

# **Decision Report**

# **Application for licence**

#### Division 3, Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986

Licence number	L2934/2025/1
Applicant	Bunbury Poultry Pty Ltd ATF The Bunbury Poultry Unit Trust
ACN	607 903 168
DWER file number	APP-0028512
Premises	Peter's Poultry Abattoir 61 Dellamarta Road Wangara WA 6065
	Legal description -
	Lot 217 on Diagram Plan 52478
	Certificate of Title Volume 1476 Folio 750
Date of report	26/05/2025
Status of report	Granted

Caron Goodbourn

#### MANAGER, PROCESS INDUSTRIES

an officer delegated under section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)

# 1. Purpose and scope of assessment

Peter's Poultry, an existing chicken abattoir operating within the Wangara Industrial Area, has proposed an increase in production, triggering its classification as a prescribed premise. An application for a new licence was submitted to the department under Division 3 Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) on 11 April 2025.

This report sets out the delegated officer's assessment of potential risk events arising from emissions and discharges that will be generated during operations at the premises.

In completing the assessment documented in this report, the department has considered and given due regard to its regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <a href="https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents">https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents</a>.

# 2. Application details

#### **Overview of existing premises**

Peter's Poultry is a chicken abattoir in operation since 1999 that receives live birds from major chicken producers for hand-slaughter, processing, chilling and packing.

Current operations are four hours a day, two days a week (8 hours per week) with a maximum of 936 tonnes per annum (tpa) falling below the 1,000 tpa liveweight threshold for a Category 15, prescribed premise. The application proposes an increase in operations to six hours a day, five days a week (30 hours per week) estimating an increase to 30 tonnes per week or 1,560 tpa.

Annual production capacity used in assessing this application was calculated by the department at 6,740 tpa (live weight), using the design capacity of 1,800 birds per hour, 30 hours per week for 52 weeks of the year with an average liveweight of 2.4 kg.

Waste produced at the facility includes moribund birds, feathers, heads, feet, livers, hearts, lungs and other viscera waste are placed into impervious enclosed bins stored in in an outdoor (uncovered) bin storage area. Feather and offal bins are collected each processing day for transport to the Talloman rendering facility in Hazelmere, and general waste is collected twice a week.

Wastewater is directed via the abattoirs drainage system into an impervious septic tank (sedimentation tank) for settlement of solids before the wastewater is discharged to mains sewer. The septic tank is cleaned of the settled solids every six months and the solids are disposed of in the offal bin.

There are no proposed changes to the infrastructure or equipment at the premises to what is existing and waste collection frequency will be adjusted to handle the increased production of waste.

As proposed activities are at an existing abattoir facility located in an industrial area with a small increase in production throughput and waste, significant increases in odour emissions are not expected. The only odour complaints received were attributed to the offal and feather bins and for this reason the department has required additional regulatory controls relating to waste management.

# 3. Location and siting

#### Nuisance odour and noise

The premises is located within the Wangara Industrial Area, a well-established hub for manufacturing, engineering, and construction companies in the City of Wanneroo. The closest residential dwellings are situated 400 m north-west of the premises boundary in the suburb Pearsall.

#### Groundwater

The closest groundwater receptor is the superficial aquifer of the Gnangara Mound, 39 m below the Australian Height Datum (AHD). The concern of wastewater infiltrating to the groundwater poses low risk as the premises will not be discharging to land. The applicant's containment of wastewater and bin leachates reduce the likelihood of unplanned discharges to ground occurring.

### 4. Other approvals

The applicant has stated in the application they have received necessary planning approvals from the City of Wanneroo.

## 5. Consultation

The application was referred to the City of Wanneroo and advertised for public comment on the department's website for 21 days on 1 May 2025. City of Wanneroo provided comment on 19 May 2025.

The applicant was presented with a draft licence and decision report on 12 May 2025 for comment. Comments were provided by the applicant on 15 May 2025.

