

Assessment Report:

Temporary Emission Licence

Abbot Point Terminal 1

(Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd)



Queensland
Government

APPLICATION TYPE: Temporary Emission Licence
PRINCIPAL APPLICANT: Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd
JOINT APPLICATION HOLDERS: N/A
REGISTERD OFFICE ADDRESS: Level 25, 10 Eagle Street BRISBANE QLD 4000
TENEMENT: Abbot Point Coal Terminal Bowen – Lot 48 on SP243724, Lot 49 on SP243724, Lot 50 on SP243721, Lot 51 on SP243721, Lot 52 on SP243721, Lot 3 on SP227557, Lot 4 on SP227557, Lot 58 on SP240224 and Lot 49 on SP185904
ENV AUTHORITY NO.: EPPR00577113/ENEL07198317
FILE NO.: 101/0003196
APPLICATION TIME & DATE: 10:32am, 27 March 2017 (signed application submitted via email)
DECISION DUE TIME & DATE: 10:32am, 28 March 2017

Note: Section 357C of the EP Act states that the administering authority must decide the application as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after receiving it.

1.0 SUMMARY

On Monday 27 March 2017 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) received an application from Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd (APBC) for a Temporary Emissions Licence (TEL), to release contaminants (water) from Abbot Point Terminal 1, outside of the conditions of environmental authority (EA) EPPR00577113.

The application is for a TEL in anticipation of Tropical Cyclone Debbie (TC Debbie), expected to reach the Queensland Coast on the morning of Tuesday 28 March 2017. Tropical Cyclone Debbie (expected to be category 4) will bring heavy rainfall and strong winds which may result in several non-compliances of the conditions of the EA EPPR00577113. The particular conditions APBC will not be able to comply with, pending the anticipated rainfall over the next several days (an expected rainfall of 400mm according to the Bureau of Meteorology at the time of application), are:

F1: A discharge to water/s may only occur from discharge location W1 and W2 if it meets the quality criteria in **Table 2 - Contaminant release limits to water**.

Table 2 – Contaminant release limits to water

Monitoring location	Quality characteristic	Min	Max	Monitoring frequency
W1, W2	Suspended solids	-	30mg/L	Each time a release occurs
	pH	6	9	

F2: Contaminants other than settled/treated stormwater runoff waters must not be released from the site to surface waters or the bed or bank of surface waters unless otherwise authorised by this approval.

The TEL proposes to vary these conditions to:

TEL1: A discharge to water/s may only occur from discharge location W1 if it meets the quality criteria in **Table TEL1 - Contaminant release limits to water**.

Table TEL1 – Contaminant release limits to water

Monitoring location	Quality characteristic	Min	Max	Monitoring frequency
W1 (E611876.19, N7800108.34)	Suspended solids	-	100mg/L	As soon as practicable and safe during the release
	pH	6	9	
	Electrical conductivity	-	7000µS/cm	

TEL2: Contaminants are permitted to be released from W1 to surface waters or the bed or bank of surface waters between 8:00pm 27 March 2017 to midnight 30 March 2017.

These conditions will likely be breached for the following reasons:

F1: The applicant has stated that the limit for total suspended solids (TSS) may be breached if the rainfall falls at a high speed so that the contaminants within the Primary Settlement Pond (PSP) and/or Secondary Settlement Pond (SSP) are suspended. Note that the PSP feeds the SSP which is connected to release point W1. Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd have applied to amend this limit in anticipation that it is likely to be breached.

The applicant has stated that the release is likely to be monitored on Wednesday 29 March 2017, when TC Debbie has passed. The release will likely be occurring from W1 (Easting 611876.19 and Northing 7800108.34 UTM), which will flow to Lake Caley (of Caley Valey Wetlands), west of W1. Lake Caley water quality can vary from hyper saline to brackish (depending on rainfall) and is ephemeral.

F2: This condition will be breached should the amount of rainfall cause water to be released offsite in an uncontrolled manner. The water in PSP contains coal fines and sediment, and has an electrical conductivity (EC) of approximately 12,000µS/cm and pH of 7.04. There is currently approximately 90ML in PSP which has a storage capacity of approximately 180ML, which is half of the whole site's water management system capacity of 363ML.

In the initial application, APBC anticipated that conditions A9, F3, F6, H1 and H2 may be breached. Given the measures already put in place, it is not expected that these conditions will be breached. These conditions are unlikely to be breached because:

A9: This condition is unlikely to be breached unless there is infrastructure damage caused by TC Debbie.

