AWS-000322**ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP   
Audit Report**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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| **Client name** | Renmark Paringa Council |
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| **Audit date/s** | 6th and 7th September 2021 |
|  |  |
| **Audit location** | Renmark, South Australia |
|  |  |
| **Audit report completed by** | Graeme Lea |
|  |  |
| **Proposed date of next audit:** | September 2022 |

**Introduction to the Alliance for Water Stewardship**

The AWS Standard (“the Standard”) is intended to drive water stewardship, which is defined as *the use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site- and catchment-based actions.* Good water stewards understand their own water use, catchment context and shared concerns in terms of water governance, water balance, water quality and Important Water-Related Areas, then engage in meaningful individual and collective actions that benefit people and nature.

The Standard outlines a series of actions, criteria and indicators for how one should manage water at the site level and how water management should be stewarded beyond the boundaries of a site. In this Standard, the “site” refers to the implementing entity that is responsible for fulfilling the criteria. The site includes the facility and the property over which the implementer that is using or managing water (i.e., withdrawing, consuming, diverting, managing, treating and/or discharging water or effluent into the environment) has control.

The current [AWS Standard is Version 2.0](https://a4ws.org/the-aws-standard-2-0/download-the-aws-standard-2-0/) launched on 22nd March 2019.

**Disclaimer**The BM TRADA audit was based on a sampling approach and therefore non conformities may exist which have not been identified. A copy of this report shall be distributed to the certified client and to BM TRADA. The ownership of this audit report is maintained by BM TRADA. BM TRADA shall keep confidential all information relating to the audit and your organisation and shall not disclose such information to any third party except as required by law of by Accreditation Bodies. BM TRADA assumes no responsibility (legal or otherwise) or accepts no liability to any person(s) for any loss, damage or expense caused by reliance on information provided in this audit report.

**Guidance on BM TRADA nonconformities issued against the AWS standard requirements**Details of all nonconformities issued at the audit are contained in separate nonconformity reports and should have been presented to you at the closing meeting.   
  
Please send all nonconformity responses to your auditor for review. We will contact you if further submission is required.   
  
Audit finding shall be assigned (or ‘graded’) into one of three categories: major non-conformity, minor non-conformity, and observation.

**Major Non-Conformities**

A major non-conformity is raised if:

* The issue represents a systematic problem of substantial consequence;
* The issue is a known and recurring problem that the client has failed to resolve;
* The issue fundamentally undermines the intent of the AWS Standard; or
* The nature of the problem may jeopardize the credibility of AWS.

All major non-conformities must satisfactorily address by the client within thirty **(30)** days.

**Minor Non-Conformities**

Where the audit team has evaluated an audit finding and determines that the seriousness of the issue does not meet the any of the criteria for major non-compliance the audit team shall grade the finding as a minor non-conformity.

All minor non-conformities must satisfactorily address by the client within thirty **(90)** days unless an alternative timeframe, supported by written justification, has otherwise been agreed with the CAB.

2.9.3 For certificate holders, the CAB shall require that minor non-conformities are satisfactorily addressed within ninety **(90)** days

If corrective actions are inadequate to resolve a minor non-conformity by the time of the next scheduled audit, the CAB shall upgrade the audit finding to a major non-conformity.

**All other finding that are not major or minor non – conformities can be raised as observations.**

BM TRADA is unable to issue an AWS certificate of approval until all non-conformities are verified and closed.   
  
**Failure to address and close nonconformities within required timescales will result in suspension of certification.**Your auditor will clarify at the closing meeting if you require a follow up audit to verify correction and corrective action implementation or if documentary evidence will be acceptable to close the nonconformity.

***Note: non-conformity will hereinafter be referred to as NCR.***

**1. Client and Certificate Details**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Address of certified operation** | Renmark Paringa Council  61 Eighteenth St  Renmark  SA 5341 | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| **Management representative** | Myles Fauser | **Job  title** | Environmental officer | |
|  |  | | | |
| **Email address** | eo@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au | **Phone number** | +61 458669717 | |
|  |  | | | |
| **AWS Registration #** | AWS-000322 | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| **Certificate Number** | Pending | **Date of first certification** | | Pending |
|  | | | | |
| **Current Certificate start date:** |  | **Current Certificate  expiry date** | |  |
|  |  | | | |

**2. Details of Audit & Scope of Certification**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Audit type:** | Certification  Surveillance  Recertification | |
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| **Audit team  and roles:** | Graeme Lea – Lead Auditor  Dr Julian Whiting – Catchment Expert | |
|  |  | |
| **Standard:** | The AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version V 2.0 | |
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| **Scope of certification:** | AWS Standard V2-0 | |
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| **Operations covered by scope of certification:** | Renmark Paringa Council scope of operations, water user, treat water and supply of water to domestic and industrial users in the Renmark Paringa Council operational area. | |
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| **Other certification scheme/s this company is certified for:** | Nil | |

**Outsourcing:**Does the client outsource operations or activities within the scope to independent third parties? \*  
\*Activities of suppliers to the operation are not considered outsourcing.

Yes RPC outsource cleaning of community facilities (toilets etc), waste collection (Refer to Section 2.5 of the RPC AWS Plan)  No



**3. Executive Summary**

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| --- | --- |
| **Main items / Critical Control Points / Places inspected  (including names & affiliations of people consulted)** | **Number of  NCRs** |
| Renmark Paringa Council offices – Renmark  NCR #1 Clause1.5.2 classified as a Minor NCR  NCR #2 Clause 3.2.1 Minor  NCR #3 Clause 4.1.1 Minor  NCR #4 Clause 4.2.1 Minor  NCR #5 Clause 4.3.1 Minor  NCR #6 Clause 4.3.2 Minor | 6 |
| Municipal Gardens and parks -waste water applied | 0 |
| Ral Ral Floodplain – currently being watered and Ral Ral Bridge Flood plain -currently having first environmental watering | 0 |
| Bookmark Creek – Fish passage installed and Bookmark Creek North – new environmental watering site. First environmental watering carried out 2021  Bookmark Creek Main Basin – due for environmental watering in 2022 | 0 |
| Warrego Street -currently being watered | 0 |
| Renmark Paringa Wastewater Management Scheme | 0 |
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**Were there any NCR(s) issued at the previous audit?**  Yes  No

**Allocation of points and Lead Auditor Recommendations**

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| --- | --- |
| **Total number of points awarded to site \*collated number from end of report** | 79 |
|  |  |
| **Recommended level of certification** | Gold |

**Note:** the above recommendation is subject to review and (continued) Certification / Recertification decision.

**Allocation of Points**The audit team shall complete the allocation of points within thirty **(30)** days of completion of the on-site audit and, in any event, before finalizing the assessment report.

Where a client has one or more unresolved major nonconformity, the audit team shall not allocate points to any advanced-level indicators.

Prior to allocating points, the audit team shall review the assessment results to confirm that the client has met all core indicators.