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response	
Application advertised on the department's website on 1 May 2025.	None received	N/A	
Local Government Authority (City of Wanneroo) advised of proposal on 1 May 2025	City of Wanneroo provided information on an odour complaint from a neighbouring property in February 2025. 'The complainant had photographic evidence of an accumulation of chicken waste in an uncovered skip bin that was uncollected for a day, resulting in a nuisance and offensive odour. The business the issue was a one-off incident due to the contractor not collecting the bin as per schedule and the complaint was closed. It could potentially be beneficial to condition the new license with an odour condition'	The department notes this complaint and has imposed additional regulatory controls on the management of the offal and feather bins to minimise the risk of odour emissions from the storage of waste on-site	
The applicant was provided with a draft licence and decision report for comment on 12 May 2025.	<b>Condition 1: limit on production</b> Liveweight and carcass weight limits: Revise the liveweight restriction to 5,616 tpa to reflect a processing of 1,500 birds per hour, 30 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, with an average liveweight of 2.4 kg per bird.	The department originally assessed the application at 6,740 tpa (live weight) due to confusion over dressed weight and liveweight. The proposed liveweight restriction is lower than what was assessed before and is therefore acceptable.	
	<b>Condition 2, Table 1</b> Terminology update: Replace all references to "Septic Tank" with "Sedimentation System" throughout the licence to better reflect the nature of the treatment system.	The department notes that the term 'septic tank' was used in the application, however, agrees to change the term to 'sedimentation tank'. The term 'system' does not reflect a containment structure which was assessed in this application and is ambiguous.	

#### Table 1: Stakeholder and applicant comments

		The department has been made aware of an odour complaint in February 2025 by the City of Wanneroo. The complaint was			
	Condition 2, Table 1 – Item 6(b) Offal bin covering requirement: Require that offal bins be covered only after production is complete and before collection to balance efficient	caused by an unclosed bin overflowing with chicken wastes,			
		resulting from the contractor not collecting the bin as per schedule.			
		department has added regulatory controls to the bin collection area			
		and rejects the applicants comment to revise the offal bin covering requirement.			

# 6. Risk assessment

#### Determination of emission, pathway and receptor

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.

#### **Risk ratings**

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for each identified emission source and takes into account identified potential source-pathway and receptor linkages. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the applicant has proposed mitigation measures/controls, these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the delegated officer considers the applicant'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 applicant's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in the table below.

#### **Risk assessment table**

The table below describes the risk events associated with the proposal consistent with the Guideline: Risk Assessments (DWER 2020). The table identifies whether the risk events are acceptable and tolerated, or unacceptable and not tolerated, and the appropriate treatment and degree of regulatory control, where required.

