



## Application for Licence Amendment

### Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L6859/1987/12
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd
<b>ACN</b>	106 075 763
<b>File Number</b>	DER2015/000044-1
<b>Premises</b>	Narrogin Prime Lamb (Narrogin Farm) 394 Narrakine Road South DUMBERNING, WA 6312  Legal description – Lot 566 on Deposited Plan 409391 Certificate of Title Volume 3932 Folio 557
<b>Date of Report</b>	31 May 2022
<b>Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

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# 1. Decision summary

Licence L6859/1987/12 is held by Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd (licence holder) for Narrogin Prime Lamb (Narrogin Farm) (the premises), located at 394 Narrakine Road South, Dumberning.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, revised licence L6859/1987/12 has been granted.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

### 2.2 Application summary

On 6 January 2022, the licence holder submitted an application to the department to amend licence L6859/1987/12 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is sought to remove an operational condition requiring the desludging of water storage ponds and subsequent use of these ponds as a dust suppression water source. These ponds were previously used in conjunction with piggery operations on the premises. The licence holder has advised that the former piggery ponds cannot be used as dust suppression ponds as:

- The ponds are designed for evaporation and are unable to accumulate enough rainwater to provide dust suppression water during the periods of the year when it is needed; and
- The removal of sludge will be a major logistical issue and financial burden due to the significant impediment to heavy machinery in accessing the ponds. It will also be difficult to distinguish the dry sludge from the clay liner.

The licence holder has instead proposed the use of a truck mounted with a 5000L water tank and also a trailer mounted 1200L tank for dust suppression where required. Water will be sourced from two production bores located within the adjacent facility (Narrogin Beef), also owned by the licence holder. The licence holder proposes to leave the ponds in-situ as the ponds in their current state pose no threats to the natural environment, health of individuals or the aesthetic value and function of the land.

## 3. Risk assessment

The Department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a risk event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

### 3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

#### 3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation which have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in Table 1 below. Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the licence holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

**Table 1: Licence holder controls**

<b>Emission</b>	<b>Sources</b>	<b>Potential pathways and impacts</b>	<b>Proposed controls</b>
Dust	Vehicle movements	Air/windborne pathway causing impacts to receptor health and amenity	Use of a truck mounted with a 5000L water storage tank and a trailer mounted with a 1200L water storage tank for dust suppression where required. Water is supplied from two production bores located within the adjacent facility owned by the licence holder.

### 3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the licence holder's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 2 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

**Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity**

<b>Human receptors</b>	<b>Distance from prescribed activity</b>
Residential Premises	0.5km west of the activity (belongs to applicant)
	1.1km north of the activity
	1.7km north of the activity
	1.9km north-north-west of the activity
	2.1km north of the activity
	2.2km west of the activity
	2.3km north-east of the activity
	2.4km south-west of the activity
	2.6km north of the activity
	2.7km north-north-west of the activity
<b>Environmental receptors</b>	<b>Distance from prescribed activity</b>
Williams River is a major tributary to the Murray River. It starts near Narrogin and flows in a westerly direction	4km north-west of the activity
Bottle Creek	2.3km north-west of the activity
Surface water lines, minor non perennial water courses	Closest surface water line is 440m south of the activity and adjacent to the anaerobic ponds
The area surrounding the Premises is part of the Arthur River sub-catchment (Blackwood Catchment)	Entire site
Crown Reserves (listed at Type 3R) are in several locations surrounding the Premises	Closest is approximately 560m north
Underlying groundwater	Six monitoring bores installed in 2016 around the onsite wastewater treatment ponds indicate groundwater to range between 1.6mbgl to 9.9 mbgl and flow in a south-easterly direction

## 3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the licence holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the licence holder's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the licence as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the licence holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

The conditions in the revised licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

**Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation**

Risk Event				Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	licence holder's controls			
<b>Operation</b>						
Vehicle movements (without a sufficient water source to allow dust suppression)	Dust	Air/windborne pathway to nearby human receptors causing impacts to health and amenity	Refer to Table 1	C = Minor L = Rare <b>Low Risk</b>	The Delegated Officer considers the applicant's controls sufficient in managing dust emissions during operation and does not consider sourcing water from the evaporation ponds for dust control necessary in managing this risk.	<u>Licence controls:</u> The licence holder is to ensure these water storage tanks (5000L portable water tank and 1200L trailer mounted water tank) are available for dust suppression on the premises where required.
Drying out of wastewater treatment ponds Rancid water in the ponds	Odour		C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	The Delegated Officer considers odour emissions emanating from the evaporation ponds presents a low risk to nearby receptors given these ponds are disused and no longer receive wastewater.	<u>Licence controls:</u> No regulatory controls specified.	
Wastewater treatment ponds in-situ	Nutrient-laden leachate	Seepage/ infiltration causing soil and groundwater contamination	No controls listed	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	In response to improvement conditions on a previous version of this licence, a report was provided to the Department demonstrating that all clay liners on these wastewater ponds met the required permeability of $1 \times 10^{-9}$ m/s. As these ponds are no longer in use and not receiving wastewater, the risk of seepage and subsequent effect on the environment is considered low.  The Delegated Officer considers leaving these evaporation ponds in-situ currently presents an acceptable risk.	<u>Licence controls:</u> No regulatory controls specified.
	Loss of containment/over-topping of ponds	Overland flow causing impact to surrounding environment		C = Slight L = Rare <b>Low Risk</b>	The applicant has provided water balance calculations for all five water storage ponds which has concluded evaporation on an annual basis is 1.61 to 2.53 times greater than rainfall input. As these ponds are no longer in use and not receiving wastewater input, the Delegated Officer considers the risk of overtopping low.	<u>Licence controls:</u> No regulatory controls specified.

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

## 4. Decision

The Delegated Officer has considered the proposal to remove conditions in the licence that require the removal of piggery derived solids and sludge from the water storage ponds and subsequent use of these ponds to hold dust suppression water. This assessment has determined that the removal of these conditions does not pose an unacceptable risk of impacts to on- and off-site receptors. This determination is based on the following:

- Sufficient distance to sensitive human receptors given these ponds are no longer in use and are not receiving any odorous wastewater;
- An alternative source of water (production bores on adjacent property) and use of a 5000L water tank and also a trailer mounted 1200L tank is considered appropriate for dust suppression on the premises where required;
- The clay liners on all five evaporation ponds in-situ provide a permeability of  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s and thus limit any seepage to the environment. The removal of sludge from these ponds may damage the integrity of this liner; and
- Water balance calculations indicate these ponds are oversized and not likely to overtop and flow into the environment.

## 5. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the Department.

**Table 4: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Local Government Authority advised of proposal on 17 March 2022	No comments received.	N/A
Licence holder was provided with draft amendment on 26 May 2022	Licence holder responded on 30 May 2022 and advised to waive the remainder of the comments period and proceed with the granting of the amended instrument.	Revised licence granted.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a revised licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

### 6.1 Summary of amendments

Table 5 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the revised licence as part of the amendment process.



**Table 5: Summary of licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 1, Table 1	All operational requirements assigned letters for referencing purposes.
Condition 1, Table 1, Item 4	Removal of operational condition requiring the desludging of water storage ponds and subsequent use of these ponds as a dust suppression water source.
Condition 1, Table 1, Item 4	Addition of licence holder's proposed control to use a 5000L portable water tank and a 1200L trailer mounted water tank for dust suppression purposes.

## References

1. DER July 2015. Guidance Statement: Regulatory principles. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au)
2. DER, October 2015. Guidance Statement: Setting conditions. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au)
3. DER, August 2016. Guidance Statement: Licence duration. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. Accessed at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au)
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7. DWER, June 2019. Guideline: Decision Making. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth. Accessed at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au)
8. DWER, June 2019. Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth. Accessed at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au)