):

OWR-OA-284(B)

2.5.2 The operating area plan(s) is provided in Schedule 1.

#### 3. LICENCE ADMINISTRATION

### 3.1 Amendment of licence on application of the licensee [Section 18 of the Act]

3.1.1 The *licensee* may apply to the *ERA* to amend the *licence* in accordance with the *Act*.

## 3.2 Amendment of licence by the ERA [Section 17 of the Act]

- 3.2.1 The *ERA* may amend the *licence* on its own initiative in accordance with the *Act* and the procedure specified in clause 3.2.2.
- 3.2.2 Before amending the *licence* under clause 3.2.1, the *ERA* must:
  - (a) provide the *licensee* with *notice* of the proposed amendments under consideration by the *ERA*;
  - (b) allow 15 *business days* for the *licensee* to make submissions on the proposed amendments; and
  - (c) take into consideration those submissions.
- 3.2.3 Any amendments made to the *licence* will come into effect in accordance with the *Act* unless a longer period is specified by the *ERA* or a shorter period is agreed to by the *ERA* and the *licensee*.
- 3.2.4 This clause also applies to the substitution of the existing *licence*.

### 3.3 Transfer of licence [Section 15 of the Act]

3.3.1 This *licence* may be transferred only in accordance with the *Act*.

### 3.4 Renewal of licence [Section 13 of the Act]

3.4.1 This *licence* may be renewed only in accordance with the *Act*.

### 3.5 Cancellation of licence for serious default [Section 34 of the Act]

3.5.1 This *licence* may be cancelled in accordance with the *Act*.

### 3.6 Cancellation of licence on application of the licensee [Section 18 of the Act]

- 3.6.1 The *licensee* may apply to the *ERA* to request cancellation of the *licence* by *notice* to the *ERA*.
- 3.6.2 The ERA may cancel the licence in accordance with the Act.
- 3.6.3 The *licensee* will not be entitled to a refund of any fees by the *ERA*.

#### 3.7 Notices

- 3.7.1 Unless otherwise specified, all *notices* must be in writing.
- 3.7.2 A notice will be regarded as having been sent and received:
  - (a) when delivered in person to the addressee; or
  - (b) three *business days* after the date of posting if the *notice* is posted in Western Australia; or
  - (c) five *business days* after the date of posting if the *notice* is posted outside Western Australia; or
  - (d) if sent by facsimile when, according to the sender's transmission report, the *notice* has been successfully received by the addressee; or
  - (e) if sent by *electronic means* when, according to the sender's electronic record, the *notice* has been successfully sent to the addressee.

#### 3.8 Publishing information

- 3.8.1 The *ERA* may direct the *licensee* to *publish*, within a specified timeframe, any information it considers relevant in connection with the *licensee* or the performance by the *licensee* of its obligations under this *licence*.
- 3.8.2 Subject to clause 3.8.3, the *licensee* must *publish* the information referred to in clause 3.8.1.
- 3.8.3 If the *licensee* considers that the information is confidential it must:
  - (a) immediately notify the ERA; and
  - (b) seek a review of the *ERA*'s decision in accordance with clause 3.9.
- 3.8.4 Once it has reviewed the decision, the *ERA* will direct the *licensee* in accordance with the review to:
  - (a) *publish* the information;

- (b) *publish* the information with the confidential information removed or modified; or
- (c) not *publish* the information.

#### 3.9 Review of the ERA's decisions

- 3.9.1 The *licensee* may seek a review of a *reviewable decision* by the *ERA* pursuant to this *licence* in accordance with the following procedure:
  - (a) the *licensee* must make a submission on the subject of the *reviewable decision* within 10 *business days* (or other period as approved by the *ERA*) of the decision; and
  - (b) the *ERA* will consider the submission and provide the *licensee* with a written response within 20 *business days*.

#### 4. GENERAL LICENCE OBLIGATIONS

## 4.1 Compliance with applicable legislation and licence conditions [Sections 26, 27, 29 and 31 of the Act]

- 4.1.1 Subject to any modifications or exemptions granted pursuant to the *Act* and this *licence*, the *licensee* must comply with any *applicable legislation*.
- 4.1.2 Subject to the provisions of any *applicable legislation*, the *ERA* may give the *licensee* a *notice* directing it to do any measure necessary to:
  - (a) correct the breach of any applicable legislation; or
  - (b) prevent the breach of any applicable legislation occurring again,

and specify a time limit by which such action must be taken.