Where one or more minor non-conformity has been raised against core indicators, the audit team should consider the adequacy of corrective action plans submitted by the client when applying.

Audit teams shall award points in accordance with the indicator-specific point allocation system given in the AWS Standard.

Certification level shall be determined based on the total sum of points awarded, in any combination, to all advanced-level indicators.

Thresholds for the three (3) AWS certification levels are given below.

***Thresholds for AWS Certification Levels.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Point Total** | **AWS Certification Level** |
| 0 to 39 | AWS Core Certified |
| 40 to 79 | AWS Gold Certified |
| 80 or greater | AWS Platinum Certified |

**4. Audit Observations, Findings and Conclusions**

**Description of Operation and Catchment**

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| --- | --- |
| **Company History** | Renmark Paringa Council covers an area of approximately 407 square kilometres and is home to approx. 10,000 residents. The Council was formed in 1996 after the amalgamation of the Corporation of the Town of Renmark and the District Council of Paringa. The area has three major settlements being Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup.  The Renmark Paringa economy is centred on irrigated primary production, with viticulture being the major industry, supported by an expanding citrus and almond industry with stone fruit and vegetables. Dry land farming is also a major primary industry in the district. Tourism plays a major part in our economy with the River Murray the predominant tourist attraction. |
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| **Processes** | All water related activities – wastewater management, irrigation of public spaces, water supply and water use to residents and industrial users, stormwater infrastructure management and effluent and wastewater management |
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| **Facilities** | See Pages 10-14 (Section 2.1.2) of the RPC AWS Plan for a detailed list of council facilities  There is approximately 70km of pipe assets, including 14.5km of rising mains, 676 flushing points, 2305 inspection points, 9 maintenance pits, 3 sumps and 33 pumping stations within the Renmark Paringa Council area.  Council also own and maintain two Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP), one in Renmark, and one in Paringa.  There are 33 pumping stations in the Renmark effluent collection area deliver approximately 0.8ML/day (or 292ML pa) to the WWTP. The Renmark WWTP, which was upgraded in 1997 tto produce Class B quality treated water, provides treated wastewater to 22 hectares of Council public open space (with SA Health and EPA approvals). Council also supplies 150ML per year to the Renmark Golf Club and 5ML to the Renmark Primary School (on a commercial basis).  The wastewater treatment process at both plants comprises a conventional activated sludge process combined with a sequenced batch reaction process. The treated effluent undergoes chlorine disinfection before transfer to recycled water storage and subsequent irrigation use. |
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| **Number of Employees** | 21 FTE |
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| **Other Information** | The site contact for matters arising relating to AWS implementation is Myles Fauser Environmental officer)  The scope of the assessment was a certification evaluation to the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version V 2.0 and included an opening meeting, staff interviews, documentation reviews and site visits to the following environmental sites: Renmark Municipal Gardens and Parks, Ral Ral and Ral Ral Bridge flood plains, Bookmark Creek, Bookmark Creek North and Bookmark Creek Main Basin sites, Warrego Street environmental watering site and the Renmark Paringa Wastewater Management and a closing meeting where NCRs and the next steps in the process were discussed.   |  | | --- | | Shared Water Challenges are described in the RIT Water Stewardship Plan and are summarised as: Water access, water scarcity, water quality, sanitation and hygiene, water prices, access to water for recreational activities, climate change, natural resource management, and water for the environment, rehabilitating floodplains, ecological health, Salinity, cultural values. Being a water smart and sustainable community. Shared water challenges are also influenced by the Sphere of influence also described in the RIT Water Stewardship Plan. | |
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| **Catchment Narrative  (from discussions with catchment expert)** | Renmark Paringa Council (RPC) is located next to the South Australian border with Victoria, in the Riverland. It covers an area of approximately 900 km2, as shown in Figure 1, with three major settlements (Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup) and approximately 10,000 residents. Maps of these settlements are presented in Figures 2 to 4.  The River Murray is intrinsically important to the Renmark Paringa community as an ecosystem, drinking water supply source, and recreational and tourism resource. Water quality management in the Murray–Darling Basin is important not only for the RPC area but for the whole of South Australia.  The RPC area includes approximately 125 km of the River Murray, and its economy centred on irrigated primary production. Viticulture is the major industry, supported by an expanding citrus and almond industry along with stone fruit and vegetables. Dryland farming is also a major primary industry in the RPC area.  The key water resource catchments in the RPC area are represented by the River Murray channel and many creeks, channels, lagoons, billabongs, swamps and lakes, which become flooded when river levels are high. The RPC recognise the need to protect the River Murray and to ensure that it remains healthy while balancing the need to progress a vibrant economy through the sustainable use of the earth. The *Sustainable Rivers Audit 2* (released by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in 2012) reported the overall ecosystem health of the lower River Murray valley was poor. It is important that all users of the River Murray focus on actions to improve the health of the River and its catchment.  The RPC show great pride in the way they present public open space, parks and recreation areas, and the use of and care for its water resources are central to this.  The complete water catchment narrative is available in the enclosed attachment |

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| **STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND**  ***Gather data to understand shared water challenges and water risks, impacts and opportunities***    Intent: To ensure that the site gathers data on its water use and its catchment context and that the site uses these data to understand its shared water challenges as well as its contributions (both positive and negative) to these challenges, water risks, impacts, and opportunities. This information also informs the development of the site’s water stewardship strategy and plan (Step 2) and guides the actions (Step 3) necessary to fulfil the site’s commitments. | | | | |
| **Criteria** |  | **Indicators** | **Response Area** | **Points Allocated** |
| 1.1 Gather information to define the site’s physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including:   * its operational boundaries; * the water sources from which the site draws; * the locations to which the site returns its discharges;   the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant. | 1.1.1 | The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:  Site boundaries; Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization; Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source; Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies; Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water. | Site maps are clearly seen in the RPC Water Stewardship Plan (section 2.1.1, page 9)  Section 2.1.4 of the plan shows geographical context and broader council areas.  Also reviewed the RPC Council website: renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/about us that includes council boundary/local government geographical responsibilities areas.  Section 2.1.3 of the plan shows the RPC wastewater and effluent discharge systems, piping network, inlet points treatment plants and community wastewater scheme pipes.  The auditor also confirmed that irrigation system maps are available for review from the RPC in Renmark as it is not digitised |  |
| 1.2 Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site’s ability to influence beyond its boundaries. | 1.2.1 | Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified.  This process shall:  Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people; Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site’s ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies; Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges; Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups; Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence. | Stakeholders and their water related challenges are described in section 2.2 of the AWS Plan.  Stakeholders are identified as part of council processes. The auditor was informed that council stakeholders are considered to be the wider community, but in relation to AWS are the community, water related bodies and government officials  The engagement processes used for the audit were: Stakeholders were invited to a meeting at the office to discuss issues in relation to its water stewardship also a separate invitation was extended to indigenous contacts and leaders to participate in a separate discussion, with a specific focus on identifying issues for the indigenous community.  For each of these meetings the lead auditor gave a brief background presentation on water stewardship and certification, which was followed by discussion on the core consultation questions prepared by the audit team (see below). An additional set of more targeted questions was included to focus the meeting discussions.  The Water Stewardship plan (section 2.2) RPC *Stakeholders’ Water Related Challenges & Sphere of Influence* covers both points in the standard while the description of the Sphere of Influence meets the intent of the guidance  Indigenous stakeholders are also identified in the stakeholder table (River Murray Mallee Aboriginal Corporation) are the original landowners with native title rights in this region and were consulted as part of this process.  The auditor also reviewed Workshop Worksheets completed by attendees at the workshop held on the 13/4/21 by the RPC around water stewardship, water related challenges (current and future) risks and opportunities and action to be taken in relation to opportunities and challenges. |  |