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

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Risk Event	[			Consequence rating <sup>1</sup>	Likelihood rating <sup>1</sup>	Risk <sup>1</sup>	Reasoning	Regulatory
Source/ Activities	Potential emissions	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Applicant controls					controls
Category 15:								
Operation								
Local traffic and waste disposal Dust (fugitive) The likelihood of dust impacts from local traffic are negligible due to size of operation and sealed roads. A risk assessment was not conducted.								
Live holding, killing and processing of chickens	Bioaerosols (organic dust particles)	Receptors: 38 residential dwellings 400 m north-west of premises (Pearsall) and nearby businesses within Wangara Industrial Area (<100 m) Small particles of bone, skin, feathers and faeces produced from the physical processing of chickens in the kill area and evisceration area exiting the ventilation system through the extraction fan, travelling via air/windborne pathways impacting health of sensitive receptors.	Chicken processing occurs within an enclosed process building and the live holding area uses drippers to suppress dust emissions.	Local scale: Minimal impact to amenity <b>Slight</b>	The risk event will probably not occur in most circumstances <b>Unlikely</b>	Low No controls	The scale of operations occurring within an enclosed building and the use of drippers to suppress dust reduces the likelihood of the risk event occurring.	Applicant controls adequate
Machinery and Equipment: Noise from processing equipment and ventilation systems	Noise	Receptors: 38 residential dwellings 400 m north-west of premises (Pearsall) and, nearby businesses within Wangara Industrial Area (<100 m) Noise produced by machinery and equipment, and ventilation systems impacting public amenity via air/windborne pathways.	Chicken processing occurs within an enclosed process building that acts as noise insulation. Operations will only occur between 6am and 12pm.	Local scale: Minimal impact to amenity <b>Slight</b>	The risk event could occur at sometime <b>Possible</b>	Low No controls	Premises will be subject to the EP (Noise) Regulation's 1997. The facility is existing and no new infrastructure or equipment is proposed to be installed. The proposed changes will not change the intensity of noise emissions.	Applicant controls adequate
Storage of waste in offal bin, feather bin and general waste before collection.	Odour	Receptors: 38 residential dwellings 400 m north-west of premises (Pearsall) and nearby businesses within Wangara Industrial Area (<100 m) Bins placed outside process building for waste collection producing odours impacting amenity of nearby receptors via air/windborne pathways.	Waste is stored in covered bins kept outside prior to collection. Offal and feather are collected on the day of processing via an advance waste management agreement with Tallomans and general waste is collected twice a week on the days after processing (maximum 36 hours) by JJ Richards. With an increase in waste production, waste collection will be increased to maintain the same standard.	Local scale impacts: low level impact to amenity <b>Minor</b>	The risk event could occur at sometime <b>Possible</b>	Medium Acceptable with controls	The proposed activities at Peter's Poultry are not expected to produce unreasonable odour emissions. The department is unaware of any complaints recorded by the City of Wanneroo regarding odour emissions at the current throughput levels. Additionally, no new equipment or infrastructure will be added, meaning the intensity of odour emissions will remain consistent. The only change involves an increase in daily operational hours from 4 to 6 hourse This extension	Bins must be impervious to rainwater, leachate and contain odours when closed. Bins must remain closed at all times except when disposing of chicken wastes.
Live holding, killing and processing of chickens		Receptors: 38 residential dwellings 400 m north-west of premises (Pearsall) and nearby businesses within Wangara Industrial Area (<100 m) Odours produced during the various stages of chicken processing escaping via the extraction fan impacting amenity of nearby businesses and	Chickens are not held on the premises except when awaiting slaughter Loft HVAC system draws odours produced in the abattoir to the spin chill room for treatment and emission via the extraction fan.	Local scale: minimal impacts to amenity Slight	The risk event will probably not occur in most circumstances <b>Unlikely</b>	Low	iger exposure time for receptors to tential odour emissions. However, ren the existing controls and the sility's track record, it is anticipated at the increase in operational hours Il not lead to unreasonable odour nissions. /e holding, slaughter and ocessing of chickens is all on the oy of delivery. Il waste is collected on the day ducing the risk of odour emissions ipacting receptors.	Waste must be stored in a chilled room and disposed of in bulk no sooner than 4 hours before on-day collection.
Cleaning and processing poultry in the abattoir	Contaminated wastewater (22.031 kL annually)	Receptors: Superficial aquifer of Gnangara Mound (38 – 39 m below AHD), native vegetation 350 m north-east, TEC – 4N0 m north-east.	All wastewater generated in the processing areas enters the drainage system via floor drains for direction to the septic tank. All drains are covered in grates to capture large solids and prevent blockages of the drainage system.	Offsite impacts local scale: mid level Offsite impacts wider scale: minimal <b>Moderate</b>	The risk event may only occur in exceptional circumstances Rare	Medium Acceptable with controls	This facility ensures that all wastewater is treated before being discharged into the main sewerage system, with no discharge to land. The nearest groundwater source, Gnangara Mound, is located 11 km to	The septic tank must be inspected visually or using a sensor to

	Contaminants include organic matter (blood, feathers, fat), chemicals (cleaning agents, disinfectants), and pathogens	Spill and leaks of contaminated wastewater from the septic tank during rainfall events running off and entering stormwater drains impacting local water bodies. Contaminated wastewater overflowing from septic tank and running off overland leading to infiltration through soil to groundwater (38 – 39 m below AHD) impacting use of groundwater by nearby residential receptors.	Wastewater is stored in a septic tank (which is emptied of solids every six months and discharged into mains sewerage. This can be done on a quarterly basis to facilitate the increased production. Tank is visually inspected daily to ensure the water and solids level is below the 300mm freeboard level. Solids are scooped out and removed on a weekly basis and dispose in the offal bin which is picked up on production days.			
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the east, which is a sufficient distance to minimize any potential impact on receptors.	ensure the freeboard level is ≤ 300
Additionally, the groundwater at the premises is situated 38-39 meters below the Australian Height Datum (AHD). The presence of sealed roads around the premises further reduces the likelihood of groundwater contamination from soil infiltration by contaminated wastewater. Therefore, the risk of impacting groundwater is considered very low.	All hardstands, sumps, drains and pipes must be maintained to prevent leakage of
Due to the small scale of operation compared to other Australian operations and the fact that most roads in the Wangara Industrial Area are sealed, the likelihood of groundwater infiltration is significantly reduced.	wastewater to subsurface soils.

# 7. Conclusion

Based on this assessment, Delegated Officer has determined the issued licence will be granted subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

In accordance with the *Guidance Statement: Licence duration* (DER 2016), the duration of the licence will be 20 years.

### 8. References

- 1. Email detailing applicant comments received by the department on 15 May 2025:
- 2. New licence application form received by the department on 11 April 2025: