



Notice

12 September 2016

Shire of Dumbleyung

SECTION 31 NOTICE INSPECTION

On 15 March 2016, the Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) served a notice on the Shire of Dumbleyung (**Shire**) under section 31 of the *Water Services Act 2012* (**section 31 notice**).¹

In July 2016, the ERA appointed an inspector² to conduct an assessment of Shire's compliance with the section 31 notice, and the subsequent report was received on 9 August 2016.

Action by the ERA

The ERA is satisfied the Shire has adequately addressed the recommendations in the section 31 notice, and will not take any further action.

Background Information

2014 Asset Management System Review and Follow-Up Inspection

The 2014 asset management effectiveness review (**review**) of the Shire's water services licence made nine recommendations to address asset management deficiencies. The review also disclosed serious problems with the condition of the Shire's sewerage treatment plant assets.

The Shire was given until 31 December 2015 to rectify the issues found in the review.

In January 2016, the ERA appointed an inspector to assess the actions taken by the Shire to address the problems found in the 2014 review. The inspector reported that only two of the nine asset management deficiencies had been rectified, and there were still serious issues with the treatment plant assets.

Section 31 Notice

The section 31 notice required the Shire to rectify several asset maintenance deficiencies in four parts of its sewerage treatment plant:

- Pumping Station Wet Well³
- Pumping Station Pump Well

¹ The ERA has the power to serve a notice under section 31 of the Act if it is satisfied that a licensee has failed to comply with a condition of its licence.

² The inspector is an independent expert appointed under section 210 of the *Water Services Act 2012*. Sections 40 and 41 of the Act provide inspectors with wide ranging powers to examine a water licensee's assets and documentation.

³ Wet wells are the holding sump for gravity-flow sewer systems. As sewage enters the wet well and the water level rises, pumps are engaged to pump out the sewage to the sewer main.



Notice

- Imhoff Tank⁴
- Treatment Ponds

The deadline for rectifying the asset maintenance deficiencies was 30 June 2016.

The ERA informed the Shire there would be a further inspection to assess the actions taken by it to rectify the asset maintenance deficiencies in the section 31 notice.

Inspection of the Section 31 Notice

The inspection of the section 31 notice found the Shire has addressed nearly all the corrective actions in the section 31 notice. There are three outstanding actions:

- Installing a sign on the pumping station with Shire contact information.
- Installing covers for the sewage effluent and sludge observation pits.
- Replacing the scum baffles on the primary treatment pond.

None of these issues affect the operation of the sewage treatment plant.

For further information contact:

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⁴ The Imhoff Tank separates the liquid and solid components of the collected sewage. The liquids are passed to treatment ponds for storage (and biological treatment), while the solids (sludge) are collected in an internal chamber and then emptied into the drying bed for later disposal.