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|  | 1.2.2 | Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site’s ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater. | During interview the auditor confirmed that there continues to be only one point of contact for the (River Murray Mallee Aboriginal Corporation) who are the original landowners with native title rights in this region.  These people being involved with the nature foundation with some cultural assessments of water stewardship and water usage.  There have been no formal cultural assessments of waterways as these are not under the control of the RPC.  RPC do manage water facilities near the River Murray but do not control water usage from the river, this is a responsibility of RIT or SA Water, Council does not have care and control over waterways  Covid 19 has had significant stakeholder consultations impacts in 2020 and 2021 |  |
| 1.3 Gather water-related data for the site including:   * water balance * water quality * important water related areas * water governance * WASH (water related costs, revenues and shared value creation) | 1.3.1 | Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified. | The Incident Record, Response Plan, procedures and management plans are detailed in section 2.3.1 of the Water Stewardship Plan and covers all currently known or anticipated incidents as well as responsible staff and incident mitigations.  Section 2.3.2 (page 12) shows no incidents in the 2020 audit period.  On the 1st September 2021 the RPC was advised of an expected high level of rainfall, following this stage 1 of the Storm response procedure was enacted -stormwater detention basins were inspected and ensure that pumping equipment was ready for deployment if necessary |  |
| 1.3.2 | Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped. | The Water Stewardship Plan 2021 section 2.3.3 addresses catchment water balance, future supply and demand trends as follows:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Summary of Water Used from Water Licences (2019/2020)4 | | | Licence | 2019/2020 Usage (ML) | | RIT | 326.263 | | CIT | 38.445 | | DEW (RPC LICENSE WLBC759) | 113.311 | | TOTAL | 478.019 |   Accurate assessment of water balances by stakeholders and members is key to the business of the RPC. |  |
| 1.3.3 | Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified. | See 1.3.2 above  During interview the auditor confirmed that there are no known issues apart from climate change which is identified and included in the new Community Plan which is identified in section 2.6 (Shared Water Related Challenges) and section 2.7 (Site Water Related Risks and Opportunities) |  |
| 1.3.4 | Water quality of the site’s water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified. | Water quality is tested on a regular basis and testing regimes are described in (section 2.3.4)  The auditor was informed that the Paringa WWTP is generally operating within limits. The chlorine dosing is working affectively with sampling at sprinkler heads returning and average free chlorine of 0.26-0.5 ppm.  Operators and management have been working through issues affecting the Suspended Solids results at the Paringa plant which we believe are due to low holding dam levels through the warmer parts of the year and issues with the UV filter equipment. Increases in sludge waste disposal durations has lowered suspended solids results, however this remains a challenge for operators.  The two WWTP’s are inspected daily, and relevant information is recorded and kept on site and in excel spreadsheets. Inspections and recordings are carried out to monitor free chlorine, pH, SS and Ec levels. Pumping stations are inspected in a cyclic fashion during a period of not less than a fortnight. |  |
| 1.3.5 | Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site. | Possible causes of pollution are detailed in section 2.3.5 of the AWS plan and include chemicals as well as potential that litter, debris, chemicals, and other residues commonly found in urban areas will find their way into nearby freshwater systems through stormwater.  Council provides stormwater drainage systems in Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup. The stormwater in Renmark and Paringa discharges into the Murray River and Bookmark Creek through outlet structures, some of which are fitted with gross pollutant traps (see Section 2.1.3.1). Additional Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) will be installed at strategic locations according to the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan. |  |
| 1.3.6 | On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values. | Important Water Related areas are identified in section 2.3.6 and section 2.4.5 Location, Status and Future Trends of Catchment Important Water Related Areas and includes areas such as Ral Ral Plain, Bookmark Creek and Warrego Street environmental watering sites. |  |
| 1.3.7 | Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2. | Confirmed Annual Water Related Costs, Revenues and Value Generation (2019/2020) were reviewed as part of the documentation review  Confirmed operating budget includes costs associated with operating the asset and includes costs such as insurance, electricity, revaluation, and minor administrative costs. The current forecast Operating expenditure over the next 10 years is $3,369,306.  Maintenance includes costs associated with maintaining the asset. Council currently has a contract in place to desludge septic tanks. The current forecast Maintenance expenditure over the next 10 years is $2,030,213.  Capital – Renewal: Capital – Renewal is capital costs associated with renewing or replacing current assets and infrastructure (restoring to original service level). The current forecast Capital - Renewal expenditure over the next 10 years is $2,518,750 The current forecast includes renewal of the Renmark Wastewater Treatment Plant in 20/21 for ($1.6m).  Capital – New: Capital - New is capital costs associated with upgrading or creating new assets and infrastructure (above original service level). The current forecast Capital - New expenditure over the next 10 years is $300,000. |  |
| 1.3.8 | Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified. | The RPC Plan states the following:  The Renmark Paringa drinking water is supplied by SA Water and comes from the River Murray. It is filtered and treated using chlorine and ultraviolet light at the local water treatment plant and fluoride is added for public health before being supplied to taps. SA Water manage South Australia’s drinking water quality in line with our robust Drinking Water Quality Management System which ensures people are supplied with good quality, safe drinking water treated to meet the strict national standards set by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 |  |
| 1.4 Gather data on the site’s indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services. | 1.4.1 | The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site’s catchment, shall be identified. | The primary input is river water. Water embedded in other inputs is minimal and unquantifiable e.g., water in manufacture of plant and equipment or in power generation. |  |
| 1.4.2 | The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site’s catchment, quantified. | Confirmed in interview with the RPC representative that there are no outsourced services that impact on water quality or embedded water. |  |
| 1.4.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified. | This indicator is not available to RPC as RPC is a water provider that provides water to end users (parklands) where it become “embedded” in the final product, RIT however do measure input quantities and quality (salinity). | **0** |
| 1.5 Gather water-related data for the catchment, including: water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH | 1.5.1 | Water governance initiatives shall be identified, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action. | The following water governance initiatives were reviewed during the audit:  Developed a 10-year Local Action Plan to guide local NRM efforts which was developed through extensive consultation with local community, industry, and all levels of government (2014)  • Engaged and supported 16 NRM focused community groups and supported them in achieving their goals, provided in-kind support, assistance with grants, events, projects, meetings and working bees as necessary (2014-2018)  • Maintained membership on and support for the Renmark Environmental Watering Committee, which has included in kind contributions of the RPC Environmental Officer to drive initiatives, and has included an elected member (Cr Peter Hunter) (2016-2021)  • Employed an Environmental Officer in a permanent full-time position to deliver on NRM projects and initiatives for the community (2019).  • An MoU was signed between Renmark Paringa Council and Renmark Irrigation Trust to share resources to deliver strong environmental outcomes for the local area and the Renmark Paringa Council Environmental Officer position became a shared resource between the two organisations (2019).  • RPC sent a delegate to attend the 2019 World Water Week in Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges to the Renmark Paringa community (2019).  • Development of a Water Stewardship Plan, and pursuit of AWS certification (2021)  RPC are also involved with the following initiatives:  Department for Environment and Water Corporate Plan and Action Plan (2020-21): The purpose of the plan is to help South Australians conserve natural resources, native species and natural places for their intrinsic value, and for peoples benefit now and into the future.  Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program: a national programme investing in rural water use, management and efficiency, including improved water knowledge and market reform, and water purchase for the environment. SRWUIP is the key mechanism to ‘bridge the gap’ to the sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan  (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/mdb/programs/basin-wide/srwuip>)  South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program: The South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program is administered by the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions. The program aims to increase the efficiency and productivity of South Australian businesses, and secure and return 36 GL of long-term annual average yield ‘gap bridging’ water to the Commonwealth for environmental water use. (http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/sarms-iiip)  Community based projects are detailed in section 2.45 (IWRA  Water programmes in the Murray-Darling Basin  (http://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/mdb/programs) |  |
| 1.5.2 | Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights. | Reviewed section 3.1 of Water Stewardship Plan, RIT Water-Related Legal compliance System which includes the following:  **Non conformance**  The Water Stewardship plan does not identify specific legal and regulatory requirements |  |
| 1.5.3 | The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance. | Section 2.4.3 details Catchment Water Balance, Future Supply and Demand Trends. Also confirmed that The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) weekly report provides updates on operations, river flows, storage inflows, gauge levels, rainfall and salinity data.  (http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-information) |  |
| 1.5.4 | Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified | Water quality management is set out in section 2.4.6 and was reviewed by the auditor  Also confirmed that RPC has no direct influence on water quality which is managed by SA Water and there is no effluent.  (https://www.sawater.com.au/community-and-environment/water-quality/in-your-area-whats-in-your-water/renmark)  The Renmark WWTP is generally operating within limits. The chlorine plant is working effectively with sampling at sprinkler heads returning an average free chlorine of 0.2-0.5 ppm.  Council has a current project in the 2020/21 financial year to carry out major upgrades to the Renmark WWTP following the completion of an asset condition audit in 2018/19. The upgrade, which will be a design and construct project, aims to provide greater operational contingency by way of duplication of the existing plant. In addition to this the existing plant will have all plant and equipment replaced with modern high efficiency items. Once a contract is awarded the principal contractor will work with Council through the design and approval phase – including DHW assessment and approval - prior to on-site works taking place. |  |
| 1.5.5 | Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped, and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement. | IWRA are identified in the Stewardship Plan (section 2.4.5) which also states: The wetlands, floodplains, anabranches, and main river channel of the River Murray are part of the River Murray Prescribed Water Resource. They provide critical ecosystem services to the social, economic and ecological systems of the Riverland district.  IWRA are also identified on the Environmental Watering Sites map reviewed by the auditor updated 16/10/21.  The auditor visited several IWRA sites as part of this process (See executive summary for a list of sites visited) |  |
| 1.5.6 | Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events. | The auditor confirmed that Infrastructure lists are detailed in section 2.1.2 (RPC Water Related Infrastructure and Sources) and also in the Drainage Pipelines Map and the Irrigation Pipelines maps.  Exposure to extreme events is planned for (See section 2.7.1 Water Related Risks) |  |
| 1.5.7 | The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified. | The auditor confirmed that Office water is supplied by SA Water only. No other WASH water identified in the catchment. The auditor confirmed that RPC office sites have safe water, sanitation and protective hygiene on site.  Section 2.3.8 Wash Access and Adequacy states: The Renmark Paringa drinking water is supplied by SA Water and comes from the River Murray. It is filtered and treated using chlorine and ultraviolet light at the local water treatment plant and fluoride is added for public health before being supplied to taps. SA Water manage South Australia’s drinking water quality in line with our robust Drinking Water Quality Management System which ensures people are supplied with good quality, safe drinking water treated to meet the strict national standards set by the Australian Drinking |  |
| 1.5.8 | **Advanced Indicator**  Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified. | This indicator is N/A to RPC as RPC does not collect catchment data, this is undertaken by RIT and SA Water | **0** |
|  | 1.5.9 | **Advanced Indicator**  The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified. | This indicator is N/A to RPC as no WASH identified in primary inputs (river water) | **0** |
| 1.6 Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment, by linking the water challenges identified by stakeholders with the site’s water challenges. | 1.6.1 | Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered. | The shared water-related challenges affecting the catchments are set out in Section 2.2-Stakeholder Water Related Concerns section and (Section 2.6, RPC Catchment Water Related Challenges and Sphere of Influence) and Section 2.4-Stakeholder Water Related Concerns listed in the RPC Water Stewardship Plan which also lists the public agency drivers and efforts involved. |  |
| 1.6.2 | Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified. | See above section 2.2 – S/H Shared water challenges are listed and include engagement to date and general comments regarding delivery or implementation  Water security and scarcity is an increasing issue for members, addressed by increasing policy discussions with government and government bodies and RPC. |  |
| 1.6.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends | Refer to section 2.7 Water Related Risk and Opportunities that also identifies economic, climate and waste trends, also includes impacts. | **3** |
| 1.6.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water. | The auditor confirmed that water related social impacts have been identified and assessed as a matter for council but no social impact assessment with a focus on water has not been undertaken.  The Council Long Term Strategic document that has been assessed by council feed into the Community 10-year plan, then into the corporate plan (4 yearly) and then to budgets and business plans.  See RPC website Council documents/strategic documents (search water) and climate variability and water availability | **3** |
| 1.7 Understand the site’s water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6 | 1.7.1 | Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact. | Section 2.7.1 of the RPC Water Stewardship Plan 2021 references pesticides, fuel chemical or pesticide spills water scarcity, power outages, damage to infrastructure, exceeding allocation and flooding all as water related risks.  The plan also comments on climate change for the Renmark district, impacts of temperature on water up to 2030. |  |
| 1.7.2 | Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities. | Section 2.7.1 of the RPC Water Stewardship Plan 2021 references opportunities relating to pesticides, fuel chemical or pesticide spills water scarcity, power outages, damage to infrastructure, exceeding allocation and flooding all as water related risks. The plan also comments on climate change for the Renmark district, impacts of temperature on water up to 2030  Each of the identified risk has an opportunity attached |  |
| 1.8 Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes:  Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance. | 1.8.1 | Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified. | The auditor referred to section 2.4.1 (Catchment Plans, Publicly Led Initiatives and Public Policy Goals) page 55 that lists acts and plans showing how good water governance is managed by RPC -leads to good governance practices  Water Stewardship Plan also includes responsibilities and actions to implement good governance |  |
| 1.8.2 | Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified. | See above list of legislation (2.4.1) in the AWS plan that includes best practice for water efficiency and helps to inform the RPC objectives and targets, Sustainable water balances are part of the plan (section 2.3) that includes “Adapt operations to a changing climate” and “reducing indirect water use” and “explore water saving initiatives” |  |
| 1.8.3 | Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source. | Confirmed that quality of outgoing water is managed via wastewater management section (2.4.2.2) Quality and Pollutants that describes water quality and pollutants and monitoring of water quality. Salinity is a significant issue – section 2.4.4.1 that describes how it is managed at a catchment and regional level |  |
| 1.8.4 | Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified. | Maintenance of IWRA is managed per site by RPC. Section 2.4.5 The wetlands, floodplains, anabranches, and main river channel of the River Murray are part of the River Murray Prescribed Water Resource. They provide critical ecosystem services to the social, economic and ecological systems of the Riverland district.  The relevant regional status, future trends, and associated plans can be found in *2.4.1.* The below table outlines Renmark Paringa Council management actions to date in regard to important water related areas in the district:  Reviewed CEWH endorsement letter in the evidence folder dated 29/7/21 |  |
| 1.8.5 | Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified. | N/A to RPC as RPC does not impact catchment best practices |  |