4.1.3 The licensee must comply with the terms and conditions of this licence.

#### 4.2 Fees

4.2.1 The *licensee* must pay the applicable fees and charges in accordance with the *Economic Regulation Authority (Licensing Funding) Regulations 2014.* 

### 4.3 Provision of water services [Section 21 of the Act]

- 4.3.1 The licensee must:
  - (a) Not used.
  - (b) if requested, offer to provide the *water service* set out in clause 2.1 to any person within the *operating area* on reasonable terms, unless the provision of the *water service* is not financially viable or is otherwise not practicable.

### 4.4 Provision of water services outside operating area [Section 22 of the Act]

4.4.1 If the *licensee* provides a *water service* outside of the *operating area* specified for that *water service*, the *licensee* must:

- (a) notify the *ERA* as soon as is practicable before commencing to provide the *water* service; and
- (b) apply to amend the *licence* in accordance with clause 3.1 unless otherwise notified by the *ERA*.

## 4.5 Works holding arrangements [Section 23 of the Act]

4.5.1 The *licensee* must hold, or otherwise be subject to a *works holding arrangement* in respect of, all *water service works* used for the provision of a *water service*.

#### 4.6 Accounting records

4.6.1 The *licensee* and any *related body corporate* must maintain accounting records that comply with standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board or equivalent International Accounting Standards.

#### 4.7 Reporting a change in circumstances

- 4.7.1 The *licensee* must report to the *ERA*:
  - (a) if the *licensee* is under external administration as defined by the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cwth)* within two *business days* of such external administration occurring; or
  - (b) if:
    - (i) the *licensee* experiences a change in its corporate, financial or technical circumstances upon which this *licence* was granted; and
    - (ii) the change may materially affect the *licensee's* ability to meet its obligations under this *licence*,

within 10 business days of the change occurring; or

- (c) if:
  - (i) the *licensee's* name;
  - (ii) the *licensee's* ABN;
  - (iii) the licensee's address; or
  - (iv) the works holding arrangement for the water service works,

changes, within 10 business days of the change occurring.

#### 4.8 Provision of information

4.8.1 The *licensee* must provide to the *ERA* in the manner and form specified by the *ERA*, specified information on any matter relevant to the operation or enforcement of the *licence*, the operation of the licensing scheme provided for in Part 2 of the *Act*, or the performance of the *ERA*'s function under that Part.

- 4.8.2 Without limiting clause 4.8.1, the *licensee* must provide the *ERA* with the data required for performance reporting purposes that is specified in:
  - (a) the Water, Sewerage and Irrigation Licence Performance Reporting Handbook<sup>1</sup>; and
  - (b) Not used.

#### 5. AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

## 5.1 Asset management system [Section 24 of the Act]

- 5.1.1 The *licensee* must provide for an asset management system in respect of the *licensee*'s water service works.
- 5.1.2 Not used.
- 5.1.3 The *licensee* must notify the *ERA* of any material change to the *asset management* system within 10 business days of such change.
- 5.1.4 The *licensee* must, unless otherwise notified in writing by the *ERA*, provide the *ERA* with a report as to the effectiveness of the *asset management system* within 24 months after the *commencement date* and every 24 months thereafter.
- 5.1.5 The asset management system review must be conducted by an independent expert engaged by the *ERA*. The *ERA* will determine the terms of the appointment of the independent expert.
- 5.1.6 Before appointing an independent expert, the ERA will:
  - (a) consult with the *licensee* in a manner and form determined by the *ERA*; and
  - (b) take into account any relevant matters raised by the *licensee* from that consultation.
- 5.1.7 The *licensee* must cooperate with the independent expert and comply with the *ERA*'s audit and review guidelines dealing with the asset management system review.<sup>2</sup>

#### 5.2 Individual performance standards

- 5.2.1 The *licensee* must comply with the *individual performance standards* as set out in *Schedule* 2.
- 5.2.2 The *ERA* may prescribe *individual performance standards* in relation to the *licensee* of its obligations under this *licence* or the *applicable legislation*.
- 5.2.3 Before approving any *individual performance standards* under this clause, the *ERA* will:
  - (a) provide the *licensee* with a copy of the proposed *individual performance* standards:

The Handbook can be found on the ERA <u>website</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The guidelines can be found on the ERA <u>website</u>.

- (b) allow 15 business days for the licensee to make submissions on the proposed individual performance standards; and
- (c) take into consideration those submissions.
- 5.2.4 Once approved by the *ERA*, the *individual performance standards* are included as additional *terms and conditions* to this *licence* as set out in *Schedule* 2.

