

Environment Protection Authority

## Environment Protection Licence

Section 55 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

- Licence number: 10858
- File number: 251395
- Licence Anniversary Date: 13-March
- Review date not later than 13-Mar-2005

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**Licence Type**

Premises

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**Licensee**

NAMOI COTTON CO-OPERATIVE LTD  
PO BOX 58  
WEE WAA NSW 2388

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**Licensed Premises**

MULL VALE COTTON GIN  
RING PLAINS ROAD  
WEE WAA NSW 2388

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**Fee Based Activity**

Other Agricultural Crop Processing (3)

**Scale**

> 30000 - 100000 T processed

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**EPA Region**

Northern Tablelands  
Level 1, NSW Govt Offices, 85 Faulkner Street  
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Phone: 02 6773 7000  
Fax: 02 6772 2336

PO Box 494 ARMIDALE  
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## Information about this licence

### Dictionary

The licence contains a dictionary, which defines terms used in the licence. It is found at the end of the licence.

### Responsibilities of licensee

Separate to the requirements of this licence, general obligations of licensees are set out in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 ("the Act") and the Regulations made under the Act. These include obligations to:

- Ensure persons associated with you comply with this licence, as set out in section 64 of the Act.
- Control the pollution of waters and the pollution of air (see for example sections 120 - 132 of the Act).
- Report incidents causing or threatening material environmental harm to the environment, as set out in Part 5.7 of the Act.

### Transfer of licence

Transfer of the licence to another person may be requested by the licensee using the form for this purpose available from the EPA.

### Variation of licence conditions

Variations to the conditions of this licence may be requested by the licensee using the form for this purpose available from the EPA. The EPA may also vary a licence at any time by written notice without an application being made.

Where a licence has been granted in relation to development which was assessed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in accordance with the procedures applying to integrated development, the EPA may not impose conditions which are inconsistent with the development consent conditions until the licence is first reviewed under Part 3.6 of the Act.

### Duration of licence

This licence will remain in force until the licence is surrendered by the licence holder or until it is suspended or revoked by the EPA or the Minister. A licence may only be surrendered with the written approval of the EPA.

### Licence review

The Act requires that the EPA review your licence at least every 3 years after the issue of the licence, as

set out in Part 3.6 of the Act. You will receive advance notice of the licence review. For licences held immediately before 1 July 1999, the first review will take place before 1 July 2002.

### **Fees and annual return to be sent to the EPA**

The licence requires you to forward to the EPA an Annual Return, comprising a Statement of Compliance and a summary of any monitoring required by the licence (including the recording of complaints).

The Annual Return must be submitted within 60 days after the end of each reporting period. Where a licence is transferred, surrendered or revoked, a special reporting period applies.

For each licence fee period you must pay:

- an administrative fee; and
- a load-based fee (if applicable).

Usually the licence fee period is the same as the reporting period.

See condition R1 and the accompanying form regarding the Annual Return requirements.

The EPA publication "A Guide to Licensing" contains information about how to calculate your licence fees.

### **Public register and access to monitoring data**

Part 9.5 of the Act requires the EPA to keep a public register of details and decisions of the EPA in relation to, for example:

- licence applications
- licence conditions and variations
- statements of compliance

Under s320 of the Act application can be made to the EPA for access to monitoring data which has been submitted to the EPA by licensees.

Licence anniversary date

13-March

This licence is issued to

**NAMOI COTTON CO-OPERATIVE LTD**  
**PO BOX 58**  
**WEE WAA NSW 2388**

subject to the conditions which follow:

# 1 Administrative conditions

## A1 What the licence authorises and regulates

A1.1 Not applicable.

A1.2 This licence authorises the carrying out of the scheduled activities listed below at the premises specified in A2. The activities are listed according to their scheduled activity classification, fee-based activity classification and the scale of the operation.

Unless otherwise further restricted by a condition of this licence, the scale at which the activity is carried out must not exceed the maximum scale specified in this condition.