F3: Monitoring is proposed to be undertaken on Wednesday, after TC Debbie has passed, and the site is deemed safe by the Senior Management Team.

F6: The applicant has stated that measures have already been undertaken as per their site Cyclone Management Plan, including – all loose items, light vehicles, mobile and heavy equipment have been storm parked, tied down or parked up in sheds to prevent any projectiles causing infrastructure damage. Additionally, the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is bunded on a large concrete pad, the tanks have been emptied to low levels and no one is on site so that there is no flow to the STP.

H1: The proposed uncontrolled release of contaminants, is not proposed to be released to land.

H2: The proposed uncontrolled release of contaminants, is not proposed to be released to land.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

EP Act - Chapter 7 Environmental Management Part 4A Temporary emissions licences (s3578A to 357J)

Section 357B of the EP Act states who may apply for temporary emissions licence.

Does the application state if the application is made in anticipation of an applicable event or in response to an applicable event?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The application is made in response to an applicable event. The applicant has stated that the site will be expecting heavy rainfall and strong winds as a result of TC Debbie, which is expected to cross the Queensland coastline near Mackay on the morning of Tuesday 28 March 2017. The expected rainfall is <400mm over several days, coupled with strong winds (category 4 cyclone).

Was the application made in person to an authorised person or by email or facsimile to the administering authority?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: A signed copy of the application and supporting information was received by Permit and Licence Management (Brisbane) and [s.73 irrelevant inf](#) (Manager – Compliance) at 10:32am on 27 March 2017 via email.

Is the application supported by enough information to enable the administering authority to decide the application?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: Additional information was provided after the application was submitted, to support the application.

(See also regulatory requirements below)

Has the appropriate fee been received for the application as prescribed under a regulation?

☐ Yes.

☒ No.

Details: Notice of fees owing (\$2,438.00) will be provided to EA holder, from the Permit and Licence Management team, to allow payment within the 20 day period.

Note:

If the applicant does not pay the fee within the period of at least 20 days stated for payment in a notice given to the applicant by the administering authority, the administering authority may recover it as a debt.

Section 357D of the EP Act states that the administering authority must consider certain criteria when deciding an application.

1. *Does the application describe the extent and impact of the applicable event, including the potential economic impact of granting or not granting the licence?*

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The application states that the applicable event is anticipated to occur, however given the unexpected nature of tropical cyclones, this applicable event may change. Despite this, rainfall is proposed to occur and it is highly likely that it will occur over several days. If the TEL is not granted, conditions F1 and F2 of the EA will most likely be breached and the outcome cannot be prevented.

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(Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd)



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2. Does the application describe the character, resilience and values of the receiving environment?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The applicant has described the receiving environment – Lake Caley (of Caley Valley Wetlands), which is ephemeral but can contain water ranging in quality from hypersaline to brackish. The character, resilience and values of the receiving environment are described in 'Kaili (Caley) Valley Wetlands Baseline Report, February 2012' (Caley Valley Wetlands Report).

3. Does the application describe/consider the likelihood of environmental harm and any measures necessary to minimise the harm?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: Given that the applicable event is likely to impact the area surrounding Abbot Point Terminal 1, in addition to the area within Abbot Point Terminal 1, it is unlikely that the impact associated with the water release from W1 can be distinguished from the impacts of the cyclone.

- The proposed limit of 7000µS/cm has been nominated based on the known EC limit of 12,000µS/cm in PSP which is 50% full (~90ML). With the addition of rainfall (~100µS/cm), the EC would dilute to 6,000µS/cm but is not expected to exceed 7,000µS/cm.
- The proposed limit of TSS 100mg/L has been selected because the heavy rainfall would stir up the sediments so that the current limit within the EA (30mg/L) is likely to be exceeded. The heavy rainfall from TC Debbie would also be expected to 'naturally' increase TSS levels within areas of ponded water. The Caley Valley Wetlands Baseline Report states that TSS can be as high as 100mg/L in some areas of the wetlands.
- The remote monitoring station at W1 can measure pH and standing water level in the SSP. The applicant has also stated they will monitor the release according to the proposed TEL conditions when it is safe to do so.
- The applicant has stated that the flow of the release is expected to be slow from W1 (the actual flow rate will be unknown as it depends on the speed of rainfall), and erosion is expected to be minimal given that the spillway at W1 is rock lined and has a low gradient.
- The receiving environment is currently dry, but there are other locations of the wetland that contains water (south). Refer to the image below.