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| **STEP 2: COMMIT AND PLAN**  ***Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a water stewardship plan***  Intent: To ensure there is sufficient leadership support, site authority, and allocated resources for the site to implement the AWS Standard. It focuses on how a site will act on shared water challenges and improve its performance and the status of its catchment in terms of the AWS water stewardship outcomes. Step 2 links the information gathered in Step 1 to the actions implemented in Step 3, by describing who will do what and when. | | | | |
| **Criteria** |  | **Indicators** | **Response Area** | **Points Allocated** |
| 2.1 Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources. | 2.1.1 | A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified.  The statement or document shall include the following commitments:  That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes; That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans; That the site’s stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way ; That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard. | Reviewed the Commitment to AWS signed by the RPC Mayor, Neil Marinison. Both the Commitment to AWS and the Water Stewardship Policy are seen on the council internet website: renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au |  |
| 2.1.2 | **Advanced Indicator**  A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization’s senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified. | Refer to above the Water Stewardship Policy meets requirements and is signed by the RPC Mayor. | **1** |
| 2.2 Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance. | 2.2.1 | The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including: Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure; Process for submissions to regulatory agencies. | Reviewed 2.3.2.1 (Infrastructure Depot Staff Responsibilities) that includes all staff involved or that could have roles associated with AWS and their responsibilities. |  |
| 2.3 Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities | 2.3.1 | A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard. | The Water stewardship Strategy is stated in section 3.2 that meets AWS requirements; this is also seen in the AWS Plan on the council website renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au |  |
| 2.3.2 | A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:  How it will be measured and monitored; Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it; Planned timeframes to achieve it; Financial budgets allocated for actions; Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets; Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes. | The Renmark Paringa Council Water Stewardship Plan for each of the identified targets is seen on the council website and contains all requirements Objectives, Target, Metrics, Actions and implementations, costs and benefits risks and opportunities.  Also referred to section 3.3 (RPC Water Stewardship Plan and Implementation t Date) |  |
| 2.3.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  The site’s partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organisational ownership) shall be identified and described. | Section 2.2 of the RPC Plan (Stakeholders) includes engagement with the Renmark Irrigation Trust, a partner in rehabilitated wetlands in the catchment.  RPC has also been involved with the Dept of Environment and water and partner in SEE 2024 (Social, Environmental and Economic committee).  RPC is also Involved in numerous collaborative projects with DEW, the Department for Environment and water, (for example: in the IWRA Paringa Paddock -RPC built infrastructure to support environmental watering).  DEW have also supplied funding to RPC to reconnect and rehabilitate the Lower Ral Ral floodplain (5 years project) | **4** |
| 2.3.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  The site’s partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified. | RPC are part of the Murray Darling Association who are the local government bodies (The RPC is located in region 5 – Murraylands Riverland’s in SA). RPC have been members of the Murray Darling Authority for several years (at least 4 years)  The Department of environment and Water (Adelaide) have also supplied funding to RPC to reconnect and rehabilitate the Lower Ral Ral floodplain (5 years project) | **4** |
| 2.3.5 | **Advanced Indicator**  Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site’s water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and in which stakeholders are involved shall be identified. | RPC held an Initial stakeholder meeting on the 13/4/21 and discussed major topics including:   * Current and Future Water Challenges that can be Influenced by RPC. * Water related risks and opportunities and actions that could be taken to address opportunities and challenges.   The results of this meeting were integrated into the Water Stewardship Plan and stakeholders were provided with a link to the website to review the Plan and were asked t provide feedback. (The auditor was informed that no feedback received that required a rewrite of any part of the document).  A Letter also sent to stakeholders asking for review and feedback of the water Stewardship Plan - sent on the 11/6/21 (reviewed by the auditor)  The auditor was informed that Consensus for the Plan was received at the end of the S/H meeting and the lack of critical comments after reviewing the document are indicative of the Water Stewardship Plan agreement by stakeholder  Consensus was also endorsed by a public stakeholder meeting held by the auditor on the 7th September as part of the audit process, there were 8 attendees in person (including the auditor), while 6 attendees joined on line via (MS Teams). No negative feedback was received during or after this meeting, with all endorsing RPC’s efforts in relation to water stewardship and seeking certification to the AWS standard. | **7** |
| 2.4 Demonstrate the site’s responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks | 2.4.1 | A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified. | The plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks is described in section 3.3 of the Plan. : Ie to collaborate with local and regional groups and organisations in creating an initiative that embraces economic diversification, stewardship of the Murray River and creation of a vibrant and healthy community. |  |
| 2.4.2 | **Advanced Indicator**  A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified. | The plan to adapt operations to a changing climate counting for decreasing rainfall and increasing temperatures resulting increased water scarcity is also seen in section 3.3, page 94.  Also includes the development of a policy position in relation to climate change adaptation | **6** |