Scheduled Activity
Agricultural Produce Industries

Fee Based Activity	Scale
Other Agricultural Crop Processing (3)	> 30000 - 100000 T produced

A1.3 Not applicable.

## A2 Premises to which this licence applies

A2.1 The licence applies to the following premises:

Premises Details
MYALL VALE COTTON GIN
SPRING PLAINS ROAD
WEE WAA
NSW
2388
LOT 18 DP 736701, PARISH OF QUEEBRI,
COUNTY OF JAMISON

**Premises Details**

**A3 Other activities**

A3.1 Not applicable.

**A4 Information supplied to the EPA**

A4.1 Works and activities must be carried out in accordance with the proposal contained in the licence application, except as expressly provided by a condition of this licence.

In this condition the reference to "the licence application" includes a reference to:

- (a) the applications for any licences (including former pollution control approvals) which this licence replaces under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 1998 and
- (b) the licence information form provided by the licensee to the EPA to assist the EPA in connection with the issuing of this licence.

**2 Discharges to air and water and applications to land**

**P1 Location of monitoring/discharge points and areas**

P1.1 The following points referred to in the table below are identified in this licence for the purposes of monitoring and/or the setting of limits for the emission of pollutants to the air from the point.

*Air*

EPA Identification no.	Type of Monitoring Point	Type of Discharge Point	Description of Location
1		Discharge to air	Cyclone rack - No. 1 pull fan. Eastern side of gin.
2		Discharge to air	Cyclone rack - No. 2 pull fan. Eastern side of gin.
3		Discharge to air	Cyclone rack - No. 3 pull fan. Eastern side of gin.
4		Discharge to air	Cyclone rack - No. 4 pull fan. Eastern side of gin.
5		Discharge to air	Dust house. Northern side of gin.
6		Discharge to air	Seed bin cyclone. Western side of gin.
7		Discharge to air	Trash bin cyclone. Eastern side of gin.

P1.2 The following points referred to in the table are identified in this licence for the purposes of the monitoring and/or the setting of limits for discharges of pollutants to water from the point.

P1.3 The following utilisation areas referred to in the table below are identified in this licence for the purposes of the monitoring and/or the setting of limits for any application of solids or liquids to the utilisation area.

*Water and land*

EPA Identification no.	Type of monitoring point	Type of discharge point	Description of location
8	Discharge quality and volume monitoring		Pump station discharging to floodplain. Pump station located to northwest corner of module yard.
9	Discharge quality and volume monitoring		Pump station discharging to neighbour property water supply channel. Pump station located to northwest corner of module yard.

### 3 Limit conditions

#### L1 Pollution of waters

L1.1 Except as may be expressly provided in any other condition of this licence, the licensee must comply with section 120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.



**L2 Load limits**

L2.1 Not applicable.

L2.2 Not applicable.

**L3 Concentration limits**

L3.1 Not applicable.

L3.2 Not applicable.

L3.3 Not applicable.

**L4 Volume and mass limits**

L4.1 Not applicable.

**L5 Waste**

L5.1 The licensee must not cause, permit or allow any waste generated outside the premises to be received at the premises for storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal or any waste generated at the premises to be disposed of at the premises, except as expressly permitted by the licence.

L5.2 This condition only applies to the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of waste at the premises if those activities require an environment protection licence.

**L6 Noise Limits**

L6.1 Not applicable.

**4 Operating conditions**

**O1 Activities must be carried out in a competent manner**

O1.1 Licensed activities must be carried out in a competent manner.  
This includes:

- (a) the processing, handling, movement and storage of materials and substances used to carry out the activity; and
- (b) the treatment, storage, processing, reprocessing, transport and disposal of waste generated by the activity.

## **O2 Maintenance of plant and equipment**

- O2.1 All plant and equipment installed at the premises or used in connection with the licensed activity:
- (a) must be maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
  - (b) must be operated in a proper and efficient manner.

## **O3 Dust Control**

- O3.1 All operations and activities occurring at the premises must be carried out in a manner that will minimise the emission of dust from the premises.
- O4 There must be no incineration or burning of any waste at the premises.