The release of the water offsite through the proposed TEL conditions is expected to mitigate the risks associated with the accumulation of water in storages on site, thus reducing the risk of uncontrolled releases and long term accumulation of contaminants in pit.

4. *Does the application describe/consider the likelihood that the release will adversely impact the health, safety or wellbeing of another person?*

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The proposed breaches of conditions F1 and F2 of the current EA are not likely to impact the health, safety or wellbeing of another person as the receiving environment is the Caley Valley Wetlands, and it is unlikely that any persons will be in the wetland during the time the TEL will be issued for. The closest sensitive receptor is the Former Colinta Homestead (see image below), which is unlikely to be impacted from the release of water from Abbot Point Terminal 1, given that the release of water from W1 will flow westwards (at the northern end of the Caley Valley Wetlands).



5. *Does the application describe/consider cumulative impacts?*

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The cumulative impacts from the proposed TEL includes the input of water into Caley Valley Wetlands from the release of water at W1 plus the addition of water from TC Debbie. However, not all water from Abbot Point Terminal 1 will be released offsite, as the site's water management system has a total capacity of 363ML. Given the pH of the water onsite (7.04), the TSS will be high irrespective of the release of water from W1 (because the cyclone will increase TSS naturally in the Caley Valley Wetlands) and that the EC will dilute prior to entering the Caley Valley Wetlands, the cumulative impact is not expected to be high.

6. Does the application describe/consider the public interest?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The release of water offsite is highly likely given the expected rainfall from TC Debbie, so the impacts given the current state of the site, are unavoidable. As such, it is considered in the interest of the public to permit the release of water offsite, rather than have a large volume of water accumulate on site which will continue to deteriorate in quality over time.

7. Is the TEL acceptable in terms of any relevant regulatory requirements?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: There are no relevant regulatory requirements that must be considered; however, consideration has been given to minimising harm to the receiving environment, the situation (TC Debbie), and the quality of the water onsite. It is considered that approval of the TEL, subject to the additional TEL conditions, will ensure that the proposed releases can be undertaken in a manner that protects the environmental values of the receiving waters.

4.0 Decision

Section 357E of the EP Act states that the administering authority must make a decision about the temporary emissions licence.

Is the TEL to be granted as submitted?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The applicant did not propose how the specific conditions can be amended, however, the administering authority has considered what is acceptable and determined the conditions required.

*See the attached Notice of Decision for the TEL conditions.

Are conditions being imposed on the temporary emissions licence it considers are necessary or desirable?

☐ Yes.

☒ No.

In approving this TEL, the administering authority has considered that no additional conditions, other than those proposed to be varied, are required.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

Note: Section 357F of the EP Act states that the administering authority must give the applicant an information notice about the decision if the decision is to -

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**Queensland
Government**

**(a) grant the application on different terms than have been requested in the application; or
(b) refuse the application.**

It is recommended that:

- The TEL be approved; and
- A notice of decision is issued to the applicant.

s.73 irrelevant information

Senior Environmental Officer

Signed:

Date: 27 March 2017

s.73 irrelevant information

Team Leader

Reviewer:

Date: 27 March 2017

6.0 DECISION

Please circle:

Approved

Refused

Comments:

s.73 irrelevant information

Manager (Assessment)

Signed:

Date: 27 March 2017

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(Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd)



APPLICATION TYPE: Temporary Emission Licence
PRINCIPAL APPLICANT: Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd
JOINT APPLICATION HOLDERS: N/A
REGISTERD OFFICE ADDRESS: Level 25, 10 Eagle Street BRISBANE QLD 4000
TENEMENT: Abbot Point Coal Terminal Bowen – Lot 48 on SP243724,
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SP243721, Lot 52 on SP243721, Lot 3 on SP227557, Lot
4 on SP227557, Lot 58 on SP240224 and Lot 49 on
SP185904
ENV AUTHORITY NO.: EPPR00577113/ENEL07198317
FILE NO.: 101/0003196
APPLICATION TIME & DATE: 10:32am, 27 March 2017 (signed application submitted
via email)
DECISION DUE TIME & DATE: 10:32am, 28 March 2017

Note: Section 357C of the EP Act states that the administering authority must decide the application as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after receiving it.

