

EPA permissions - Heywood

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) permission framework is a tiered system, with licences, permits and registrations being required for different types of activities based on the level of risk to human health and the environment.

What permissions do we need?

The project involves activities **that must follow environmental protection laws**. Because of their potential impact, they are classified as "prescribed permission activities" under the Environment Protection Regulations. These activities need EPA permission before the project can begin and operate.

The two licences relevant to the project are:

Development licence/development licence exemption

A development licence is required for the design, construction, or modification of prescribed activities and must be obtained before any such works begin, as outlined in section 44 of the Environment Protection Act.

However, under certain conditions, a development licence exemption may be granted if the applicant can demonstrate that risks to human health and the environment are eliminated or reduced so far as reasonably practicable, and that any residual risks are acceptable. This includes having a robust risk management and monitoring program, engaging with the community, and addressing any concerns raised.

Approval for the water desalination activity will be sought through a development licence exemption application. The approval for the discharge via the sewage treatment plant will be a development licence application but an exemption may be feasible following detailed assessment of the risks which are expected to be low. We will liaise with EPA regarding this.

Operating licence

An operating licence will be required to enable operations. This will be sought after construction and commissioning has occurred in accordance with the development licence exemption.

What prescribed activities are involved?

Sewage treatment

Treating, discharging or depositing sewage (including sullage) when the flow rate is **more than 5,000 litres per day**.

Why is permission required?

Because sewage treatment at this scale can impact water, land and human health if not properly managed.

Water desalination

Removing salt from water (desalination) for drinking or other uses, when the system processes more than 1 megalitre (ML) of feed water per day.

Why is permission required?

Desalination uses energy and produces brine waste, which can affect the environment if not managed correctly.

Why this matters

These permissions ensure:

- ✓ Activities are designed to protect the environment and public health.
- ✓ The project meets strict EPA standards before and during operation.
- ✓ The community is informed and involved.