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| **STEP 3: IMPLEMENT**  ***Implement the site’s stewardship plan and improve impacts***  Intent: To ensure that the site is implementing the plan outlined in Step 2, mitigating risks and driving actual improvements in performance. | | | | |
| **Criteria** |  | **Indicators** | **Response Area** | **Points Allocated** |
| 3.1 Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance. | 3.1.1 | Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified. | Evidence that RPC has supported catchment governance is described in section 3.3 of the plan (risks and opportunities) and were identified through consultation with stakeholders.  Good governance was also identified by the stakeholder endorsement of RPC seen at the public meeting |  |
| 3.1.2 | Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented. | Ecologically important water related areas contain management actions (Ral Ral Floodplain) and partnerships and revegetation are aimed at minimising impacts on lands that may have significant cultural values.    Council managed a project with landowners of the Bookmark Creek Indigenous Artworks onsite at Bookmark Creek.  Stakeholder consultation with an Indigenous landowner representative also confirmed RPC ongoing consultation and respect of cultural values. |  |
| 3.1.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. | Section 3.3 has a number of governance targets, metrics and actions, including the development of the Water Stewardship plan and policy as well as public disclosure of these documents.  The RPC Environmental officer has responsibility for implementation of the AWS standard ad evidence received from stakeholders who noted the improvements in AWRA watering, and stakeholder consultations.  Development and implementation of the Water Stewardship Plan into council strategies and procedures, and water stewardship outcomes being embedded into the RPC corporate plan, water stewardship outcomes are now an expectation of council and resources have been committed to ensure targets are reached. | **2** |
| 3.1.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be identified. | The results of stakeholder workshop in April 2021 were integrated into the Water Stewardship Plan and stakeholders were then provided with a link to the website to review the Plan and asked for feedback. (No feedback received that required a rewrite of any part of the document).  There was also a letter sent to s/h asking for review and feedback of the water Stewardship Plan sent on the 11/6/21 (reviewed by the auditor)  Consensus for the Plan was received at the end of the stakeholder workshop meeting and the lack of critical comments after reviewing the document are indicative of the Water Stewardship Plan agreement by stakeholder  Stakeholder consensus was also evident during the public stakeholder meeting held by the auditor during the audit process. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and no negative feedback was received either during the meet or afterward via email | **2** |
| 3.2 Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights. | 3.2.1 | A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented. | While the AWS plan identified the person with the RPC responsible for legal and regulatory compliance the AWS plan does not identify or describe how this has been established or implemented  **Non conformance**  Need to establish and implement a process within council to verify full legal and regulatory compliance |  |
| 3.2.2 | Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented. | The Water Stewardship Plan does not identify specific legal and regulatory requirements or compliance to water rights, nor does it provide any evidence of any violations (if applicable).  **See Nonconformance in section 1.5.2** |  |
| 3.3 Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets. | 3.3.1 | Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified. | As this is the evaluation only this will be reviewed at each annual audit. However, examples of progress towards meeting water balance targets at the time of the evaluation include:   * Water balance targets have been identified and on Page 92. * Steps already achieved: water usage is within parameters allowed in the licenced water allocation * Are continuing to upgrade community waste water management system. * Maintain and upgrade stormwater drainage system. |  |
| 3.3.2 | Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site’s water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented. | Water scarcity is identified as a target and is described in section 2.2 of the Water Stewardship Plan and includes implementation in allowing for changes in climate impacting water scarcity.  Metrics and Actions to meet water scarcity are in the same section There is also a target to investigate water saving initiatives and to develop and implement concepts for water savings initiatives.     |  | | --- | | Section 2.2 states: Water security was identified as a priority in the Rally for Riverland document and as such Council engaged with the following to understand the priority better and how to advocate to ensure water security for the region.  • G3 Regional Councils  • Federal and State Government including local members, the Department for Environment and  Water, and the Federal Environmental Water Holder  • Murray Darling Basin Association (MDBA)  • Tourism and Agriculture Industries  • The Community |   Metrics and Actions to meet water scarcity are in the same section There is also a target to investigate water saving initiatives and to develop and implement concepts for water savings initiatives. |  |
| 3.3.3 | Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified. | RPC does not actually reallocate water, however, do use water for social, environmental and cultural uses -waste water does go towards these outcomes (IWARA areas, parks and reserves etc)  Water allocation is decided by CEWH, RPC are given a licence for the reallocation of water in partnership with RIT to the floodplains and wetlands |  |
| 3.3.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified. | RPC consider all treated wastewater a water savings. This wastewater is used for public community spaces, parks and some for irrigation of public amenities (for instance the golf course and Remark Primary School receive 155 ML/ year) and have agreements with RPC to take wastewater.  Refer to Section 2.1.2.6 page 16 for a list of sites that receive wastewater | **4** |
| 3.4 Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets. | 3.4.1 | Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified. | Water quality is actually managed by SA Water and not a consideration of RPC, however RPC do manage quality of outgoing wastewater.  Refer section 2.3.4.1, (Renmark Wastewater Treatment Plant) |  |
| 3.4.2 | Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site’s effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified. | Wastewater is managed in compliance with the EPA (Environment protection Agency), DHA (Department for Health and Aging) and SCOSA (Central Services Commission of SA).  An annual report is prepared (Safety, Reliability, Maintenance and Technical Management Plan) and is provided every 4 years (2016 and 2020)  Reviewed Renmark Paringa Council Safety, Reliability, Maintenance and Technical Management Plan 2020 |  |
| 3.5 Implement plan to maintain or improve the site’s and/or catchment’s Important Water-Related Areas. | 3.5.1 | Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site’s Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented. | Reviewed Section 3.3, Page 98 of the AWS Plan which states the objective is to improve important water related areas. Targets are also described in section 3.3, expected to be achieved |  |
| 3.5.2 | **Advanced Indicator**  Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment. | Section 2.4.5 provides evidence that IWRA have all had considerable effort, i.e Johnsons Waterhole was as very saline and a degraded part of the flood plan with low biodiversity. However, efforts over the past 10 years environmental watering and revegetation have resulted in very significant biodiversity restored (vegetation diversity and health greatly improved, and very significant increases in diversity). (Visited by the auditor in previous RIT audits) | **6** |
| 3.5.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified. | The auditor referred to the CEWH letter dated 29/7/21 which endorsed RPC actions relating to environmental watering sites in the area | **2** |
| 3.6 Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site’s control. | 3.6.1 | Evidence of the site’s provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified. | All staff have access to adequate drinking water, effective sanitation and protective hygiene. Evidenced by inspection of facilities during the audit.  Confirmed in interview with the RPC representative as unchanged in the 2020 period.  RPC provide filtered water for all staff on site. Protective hygiene and very adequate sanitation are also provided at the RPC offices. Evidenced by the auditor. |  |
| 3.6.2 | Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for Indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective. | The auditor confirmed in interview that there are no unmet needs to safe drinking water and sanitation. RPC supply irrigation water to end users and SA Water have to be compliant to supply drinking water for consumers by SA Water. Some consumers source from RIT who also have to compliant.  RPC do not supply drinking water at all, rather carry out irrigation with treated of public spaces and amenities, gardens etc. RPC also carry out irrigation in partnership using their CEWH Licence allocation water |  |