# **5 Monitoring and recording conditions**

## **M1 Monitoring records**

- M1.1 The results of any monitoring required to be conducted by this licence or a load calculation protocol must be recorded and retained as set out in this condition.
- M1.2 All records required to be kept by this licence must be:
- (a) in a legible form, or in a form that can readily be reduced to a legible form;
  - (b) kept for at least 4 years after the monitoring or event to which they relate took place; and
  - (c) produced in a legible form to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see them.
- M1.3 The following records must be kept in respect of any samples required to be collected for the purposes of this licence:
- (a) the date(s) on which the sample was taken;
  - (b) the time(s) at which the sample was collected;
  - (c) the point at which the sample was taken; and
  - (d) the name of the person who collected the sample.

## **M2 Requirement to monitor concentration of pollutants discharged**

- M2.1 For each monitoring/discharge point or utilisation area specified below (by a point number), the licensee must monitor (by sampling and obtaining results by analysis) the concentration of each pollutant specified in Column 1. The licensee must use the sampling method, units of measure, and sample at the frequency, specified opposite in the other columns:

*Water and Land***POINTS 8,9**

Pollutant	Units of measure	Frequency	Sampling Method
Pesticides	ug/L	Special Frequency 1	Representative sample
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Special Frequency 1	Representative sample
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	Special Frequency 1	Representative sample
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Special Frequency 1	Representative sample

**Special Frequency 1** means that for each discharge event monitoring is to be undertaken within the first hour of discharge, and then daily during the discharge.

**M3 Testing methods - concentration limits**

M3.1 Not applicable.

M3.2 Subject to any express provision to the contrary in this licence, monitoring for the concentration of a pollutant discharged to waters or applied to a utilisation area must be done in accordance with the Approved Methods Publication unless another method has been approved by the EPA in writing before any tests are conducted.

**M4 Recording of pollution complaints**

M4.1 The licensee must keep a legible record of all complaints made to the licensee or any employee or agent of the licensee in relation to pollution arising from any activity to which this licence applies.

M4.2 The record must include details of the following:

- (a) the date and time of the complaint;
- (b) the method by which the complaint was made;
- (c) any personal details of the complainant which were provided by the complainant or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect;
- (d) the nature of the complaint;
- (e) the action taken by the licensee in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant; and
- (f) if no action was taken by the licensee, the reasons why no action was taken.

M4.3 The record of a complaint must be kept for at least 4 years after the complaint was made.

M4.4 The record must be produced to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see them.

**M5 Telephone complaints line**

M5.1 The licensee must operate during its operating hours a telephone complaints line for the purpose of receiving any complaints from members of the public in relation to activities conducted at the premises or by the vehicle or mobile plant, unless otherwise specified in the licence.

- M5.2 The licensee must notify the public of the complaints line telephone number and the fact that it is a complaints line so that the impacted community knows how to make a complaint.
- M5.3 Conditions M5.1 and M5.2 do not apply until 3 months after:
- the date of the issue of this licence or
  - if this licence is a replacement licence within the meaning of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 1998, the date on which a copy of the licence was served on the licensee under clause 10 of that regulation.

## M6 Requirement to monitor volume or mass

- M6.1 For each discharge point or utilisation area specified below, the licensee must monitor:
- the volume of liquids discharged to water or applied to the area;
  - the mass of solids applied to the area;
  - the mass of pollutants emitted to the air;

at the frequency and using the method and units of measure, specified below.

### POINTS 8,9

Frequency	Unit Of Measure	Sampling Method
Daily during any discharge	ML/day	No method specified

## 6 Reporting conditions

### R1 Annual return documents

#### What documents must an Annual Return contain?

- R1.1 The licensee must complete and supply to the EPA an Annual Return in the approved form comprising:
- a Statement of Compliance; and
  - a Monitoring and Complaints Summary.
- A copy of the form in which the Annual Return must be supplied to the EPA accompanies this licence. Before the end of each reporting period, the EPA will provide to the licensee a copy of the form that must be completed and returned to the EPA.

