



Department initiated Amendment

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

Licence Number	L5271/1983/14
Licence Holder	Alcoa of Australia Limited
ACN	004 879 298
Application Number	APP-0026213
Premises	<p>Pinjarra Alumina Refinery South West Hwy</p> <p>PINJARRA WA 6208</p> <p>Legal description –</p> <p>Lot 19 on Diagram 44739, Part of Lot 109 on Diagram 60089, Part of Lot 151 on Plan 10914, Lot 221 on Plan 302632, Lot 222 on Plan 302638, Part of Lot 251 on Plan 35963 and Lot 252 on Plan 35963</p> <p>As depicted in Schedule 1 of the licence</p>
Date of Report	9 June 2025
Decision	Revised licence granted

1. Decision summary

The delegated officer has determined to make an amendment to licence L5271/1983/14. The amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The amendment is limited to extending the duration of the licence L5271/1983/14 for the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery by a CEO initiated amendment. No other changes have been made to existing conditions or licence holder obligations. This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision and amendment reports for the existing licence will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the licence, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER; the department) has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at [DWER Regulatory documents | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/regulatory-documents).

2.2 Amendment summary

Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa; licence holder) holds licence L5271/1983/14 for the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery (the premises), located 75 km south of Perth CBD.

The licence relates to the operation of the following prescribed premises categories; 46: Bauxite refining, 52: Electric power generation, 64: Class II and III putrescible landfill site and 67: Fuel burning, under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing licence L5271/1983/14.

The department commenced a review of the licence in December 2022. The review has been put on hold pending completion of the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) assessment and Ministerial decision making on the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal (assessment number 2253) under Part IV of the EP Act. The review will take into consideration any outcomes from the assessment and decision making of the revised proposal under Part IV.

The existing licence is due to expire on 16 June 2025. A CEO initiated amendment to extend the licence duration was initiated in September 2024 as, completion of the Part IV assessment and the licence review were considered unlikely to be complete prior to the licence expiry. The extension to the licence duration is expected to provide time for completion of the EP Act Part IV assessment and decision making.

3. Background and context

3.1 Overview of the premises

Alcoa of Australia Limited has operated the premises since 1972 as a bauxite refinery to produce aluminium oxide, commonly known as alumina. The premises is located 5 km east-south-east of the Pinjarra township. The refinery uses the Bayer process to refine bauxite ore into alumina. The ore is conveyed overland to the premises from the licence holder's nearby licensed ore crushing and processing operation at the Huntly Mine site. The premises comprises two core components being the refinery and the residue storage area (RSA). The RSA consists of containment mud lakes for residue waste, ponds for cooling water and runoff collection water, oxalate storage and a landfill.

Within Western Australia, the licence holder also operates two other licensed bauxite refineries

(Wagerup Alumina Refinery and Kwinana Alumina Refinery), two licensed bauxite ore crushing and processing facilities (Willowdale Mine and Huntly Mine), and a licensed power generation facility (Wagerup Co-generation Plant).

3.2 Part IV of the EP Act

Alcoa holds Ministerial Statement 646 for the Pinjarra Refinery Efficiency Upgrade approved on 3 March 2004 under Part IV of the EP Act.

The EPA is currently assessing a revised proposal for the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery under Part IV of the EP Act. The revised proposal includes a 5 per cent increase in alumina production to 5.25 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) and a 7.5 per cent increase in residue disposal to 11.6 Mtpa.

3.3 Review of Licence L5271/1983/14

The department commenced a review of the licence in December 2022. The purpose of the review is to ensure the conditions on the licence:

- are fit-for-purpose for the control of impacts associated with the regulated activities;
- accurately reflect the current operational requirements; and
- are aligned with the Department's risk-based Regulatory Framework.

The review is currently on hold pending a decision on the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal under Part IV of the EP Act. Completion of the review is contingent upon a decision on the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal to ensure licence conditions do not duplicate and are consistent with decisions of the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the EP Act.

The review will also give consideration to the outcomes of the department's investigation into dust complaints in and around the Pinjarra townsite. The department published its first report, *Ambient dust monitoring campaign, Pinjarra* on 8 August 2024. Further air quality monitoring was undertaken from 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025 at a location in central Pinjarra to better characterise the levels of dust for the greater Pinjarra community. A further report will be published following conclusion of the monitoring and a review by the Department of Health.

4. Decision

Section 63 of the EP Act prescribes that a licence shall continue in force for such period as is specified in the licence. Licence L5271/1983/14 is due to expire on 16 June 2025.

The delegated officer considers it appropriate to extend the licence duration by one year. Extending the licence expiry to 16 June 2026 is expected to provide time for the department to align the renewal process with the completion of current Part IV assessment and decision making and the licence review. Administrative changes including a new format cover page and update to definitions were also made however these changes do not alter any obligations of the licence holder.

In determining to extend the duration of the licence by one year, the following matters were considered by the delegated officer:

- an extension to the duration of the licence will not change the current assessed risk profile of the premises, and the risks posed by ongoing emissions from the premises will continue to be subject to the existing licence conditions;
- the licence continues to specify requirements related to dust emissions and discharges, air emissions, surface and groundwater quality, that will continue in accordance with existing conditions of the licence;
- the premises will be subject to ongoing compliance inspections and investigations

following incidents and complaints, in accordance with the EP Act;

- in the event that risk issues arise in relation to the premises, the CEO may:
 - amend the licence conditions at any point, and
 - in the event of an alleged offence, exercise enforcement powers under the provisions of the EP Act;
- DWER will continue to investigate reports of dust, noise and surface and groundwater impacts in the local community and, where appropriate, take further action to address any ongoing unreasonable impacts in accordance with the department's [Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2021](#); and
- DWER has initiated a licence review process. The process has been put on hold pending the outcome of a Part IV decision on the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal under Part IV of the EP Act. The review will recommence following the Part IV decision and will take into account any outcomes that relate to the licence.

The delegated officer has therefore amended licence L5271/1983/14 in accordance with section 59(1) of the EP Act by extending the licence expiry date from 16 June 2025 to 16 June 2026.

5. Consultation

The licence holder was provided with drafts of the revised licence and this report on 13 May 2025. The licence holder responded to the drafts on 19 May 2025 and waived the remaining consultation period.

6. Conclusion

The delegated officer has determined to amend the existing licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

6.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the revised licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 1: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no. or section	Proposed amendments
Duration	Extended to 16/06/2026
CEO definition	Added 'submissions'
Licence history table	Updated to include the amendment to extend the duration to 16 June 2026
Table captions	Updated format to allow for cross referencing

References

1. DWER 2019, *Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. EPA 2015, *Ministerial Statement 646 Pinjarra Refinery Efficiency Upgrade*. Perth, Western Australia (available at <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/pinjarra-refinery-efficiency-upgrade>)
4. EPA 2020, *Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal*. Perth Western Australia (available at: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Extract_of_determination/CMS17836%20-%20Chairmans%20Determination.pdf)
5. DWER 2024 *Ambient dust monitoring campaign, Pinjarra*. Perth, Western Australia (available at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/ambient-dust-monitoring-campaign-pinjarra>)