| 3.6.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified. | RPC have limited capacity to comply with this requirement but have made a management commitment to ensure all employees have access to clean drinking water and gender appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities.  RPC have identified all facilities that require access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.Refer to section 2.3.8 that describes the public facilities that are maintained by RPC Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG  The AWS Plan states in section 2.3.8 that The Renmark Paringa drinking water is supplied by SA Water and comes from the River Murray. It is filtered and treated using chlorine and ultraviolet light at the local water treatment plant and fluoride is added for public health before being supplied to taps. SA Water manage South Australia’s drinking water quality in line with our robust Drinking Water Quality Management System which ensures people are supplied with good quality, safe drinking water treated to meet the strict national standards set by the Australian Drinking  The Renmark Paringa Council, and other private and public organisations in the Council region, from schools to shopping centres, provide access to toilets and sanitation facilities where fresh water, basins, toilets, and in some cases, showers, changerooms, and sharps disposals are available. As a result, the practice of defecating in the open (such as in fields, bushes, or by bodies of water) is very uncommon. A list of public toilets can be found in section *2.1.2*. | **2** |
| 3.6.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified. | This indicator is not available to RPC as WASH is not identified as a shared water challenge as water for public consumption is supplied to all RPC sites from SA Water or RIT (pump stations, Depot public conveniences and offices.  Refer section 2.1.2.3 list of amenities | **0** |
| 3.7 Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment. | 3.7.1 | Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified. | Targets are described in section 3.3, page 93. The target is to “reduce indirect water use (electricity use)”  The Metric states: “Council is to set a target for use of renewable energy and develop a strategy to achieve this target) and to review the energy of council assets and commence rollout of an LED street lighting programme” |  |
| 3.7.2 | Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site’s engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified. | This target is included in the plan as something to implement in FY21:  The Objective is to understand RPC primary suppliers and water related service providers water stewardship stance when dealing with council.  The stated action is to contact primary product suppliers and water related service providers and request that they take action to help contribute to water stewardship outcomes  Refer page 101, section 3.3 |  |
| 3.7.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  Actions taken to address water related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated. | Actions being taken to address water related risks against climate change outside the catchment include reducing electricity use, embedding reduced electricity use in the corporate plan (demonstrates mitigation and adaptation within the catchment)  Or: Locks and weirs outside the catchment limit the ability for environmental restoration within the catchment. RPC is delivering environmental water to these spaces to mimic natural cycles depending on the type and degradation of individual floodplains. | **3** |
| 3.8 Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have. | 3.8.1 | Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified. | The auditor confirmed that RPC share (water related infrastructure) with RIT for environmental watering cycle (consisting of culverts, pipes and different water delivery infrastructure).  RPC also sit in the Environmental Watering Committee with RIT which facilitates a constant engagement of any water related concerns. |  |
| 3.9 Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.enewal as per the plan | 3.9.1 | Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented. | The auditor referred to section 3.3, page 87 -912 (Water Related opportunities) which states that RPC will Facilitate change in communities across the MDB by demonstrating how to commit to the responsible use and management of water resources and promote the responsible use of water that is socially, economically, and environmentally beneficial to all.  This will be achieved by: Supporting positive change in other communities, which will enable enhanced collaboration and information sharing opportunities. Opens opportunities for RPC to trial new technologies and secure funding to continue innovating in the water space due to reputational gains.  The auditor also confirmed that development and disclosure of the Water Stewardship Policy and stakeholder consensus regarding the water Stewardship Plan is included as an action towards achieving good governance. |  |
| 3.9.3 | Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented. | RPC is committed to maintaining treated water quality (page 95 - section 3.3) by Continue to test treated water, maintain the chlorination systems, and seek independent analysis and report on water samples  Water quality will also be achieved by reducing the use of insecticides and pesticides with the potential to harm human and ecosystem health (Section 3.3) |  |
| 3.9.4 | Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site’s maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented. | The auditor referred to the Monitoring Plan results (Section 3.3 Page 98) to improve the health of IWRA E.g. Support the continued implementation of commonwealth environmental watering agreement through RPC continue to Support watering and management actions as outlined in the Agreement (refer to Renmark Environmental Watering Management Guidelines)  **.** |  |
| 3.9.5 | Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented. | WASH is not an identified issue that requires actions relating to best practices |  |
| 3.9.6 | **Advanced Indicator**  Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified. | The auditor referred to CEWH letter commending RPC water governance which states: *I am writing in relation to Renmark Paringa Council's involvement in the restoration of floodplain wetlands within its district.*  *The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder has been providing water to support the recovery of wetlands in the district since 2013, when the first environmental flows were provided to Johnson Waterhole. This iconic site on Council land has been transformed from a saline section of the Ral Ral Floodplain, into a biodiverse, healthy, and rapidly recovering site -it is a case study and testament for what consistent delivery of water can achieve at these disconnected floodplain sites.*  *The provision of water and recovery of these sites has been actively supported by Renmark Paringa Council. Renmark Paringa Council has partnered with local organisations such as the Renmark Irrigation Trust (RIT) through the Renmark Environmental Watering Committee, which has driven the planning and delivery of environmental flows to the*  *\_ floodplains and wetlands adjacent to Renmark on Council and RIT land. Through its participation in the partnership with RIT, the Council have supported the achievement of significant outcomes in these areas, which has been typified by good governance, community partnership, and a drive to adapt, learn and adopt best practice in achieving environmental outcomes.*  The auditor also confirmed in interview and during the stakeholder meeting that RPC has been in partnership with RIT in terms of environmental watering sites for almost a decade. | **2** |
| 3.9.7 | **Advanced Indicator**  Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified. | The auditor confirmed in interview that as this is the initial AWS evaluation that this will be reviewed at the next surveillance audit | **0** |
| 3.9.8 | **Advanced Indicator**  Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified. | The auditor reviewed the AWQC test results/spreadsheet titled “Renmark Paringa DC 19-20 data” water sampling in the evidence folder that shows that RPC is operating within the desired ranges and parameters at water treatment stations  Refer 2.1.2.6 (Codes and standards RPC is compliant with) | **4** |
| 3.9.9 | **Advanced Indicator**  Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site’s maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented. | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Confirmed during interview and site inspections that targets stated on (Page 98) to improve the health of IWRA, E.g. by supporting the continued implementation of commonwealth environmental watering agreement and Support watering and management actions as outlined in the Agreement (refer to Renmark Environmental Watering Management Guidelines). Also by:   |  | | --- | | * Supporting the development of an options analysis paper to support the revival of the Ral Ral Floodplain (2012) * Partnered with RIT and NFSA to deliver environmental water to Johnsons Waterhole (2013) * Collaborated with RIT, NFSA and SAMDB NRM to revegetate Johnsons Waterhole and surrounds (90 community members engaged, and 700 trees planted) and install permanent environmental watering infrastructure connected to the RIT mainline (2014) * Managed a revegetation event at Johnsons Waterhole for National |   The auditor also referred to the CEWH letter dated 29/7/21 and seen in 3.9.6 | | **8** |
| 3.9.10 | **Advanced Indicator**  Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified. | The auditor confirmed in interview that WASH is not an identified issue | **0** |
| 3.9.11 | **Advanced Indicator**  A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified. | The auditor confirmed that efforts to spread best practices include   * The communication disclosure in the AWS Plan that demonstrates attempts to spread best practices. * The RPC Facebook page that informed people of the AWS Audit * The RPC Instagram page showing environmental watering at Plushes Bend and tree planting near Johnsons Waterhole | **1** |
|  | 3.9.12 | **Advanced Indicator**  A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified. | * Examples of collective efforts is evidenced by RPC collaborating with the Renmark North Primary School who together are maintaining a monitoring project on the environmental watering at the Warrego St IWRA. Also, RPC have been involved with environmental watering at Plushes Bend and tree planting near Johnsons Waterhole. * Ongoing collaboration with RIT in relation to IWRA and environmental watering | **8** |
| 3.9.13 | **Advanced Indicator**  Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be identified. | Quantified involvement that has resulted from collective actions is evidenced by:   * Attendance at World Water Week in Stockholm * Commendation letter from CEWH * Johnsons Waterhole report detail improvements from 2014 to present. * Association with RIT in relation to environmental watering programme in the catchment * Membership of the Murray Darling association for at least 5 years | **5** |