## 5.3 Operational audit [Section 25 of the Act]

- 5.3.1 The *licensee* must, unless otherwise notified in writing by the *ERA*, provide the *ERA* with an *operational audit* within 24 months after the *commencement date*, and every 24 months thereafter.
- 5.3.2 The *operational audit* must be conducted by an independent expert appointed by the *ERA*. The *ERA* will determine the terms of the appointment of the independent expert.
- 5.3.3 Before appointing an independent expert, the ERA will:
  - (a) consult with the *licensee* in a manner and form determined by the *ERA*; and
  - (b) take into account any relevant matters raised by the *licensee* from that consultation.
- 5.3.4 The *licensee* must cooperate with the independent expert and comply with the *ERA*'s audit and review guidelines dealing with the operational audit.<sup>3</sup>

#### 6. CUSTOMERS

### 6.1 Standard terms and conditions of service [Section 71 of the Act]

- 6.1.1 If, during the term of the *licence*, the *ERA* considers that one or more of a *licensee's* standard terms and conditions of service is no longer in the public interest, the *ERA* may direct the *licensee*:
  - (a) to amend:
    - (i) the standard term or condition of service; or
    - (ii) the standard term or condition of service in accordance with a term proposed by the ERA; and
  - (b) to do so within a specified period.
- 6.1.2 The *licensee* must comply with a direction given to the *licensee* under this clause.

# 6.2 Water Services Ombudsman Scheme [Section 70 of the Act]

6.2.1 The *licensee* must not supply *water services* to *customers* unless the *licensee*:

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The guidelines can be found on the ERA <u>website</u>.

- (a) is a member of the water services ombudsman scheme;
- (b) is bound by the water services ombudsman scheme; and
- (c) will be compliant with any decision or direction of the water services ombudsman under the *water services ombudsman scheme*.

### 6.3 Supplier of last resort [Section 60 of the Act]

- 6.3.1 If the *licensee* is appointed the *supplier of last resort* for a designated area in relation to the provision of a particular *water service* under the *Act*, the *licensee* must:
  - (a) perform the functions of the *supplier of last resort* for the designated area and the class of *water service*:
  - (b) comply with the duties imposed in relation to those functions under the Act, and
  - (c) carry out its operations under or for the purposes of the *last resort supply plan* in accordance with the *Act*.

#### 7. PUBLIC HEALTH

#### 7.1 Memorandum of understanding

Not used.

## Schedule 1 – Operating area

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### Schedule 2 – Performance standards

The *licensee* must comply with the standards, principles and reporting requirements as set out below.

#### 1. POTABLE WATER

1.1 Potable water system – pressure and flow standards

Not used.

1.2 Potable water system – pressure and flow exemptions

Not used.

1.3 Water restrictions

Not used.

2. NON-POTABLE WATER

Not used.

- 3. SEWERAGE
- 3.1 Sewerage service standards

Not used.

- 4. DRAINAGE
- 4.1 Drainage service standards

Not used.

- 5. IRRIGATION
- 5.1 Irrigation service standards
- 5.1.1 The *licensee* must supply water that is suitable for irrigation purposes.
- 5.1.2 The *licensee* must provide at least 5 *business days*' notice to a *customer* of any planned service interruption.
- 5.1.3 The *licensee* must comply with the standards as set out below.

#### Irrigation service standards

Irrigation Water Quality	Percentage of customers given 5 days' notice of a planned interruption
<1,200mg/L TDS	>90

### Schedule 3 – Customer provisions

#### 1. ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER PROVISIONS

- 1.1 Requirement for approved financial hardship policy
- 1.1.1 If the *licensee* at any time during the term of the *licence*:
  - (a) intends to supply *water supply services* (but only in respect of the supply of *drinking water*) or *sewerage services* to *residential customers*; and
  - (b) does not have a *financial hardship policy* approved by the *ERA*,

the licensee must submit a draft financial hardship policy to the ERA for approval.

- 1.1.2 The *licensee* must not commence the supply of *water supply services* (but in respect of the supply of *drinking water* only) or *sewerage services* to *residential customers* unless the *ERA* has approved the *licensee*'s draft *financial hardship policy*.
- 1.1.3 For the purposes of clause 1.1 of this *Schedule*, 'drinking water' has the meaning given to that term in clause 4(1) of the *Code of Conduct*.

### **Amendment record sheet**

Version no.	Version date	Description of amendment
1	6 August 2008	Water Licence Review 2008
2	15 May 2009	Remove requirement to report incidents
3	18 November 2013	Amendment by substitution – Water Services Act 2012
4	23 December 2013	Expansion of operating area
5	1 July 2016	Water Licence Review 2016
6	10 August 2016	Amendment to Irrigation Service Standards table referred to in Schedule 2, clause 5.1.3
7	1 May 2020	Water Licence Review 2019