#### Period covered by Annual Return

- R1.2 An Annual Return must be prepared in respect of each reporting period, except as provided below.

Note: The term "reporting period" is defined in the dictionary at the end of this licence. Do not complete the Annual Return until after the end of the reporting period.

- R1.3 Where this licence is transferred from the licensee to a new licensee,

- (a) the transferring licensee must prepare an Annual Return for the period commencing on the first day of the reporting period and ending on the date the application for the transfer of the licence to the new licensee is granted; and
- (b) the new licensee must prepare an Annual Return for the period commencing on the date the application for the transfer of the licence is granted and ending on the last day of the reporting period.

Note: An application to transfer a licence must be made in the approved form for this purpose.

- R1.4 Where this licence is surrendered by the licensee or revoked by the EPA or Minister, the licensee must prepare an Annual Return in respect of the period commencing on the first day of the reporting period and ending on
- (a) in relation to the surrender of a licence - the date when notice in writing of approval of the surrender is given; or
  - (b) in relation to the revocation of the licence - the date from which notice revoking the licence operates.

### **Deadline for Annual Return**

- R1.5 The Annual Return for the reporting period must be supplied to the EPA by registered post not later than 60 days after the end of each reporting period or in the case of a transferring licence not later than 60 days after the date the transfer was granted (the 'due date').

### **Notification where actual load can not be calculated**

- R1.6 Not applicable.

### **Licensee must retain copy of Annual Return**

- R1.7 The licensee must retain a copy of the Annual Return supplied to the EPA for a period of at least 4 years after the Annual Return was due to be supplied to the EPA.

### **Certifying of Statement of Compliance and Signing of Monitoring and Complaints Summary**

- R1.8 Within the Annual Return, the Statement of Compliance must be certified and the Monitoring and Complaints Summary must be signed by:
- (a) the licence holder; or
  - (b) by a person approved in writing by the EPA to sign on behalf of the licence holder.

- R1.9 A person who has been given written approval to certify a certificate of compliance under a licence issued under the Pollution Control Act 1970 is taken to be approved for the purpose of this condition until the date of first review of this licence.

## **R2 Notification of environmental harm**

Note: The licensee or its employees must notify the EPA of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment as soon as practicable after the person becomes aware of the incident in accordance with the requirements of Part 5.7 of the Act.

- R2.1 Notifications must be made by telephoning the EPA's Pollution Line service on 131 555.

R2.2 The licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within 7 days of the date on which the incident occurred.

### **R3 Written report**

- R3.1 Where an authorised officer of the EPA suspects on reasonable grounds that:
- (a) where this licence applies to premises, an event has occurred at the premises; or
  - (b) where this licence applies to vehicles or mobile plant, an event has occurred in connection with the carrying out of the activities authorised by this licence,
- and the event has caused, is causing or is likely to cause material harm to the environment (whether the harm occurs on or off premises to which the licence applies), the authorised officer may request a written report of the event.
- R3.2 The licensee must make all reasonable inquiries in relation to the event and supply the report to the EPA within such time as may be specified in the request.
- R3.3 The request may require a report which includes any or all of the following information:
- (a) the cause, time and duration of the event;
  - (b) the type, volume and concentration of every pollutant discharged as a result of the event;
  - (c) the name, address and business hours telephone number of employees or agents of the licensee, or a specified class of them, who witnessed the event; and
  - (d) the name, address and business hours telephone number of every other person (of whom the licensee is aware) who witnessed the event, unless the licensee has been unable to obtain that information after making reasonable effort;
  - (e) action taken by the licensee in relation to the event, including any follow-up contact with any complainants;
  - (f) details of any measure taken or proposed to be taken to prevent or mitigate against a recurrence of such an event;
  - (g) any other relevant matters.
- R3.4 The EPA may make a written request for further details in relation to any of the above matters if it is not satisfied with the report provided by the licensee. The licensee must provide such further details to the EPA within the time specified in the request.