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| **STEP 4: EVALUATE**  ***Evaluate the site’s performance*** Intent: To review a site’s performance against the actions taken in Step 3, learn from the results – both intended and unintended – and inform the next iteration of the site’s water stewardship plan. This evaluation shall occur at least annually, but sites should consider more frequent evaluations. | | | | |
| **Criteria** |  | **Indicators** | **Response Area** | **Points Allocated** |
| 4.1 Evaluate the site’s performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes. | 4.1.1 | Performance against targets in the site’s water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated. | **Non conformance**  While targets and goals have been set and implemented, there is no clear link to report on the extent they are being achieved. |  |
| 4.1.2 | Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated. | As this is the initial evaluation it was decided that value creation will be evaluated at the next annual audit |  |
| 4.1.3 | The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified. | RPC have had a partnership with RIT for approximately 10 years and have been part of the SEE Renmark 2024 committee to promote a vision for Renmark. The committee members are between RIT, RPC, RDA, NRM Board, and Destination Riverland.  Committee meeting minutes reviewed by the auditor contain a range of goals including rejuvenation of the Ral Ral Flood plain. NOTE: Majority of goals or targets set have been achieved. Reviewed meeting minutes confirming this dated 15/8/18 |  |
| 4.1.4 | **Advanced Indicator**  A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified. | The RPC AWS Plan was evaluated at this audit. The plan was reviewed and edited prior to being endorsed by council.  The Environmental Officer attended executive leadership team meetings where the entire plan was evaluated in detail.  Reviewed Executive Leadership Team meeting minutes dated 23/1/20 and 25/3/21 | **2** |
| 4.2 Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures. | 4.2.1 | A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year’s emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site’s response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified. | No reported significant or emergency water related events record for 2020/21.Data was gained from operational reporting that includes all requirements apart from invasive species or political conflicts.  The auditor referred to section 2.3.1 of the RPC AWS Plan  Nonconformance  The requirement does not clearly show an annual review process, and should include all requirements including external influences and impact of invasive species (See AWS Standard Guidance 4.2.1 |  |
| 4.3 Evaluate stakeholders’ consultation feedback regarding the site’s water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site’s engagement process. | 4.3.1 | Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site’s water stewardship performance shall be identified. | Non conformance  Stakeholders have been engaged proactively by RPC throughout the AWS plan development however the reporting format summarizing s/h communication has not be defined |  |
| 4.3.2 | **Advanced Indicator**  The site’s efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site’s efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement. | The auditor confirmed that RPC have not actually received any negative feedback, and this would be recorded in the RPC Complaints database.  **Nonconformance**  At the time of the evaluation there was no means to evaluate RPC efforts to address shared water challenges. | **0** |
| 4.4 Evaluate and update the site’s water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement. | 4.4.1 | The site’s water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified. | While the Version Control Table describes changes or amendments made to the AWS plan prior to certification any changes or continual improvement will be evaluated at the first surveillance audit. |  |