1.0 SUMMARY

On Monday 27 March 2017 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) received an application from Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd (APBC) for a Temporary Emissions Licence (TEL), to release contaminants (water) from Abbot Point Terminal 1, outside of the conditions of environmental authority (EA) EPPR00577113.

The application is for a TEL in anticipation of Tropical Cyclone Debbie (TC Debbie), expected to reach the Queensland Coast on the morning of Tuesday 28 March 2017. Tropical Cyclone Debbie (expected to be category 4) will bring heavy rainfall and strong winds which may result in several non-compliances of the conditions of the EA EPPR00577113. The particular conditions APBC will not be able to comply with, pending the anticipated rainfall over the next several days (an expected rainfall of 400mm according to the Bureau of Meteorology at the time of application), are:

F1: A discharge to water/s may only occur from discharge location W1 and W2 if it meets the quality criteria in **Table 2 – Contaminant release limits to water**.

Table 2 – Contaminant release limits to water

Monitoring location	Quality characteristic	Min	Max	Monitoring frequency
W1, W2	Suspended solids	-	30mg/L	Each time a release occurs
	pH	6	9	

F2: Contaminants other than settled/treated stormwater runoff waters must not be released from the site to surface waters or the bed or bank of surface waters unless otherwise authorised by this approval.

The TEL proposes to vary these conditions to:

TEL1: A discharge to water/s may only occur from discharge location W1 if it meets the quality criteria in **Table TEL1 – Contaminant release limits to water**.

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Table TEL1 – Contaminant release limits to water

Monitoring location	Quality characteristic	Min	Max	Monitoring frequency
W1 (E611876.19, N7800108.34)	Suspended solids	-	100mg/L	As soon as practicable and safe during the release
	pH	6	9	
	Electrical conductivity	-	7000µS/cm	

TEL2: Contaminants are permitted to be released from W1 to surface waters or the bed or bank of surface waters between 8:00pm 27 March 2017 to midnight 30 March 2017.

These conditions will likely be breached for the following reasons:

F1: The applicant has stated that the limit for total suspended solids (TSS) may be breached if the rainfall falls at a high speed so that the contaminants within the Primary Settlement Pond (PSP) and/or Secondary Settlement Pond (SSP) are suspended. Note that the PSP feeds the SSP which is connected to release point W1. Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd have applied to amend this limit in anticipation that it is likely to be breached.

The applicant has stated that the release is likely to be monitored on Wednesday 29 March 2017, when TC Debbie has passed. The release will likely be occurring from W1 (Easting 611876.19 and Northing 7800108.34 UTM), which will flow to Lake Caley (of Caley Valey Wetlands), west of W1. Lake Caley water quality can vary from hyper saline to brackish (depending on rainfall) and is ephemeral.

F2: This condition will be breached should the amount of rainfall cause water to be released offsite in an uncontrolled manner. The water in PSP contains coal fines and sediment, and has an electrical conductivity (EC) of approximately 12,000µS/cm and pH of 7.04. There is currently approximately 90ML in PSP which has a storage capacity of approximately 180ML, which is half of the whole site's water management system capacity of 363ML.

In the initial application, APBC anticipated that conditions A9, F3, F6, H1 and H2 may be breached. Given the measures already put in place, it is not expected that these conditions will be breached. These conditions are unlikely to be breached because:

A9: This condition is unlikely to be breached unless there is infrastructure damage caused by TC Debbie.

F3: Monitoring is proposed to be undertaken on Wednesday, after TC Debbie has passed, and the site is deemed safe by the Senior Management Team.

F6: The applicant has stated that measures have already been undertaken as per their site Cyclone Management Plan, including – all loose items, light vehicles, mobile and heavy equipment have been storm parked, tied down or parked up in sheds to prevent any projectiles causing infrastructure damage. Additionally, the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is bunded on a large concrete pad, the tanks have been emptied to low levels and no one is on site so that there is no flow to the STP.

H1: The proposed uncontrolled release of contaminants, is not proposed to be released to land.

H2: The proposed uncontrolled release of contaminants, is not proposed to be released to land.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

EP Act - Chapter 7 Environmental Management Part 4A Temporary emissions licences (s3578A to 357J)

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Section 357B of the EP Act states who may apply for temporary emissions licence.