## **General conditions**

### **G1 Copy of licence kept at the premises**

- G1.1 A copy of this licence must be kept at the premises to which the licence applies.
- G1.2 The licence must be produced to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see it.
- G1.3 The licence must be available for inspection by any employee or agent of the licensee working at

the premises.

## Pollution studies and reduction programs

## Special conditions

## Dictionary

### General Dictionary

In this licence, unless the contrary is indicated, the terms below have the following meanings:

<b>3DGM [In relation to a concentration limit]</b>	Means the three day geometric mean, which is calculated by multiplying the results of the analysis of three samples collected on consecutive days and then taking the cubed root of that amount. Where one or more of the samples is zero or below the detection limit for the analysis, then 1 or the detection limit respectively should be used in place of those samples
<b>Act</b>	Means the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>activity</b>	Means a scheduled or non-scheduled activity within the meaning of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>actual load</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998
<b>AMG</b>	Australian Map Grid
<b>anniversary date</b>	The anniversary date is the anniversary each year of the date of issue of the licence. In the case of a licence continued in force by the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the date of issue of the licence is the first anniversary of the date of issue or last renewal of the licence following the commencement of the Act.
<b>annual return</b>	Is defined in R1.1
<b>Approved Methods Publication</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998
<b>assessable pollutants</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998
<b>BOD</b>	Means biochemical oxygen demand
<b>COD</b>	Means chemical oxygen demand
<b>composite sample</b>	Unless otherwise specifically approved in writing by the EPA, a sample consisting of 24 individual samples collected at hourly intervals and each having an equivalent volume.
<b>cond.</b>	Means conductivity
<b>environment</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>environment protection legislation</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991

<b>EPA</b>	Means Environment Protection Authority of New South Wales.
<b>fee-based activity classification</b>	Means the numbered short descriptions in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998.
<b>flow weighted composite sample</b>	Means a sample whose composites are sized in proportion to the flow at each composites time of collection.
<b>grab sample</b>	Means a single sample taken at a point at a single time
<b>hazardous waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>industrial waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>inert waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>licensee</b>	Means the licence holder described at the front of this licence
<b>load calculation protocol</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998
<b>local authority</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>material harm</b>	Has the same meaning as in section 147 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>MBAS</b>	Means methylene blue active substances
<b>Minister</b>	Means the Minister administering the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>mobile plant</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>motor vehicle</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>O&amp;G</b>	Means oil and grease
<b>percentile [In relation to a concentration limit of a sample]</b>	Means that percentage [eg.50%] of the number of samples taken that must meet the concentration limit specified in the licence for that pollutant over a specified period of time. In this licence, the specified period of time is the Reporting Period unless otherwise stated in this licence.
<b>plant</b>	Includes all plant within the meaning of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 as well as motor vehicles.
<b>pollution of waters [or water pollution]</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>premises</b>	Means the premises described in condition A2.1
<b>public authority</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>regional office</b>	Means the relevant EPA office referred to in the Contacting the EPA document accompanying this licence
<b>reporting period</b>	For the purposes of this licence, the reporting period means the period of 12 months after the issue of the licence, and each subsequent period of 12 months. In the case of a licence continued in force by the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the date of issue of the licence is the first anniversary of the date of issue or last renewal of the licence following the commencement of the Act.
<b>reprocessing of waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>scheduled activity</b>	Means an activity listed in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997



<b>solid waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>treatment of waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>TSP</b>	Means total suspended particles
<b>TSS</b>	Means total suspended solids
<b>utilisation area</b>	Means any area shown as a utilisation area on a map submitted with the application for this licence
<b>waste</b>	Has the same meaning as in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
<b>waste code</b>	Means the waste codes listed in Appendix 5 of the EPA document A Guide to Licensing Part B.
<b>waste type</b>	Means Group A, Group B, Group C, inert, solid, industrial or hazardous waste

Mr David Dutailis

Head Regional Operations Unit

(By Delegation)

13-Mar-2002

## End Notes