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| **STEP 5: COMMUNCATE & DISCLOSE**  ***Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site’s stewardship efforts***  Intent: To encourage transparency and accountability through communication of performance relative to commitments, policies, and plans. The disclosure of relevant information allows others to make informed opinions on a site’s operations and tailor their involvement to suit. | | | | |
| **Criteria** |  | **Indicators** | **Response Area** | **Points Allocated** |
| 5.1 Disclose water-related internal governance of the site’s management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local laws and regulations. | 5.1.1 | The site’s water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed. | Responsible positions are described in section 3.1 and includes the name and title of the RPC Legal-Compliance Manager: Tim Pfeiffer (Director Corporate and Community Services).  Refer section 2.3.1 describes the people responsible for water related issues at the RPC  The AWS Plan is publicly Available from the internet website. |  |
| 5.2 Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders. | 5.2.1 | The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders. | The AWS Plan is publicly Available from the internet website: renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au.  There were 61 stakeholders included in the email with a copy of the endorsed version of the AWS plan sent on 11/6/21.  Auditor reviewed the list of respondents included in the email. |  |
| 5.3 Disclose annual site water stewardship summary, including the relevant information about the site’s annual water stewardship performance and results against the site’s targets. | 5.3.1 | A summary of the site’s water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum. | A summary of the sites water stewardship performance including quantified performance against targets will be evaluated at the next annual audit |  |
| 5.3.2 | **Advanced Indicator**  The site’s efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization’s annual report. | Reviewed the RPC annual Report 2019/20 did not include any reference to AWS as it reports on outcomes rather than project progress. The next review is set for September 20th, 2021 and submissions for the 20/21 annual report are required by the 17th  This indicator will be evaluated at the first annual surveillance audit | **0** |
| 5.3.3 | **Advanced Indicator**  Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization’s annual report. | See above | **0** |
| 5.4 Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: efforts to address the challenges; engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies. | 5.4.1 | The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed. | Shared water challenges and the links to address these are listed/described in section 2.6 of the RPC AWS standard. |  |
| 5.4.2 | Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified. | There have been multiple instances of The Renmark Paringa Council engaging with stakeholders to coordinate water related efforts (Ral Ral Floodplain, Frog identification workshop, AWS Plan Workshop).  This was further confirmed during stakeholder consultation carried out during the audit process |  |
| 5.5 Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences. | 5.5.1 | Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed. | No violations to date |  |
| 5.5.2 | Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable. | No violations to date |  |
| 5.5.3 | Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed. | No violations to date |  |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL POINTS ALLOCATED** |  |

**END OF REPORT**