Does the application state if the application is made in anticipation of an applicable event or in response to an applicable event?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The application is made in response to an applicable event. The applicant has stated that the site will be expecting heavy rainfall and strong winds as a result of TC Debbie, which is expected to cross the Queensland coastline near Mackay on the morning of Tuesday 28 March 2017. The expected rainfall is >400mm over several days, coupled with strong winds (category 4 cyclone).

Was the application made in person to an authorised person or by email or facsimile to the administering authority?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: A signed copy of the application and supporting information was received by Permit and Licence Management (Brisbane) and s.73 irrelevant inf (Manager – Compliance) at 10:32am on 27 March 2017 via email.

Is the application supported by enough information to enable the administering authority to decide the application?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: Additional information was provided after the application was submitted, to support the application.

(See also regulatory requirements below)

Has the appropriate fee been received for the application as prescribed under a regulation?

☐ Yes.

☒ No.

Details: Notice of fees owing (\$2,438.00) will be provided to EA holder, from the Permit and Licence Management team, to allow payment within the 20 day period.

Note:

If the applicant does not pay the fee within the period of at least 20 days stated for payment in a notice given to the applicant by the administering authority, the administering authority may recover it as a debt.

Section 357D of the EP Act states that the administering authority must consider certain criteria when deciding an application.

1. *Does the application describe the extent and impact of the applicable event, including the potential economic impact of granting or not granting the licence?*

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The application states that the applicable event is anticipated to occur, however given the unexpected nature of tropical cyclones, this applicable event may change. Despite this, rainfall is proposed to occur and it is highly likely that it will occur over several days. If the TEL is not granted, conditions F1 and F2 of the EA will most likely be breached and the outcome cannot be prevented.

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2. Does the application describe the character, resilience and values of the receiving environment?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The applicant has described the receiving environment – Lake Caley (of Caley Valley Wetlands), which is ephemeral but can contain water ranging in quality from hypersaline to brackish. The character, resilience and values of the receiving environment are described in 'Kaili (Caley) Valley Wetlands Baseline Report, February 2012' (Caley Valley Wetlands Report).

3. Does the application describe/consider the likelihood of environmental harm and any measures necessary to minimise the harm?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: Given that the applicable event is likely to impact the area surrounding Abbot Point Terminal 1, in addition to the area within Abbot Point Terminal 1, it is unlikely that the impact associated with the water release from W1 can be distinguished from the impacts of the cyclone.

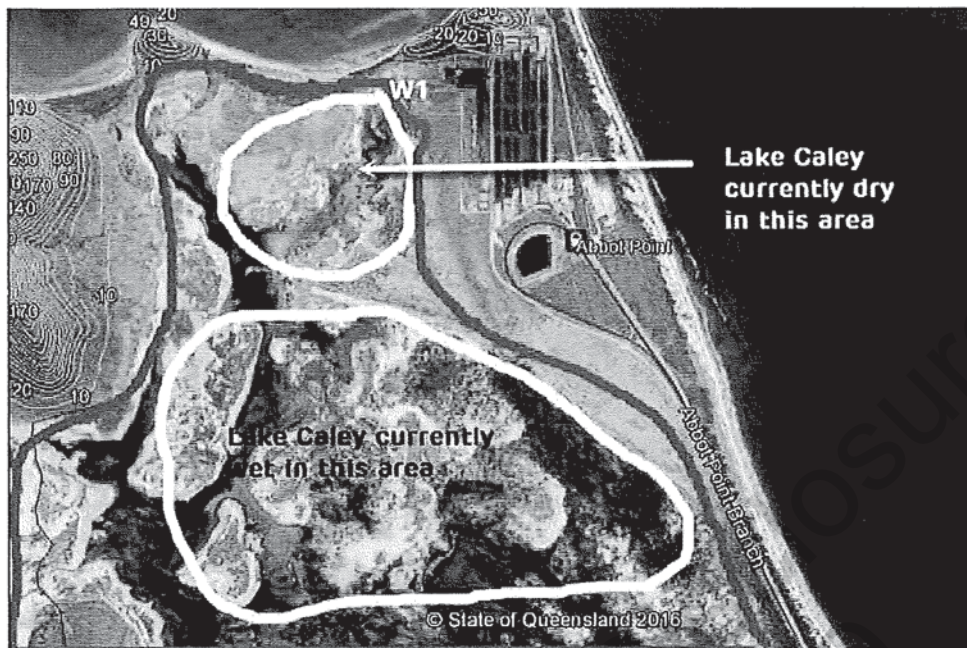
- The proposed limit of 7000µS/cm has been nominated based on the known EC limit of 12,000µS/cm in PSP which is 50% full (~90ML). With the addition of rainfall (~100µS/cm), the EC would dilute to 6,000µS/cm but is not expected to exceed 7,000µS/cm.
- The proposed limit of TSS 100mg/L has been selected because the heavy rainfall would stir up the sediments so that the current limit within the EA (30mg/L) is likely to be exceeded. The heavy rainfall from TC Debbie would also be expected to 'naturally' increase TSS levels within areas of ponded water. The Caley Valley Wetlands Baseline Report states that TSS can be as high as 100mg/L in some areas of the wetlands.
- The remote monitoring station at W1 can measure pH and standing water level in the SSP. The applicant has also stated they will monitor the release according to the proposed TEL conditions when it is safe to do so.
- The applicant has stated that the flow of the release is expected to be slow from W1 (the actual flow rate will be unknown as it depends on the speed of rainfall), and erosion is expected to be minimal given that the spillway at W1 is rock lined and has a low gradient.
- The receiving environment is currently dry, but there are other locations of the wetland that contains water (south). Refer to the image below.

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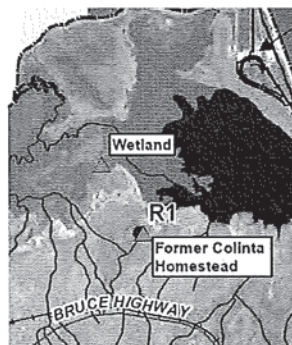
The release of the water offsite through the proposed TEL conditions is expected to mitigate the risks associated with the accumulation of water in storages on site, thus reducing the risk of uncontrolled releases and long term accumulation of contaminants in pit.

4. Does the application describe/consider the likelihood that the release will adversely impact the health, safety or wellbeing of another person?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The proposed breaches of conditions F1 and F2 of the current EA are not likely to impact the health, safety or wellbeing of another person as the receiving environment is the Caley Valley Wetlands, and it is unlikely that any persons will be in the wetland during the time the TEL will be issued for. The closest sensitive receptor is the Former Colinta Homestead (see image below), which is unlikely to be impacted from the release of water from Abbot Point Terminal 1, given that the release of water from W1 will flow westwards (at the northern end of the Caley Valley Wetlands).



5. Does the application describe/consider cumulative impacts?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

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Details: The cumulative impacts from the proposed TEL includes the input of water into Caley Valley Wetlands from the release of water at W1 plus the addition of water from TC Debbie. However, not all water from Abbot Point Terminal 1 will be released offsite, as the site's water management system has a total capacity of 363ML. Given the pH of the water onsite (7.04), the TSS will be high irrespective of the release of water from W1 (because the cyclone will increase TSS naturally in the Caley Valley Wetlands) and that the EC will dilute prior to entering the Caley Valley Wetlands, the cumulative impact is not expected to be high.

6. Does the application describe/consider the public interest?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The release of water offsite is highly likely given the expected rainfall from TC Debbie, so the impacts given the current state of the site, are unavoidable. As such, it is considered in the interest of the public to permit the release of water offsite, rather than have a large volume of water accumulate on site which will continue to deteriorate in quality over time.

7. Is the TEL acceptable in terms of any relevant regulatory requirements?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: There are no relevant regulatory requirements that must be considered; however, consideration has been given to minimising harm to the receiving environment, the situation (TC Debbie), and the quality of the water onsite. It is considered that approval of the TEL, subject to the additional TEL conditions, will ensure that the proposed releases can be undertaken in a manner that protects the environmental values of the receiving waters.

4.0 Decision

Section 357E of the EP Act states that the administering authority must make a decision about the temporary emissions licence.

Is the TEL to be granted as submitted?

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

Details: The applicant did not propose how the specific conditions can be amended, however, the administering authority has considered what is acceptable and determined the conditions required.

*See the attached Notice of Decision for the TEL conditions.

Are conditions being imposed on the temporary emissions licence it considers are necessary or desirable?

☐ Yes.

☒ No.

In approving this TEL, the administering authority has considered that no additional conditions, other than those proposed to be varied, are required.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

Note: Section 357F of the EP Act states that the administering authority must give the applicant an information notice about the decision if the decision is to -

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(Abbot Point Bulk Coal Pty Ltd)



*(a) grant the application on different terms than have been requested in the application; or
(b) refuse the application.*

It is recommended that:

- The TEL be approved; and
- A notice of decision is issued to the applicant.

s.73 irrelevant information

Senior Environmental Officer

Signed:

Date: 27 March 2017

s.73 irrelevant information

Team Leader

Reviewer:

s.73 irrelevant information

Date: 27 March 2017

6.0 DECISION

Please circle:

Approved

Refused

Comments:

s.73 irrelevant information

Manager (Assessment)

Signed:

s.73 irrelevant information

Date: 27 March 2017

File Note

File Reference: 101/0003196

Date: 28 March 2017

File Name: Abbot Point Terminal 1, Abbot Point Bulkcoal Pty Ltd

Subject (Detail): Amendment of a Temporary Emissions Licence, ENEL07198317, EPPR00577113

Abbot Point Bulkcoal Pty Ltd (Abbot Point) applied for a Temporary Emissions Licence (TEL) on 27 March 2017 for environmental authority (EA) EPPR00577113. The administering authority issued the TEL (ENEL07198317) on the same day, which permitted contaminants to be released offsite from release point W1, in anticipation of the impacts expected from Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The applicant contacted the administering authority on 28 March 2017 to amend the TEL ENEL07198317 to include W2 as a release point. Additional information was provided by the applicant to justify the addition of W2 as a release point in the TEL.

The applicant has stated that release point W2 is required, because it is likely that the rain intensity will exceed the rate of the pump, to pump water offsite, and should there be any damage to the pump, the site is likely to be in non-compliance of conditions F1 and F2 of the EA from an uncontrolled release event. These conditions have already been overridden by the TEL issued on 27 March 2017.

Release point W2 is associated with a sump, and has a total suspended solids (TSS) greater than 30mg/L (approximately 500-900mg/L). The pH of the water in the sump is within the limits 6-9 so it is unlikely that the pH limits will be exceeded. The applicant has stated that when there has been a release offsite previously (during other heavy rain events), there have been no coal fines evident on the beach after inspection. Apparently, the water often rises to the limit of the sump with a small amount entering the rock sediment traps which are located on the outside of the boundary fence (off site).

Date: 28/03/17

Author: s.73 irrelevant informa
Position: Senior Environmental Officer
Unit/Office: Business Centre Coal, Emerald
Phone: s.73 irrelevant infor

Reviewer: s.73 irrelevant informatio
Position: Team Leader
Unit/Office: Business Centre Coal, Emerald
Phone: s.73 irrelevant infor

Delegate: s.73 irrelevant infor
Position: Manager
Unit/Office: Business Centre Coal, Emerald
Phone: s.73 irrelevant info

File Note

File Reference: 101/0003196

Date: 28 March 2017

File Name: Abbot Point Terminal 1, Abbot Point Bulkcoal Pty Ltd

Subject (Detail): Amendment of a Temporary Emissions Licence, ENEL07198317, EPPR00577113

Abbot Point Bulkcoal Pty Ltd (Abbot Point) applied for a Temporary Emissions Licence (TEL) on 27 March 2017 for environmental authority (EA) EPPR00577113. The administering authority issued the TEL (ENEL07198317) on the same day, which permitted contaminants to be released offsite from release point W1, in anticipation of the impacts expected from Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The applicant contacted the administering authority on 28 March 2017 to amend the TEL ENEL07198317 to include W2 as a release point. Additional information was provided by the applicant to justify the addition of W2 as a release point in the TEL.

The applicant has stated that release point W2 is required, because it is likely that the rain intensity will exceed the rate of the pump, to pump water offsite, and should there be any damage to the pump, the site is likely to be in non-compliance of conditions F1 and F2 of the EA from an uncontrolled release event. These conditions have already been overridden by the TEL issued on 27 March 2017.

Release point W2 is associated with a sump, and has a total suspended solids (TSS) greater than 30mg/L (approximately 500-900mg/L). The pH of the water in the sump is within the limits 6-9 so it is unlikely that the pH limits will be exceeded. The applicant has stated that when there has been a release offsite previously (during other heavy rain events), there have been no coal fines evident on the beach after inspection. Apparently, the water often rises to the limit of the sump with a small amount entering the rock sediment traps which are located on the outside of the boundary fence (off site).

Date: 28/03/17

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