



Mr Phil Mellon (Chair) and Mr Andrew Marshall
Torbay Catchment Group
PO Box 1900
ALBANY WA 6331

Dear Mr Mellon and Mr Marshall

ALBANY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Thank you for your letter dated 24 September 2009 on behalf of the Torbay Catchment Group regarding the controlled release of treated wastewater by the Water Corporation from the Albany Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam No. 2 into the Seven Mile Creek.

The Water Corporation holds a licence for its Albany Wastewater Treatment Plant under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for the treatment and storage of sewage, and the disposal of treated water via irrigation of trees located at Gunn Road. The licence does not permit the discharge of wastewater to the Seven Mile Creek or elsewhere.

As you are aware, the Seven Mile Creek, which starts within the Water Corporation's tree farm site and flows into Lake Powell, is a nature reserve managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In 2008, DEC requested that the Water Corporation develop alternative creek discharge mitigation strategies, after it had identified that storage at the facility may be inadequate.

DEC has not approved any exemptions for the Water Corporation in relation to the discharge of wastewater into the Torbay catchment. In the case that an unauthorised discharge is identified, DEC will investigate the discharge and consider appropriate action.

Currently, DEC is considering an amendment to the Water Corporation's licence to require upgrade works to increase storage capacity and/or wastewater re-use options to ensure that no further off-site discharges occur. Any proposed amendments to the licence will be advertised, at which time there will be an opportunity for your group and other interested parties to make a submission. DEC will consider all submissions before it issues the amended licence.

I trust this information is of assistance and appreciate the ongoing work of the Torbay Catchment Group in the efforts to reduce nutrients entering the catchment.

Yours sincerely

Robert Atkins
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

4 November 2009