



## Application for Licence Amendment

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

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L5271/1983/14
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Alcoa of Australia Limited
<b>ACN</b>	004 879 298
<b>File Number</b>	APP-0029395
<b>Premises</b>	Pinjarra Alumina Refinery South West Hwy  Legal description –  Part of Lot 109 on Diagram 60089, Part of Lot 151 on Plan 10914, Lot 301 on Plan 35411, Lot 302 on Plan 35411, Lot 221 on Plan 302638, Lot 222 on Plan 302638, Lot 501 on Plan 417051 and Lot 252 on Plan 35963  As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1 of the Revised Licence
<b>Date of Report</b>	5/03/2026
<b>Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

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## 1. Decision summary

Licence L5271/1983/14 is held by Alcoa of Australia Limited (Licence Holder) for the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery (the Premises), located at Pinjarra WA.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes emissions and discharges during the operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L5271/1983/14 has been granted.

The Revised Licence issued as a result of this amendment consolidates and supersedes the existing Licence previously granted in relation to the Premises. The Revised Licence has been granted in a new format with existing conditions being transferred, but not reassessed, to the new format.

## 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 June 2025, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the Department to amend Licence L5271/1983/14 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- Update the description of the Prescribed Premises;
- Remove completed construction compliance conditions;
- Change the wording of condition R1 to allow for spills outside of secondary containment at the Filtration Facility and mandate that these are immediately recovered and disposed of inside the Residue Storage Area (RSA);
- Addition of category 61: Liquid waste facility to the licence to authorise acceptance of washwater to the existing cooling pond at the premises.

The application originally included a request to clarify licence limits for airborne particulates, however this aspect of the application was withdrawn on 24 February 2026 and will be the subject of a separate amendment application.

#### 2.2.1 Changes to prescribed premises description

The Licence Holder requested amendments to the licence to remove an area it does not occupy and update the premises description to align with current cadastral records.

Lots within the prescribed premises are freehold land held by the Licence Holder. The exceptions are Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 44739 and an associated access road, which the Licence Holder requested be removed from within the premises boundary.

Lot 302 on Deposited Plan 35411, 301 on deposited plan 35411 and lot 501 on deposited plan 417051 are freehold land held by the Licence Holder and are within the prescribed premises. The Licence Holder requested to add the lot number to the premises description.

#### 2.2.2 Remove construction and compliance conditions for spillway

The Licence Holder requested to remove condition WKS1, WKS2 and WKS3 included through a 6 January 2021 licence amendment. The conditions relate to RSA5 spillway construction

and associated post-construction compliance reporting. The spillway was completed in December 2021 with compliance reports required by conditions WSK2 and WSK3 received in February 2022. The Department reviewed compliance reports with no compliance issues identified.

### 2.2.3 Changes to spill management requirements

The Licence Holder considered that condition R1 of the licence placed a burden of unnecessary reporting requirements for minor spills within the Filtration Facility area due to an operational requirement for all uncontained water to be directed to process water systems for reuse. The Licence Holder requested the condition be amended to provide clarity on spill management and reporting requirements. The Licence Holder provided revised condition R1 wording, with proposed changes to text shown in red below.

*R1 The Licence Holder shall ensure the infrastructure specified in column 1 of Table 5 is maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements in columns 2 and 3 of that table.*

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Operational requirements</b>
<i>Filtration facility</i>	<i>Tanks fitted with high-level alarm systems. Secondary containment</i>	<del><i>Runoff, drainage or spillage is contained and directed into process water systems for reuse.</i></del> <i>Secondary containment provided for the purpose of containing and directing runoff, drainage or spillage into process water systems. A minimum capacity of 110% of the largest tank or vessel within the filtration facility is maintained.</i>

### 2.2.4 Waste acceptance to cooling pond

The Licence Holder sought to accept 25 000 kL of industrial washwater from chemical manufacturers engaged by the Licence Holder for the provision of chemical flocculants. Industrial washwater from a chemical manufacturing facility meets the description of controlled waste category, Liquid waste L150: Industrial washwater contaminated with a controlled waste.

The water is proposed to be stored in an existing cooling pond which currently stores process water from alumina refinery activities at the premises for reuse back through the refinery.

Existing cooling pond operational capacity was 2.5 GL at the time of the application and contains alkaline and caustic wastewater. A freeboard of approximately 0.8 GL is maintained at the cooling pond to capture runoff from large rainfall events. The addition of 25 000 kL of washwater is expected to contribute approximately 0.001% of the total pond volume and 0.0032% of available freeboard.

Table 1 below outlines the proposed changes to the existing Licence

**Table 1: Proposed design or throughput capacity changes**

Category	Current throughput capacity	Proposed throughput capacity	Description of proposed amendment
61	N/A	25 000 kL liquid waste	The receipt of 25 000 kL of liquid waste at the facility triggers category 61 under Schedule 1 of the <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (EP Regulations)</i> (100 tonnes or more per year)

## 2.3 Overview of premises

The Licence Holder has operated the Premises since 1972 as a bauxite refinery to produce aluminium oxide, commonly known as alumina. The Premises is located approximately 90km south of Perth and 5km east-south-east of the Pinjarra township. The refinery uses the Bayer process to refine bauxite ore into aluminium oxide, commonly known as alumina. The ore is conveyed overland to the Premises from the Licence Holder's nearby licensed ore crushing and processing operation at its Huntly Mine site.

The Premises can be split into 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.

The Licence relates to activities at the Premises for the Prescribed Premises categories under the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (EP Regulations) as listed on Revised Licence L5271/1983/14.

Within Western Australia, the Licence Holder holds approvals under Part V of the EP Act for two other bauxite refineries (Wagerup Alumina Refinery and Kwinana Alumina Refinery), two bauxite ore crushing and processing facilities (Willowdale Mine and Huntly Mine), and a power generation facility (Wagerup Co-generation Plant).

## 2.4 Part IV of the EP Act

Ministerial Statement 646 (MS646) granted under Part IV of the EP Act, applies to the operation of the Premises.

## 2.5 State Agreements

The Premises is subject to the requirements of the Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra) Agreement Act 1969, and the Alumina Refinery Agreements (Alcoa) Amendment Act 1987. 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.

## 2.6 Source-pathways and receptors

### 2.6.1 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 2 below.

Table 2 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

**Table 2: Licence Holder controls**

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Contaminated water	Spills and leaks from water tankers while discharging to lined pond	Seepage to soils and groundwater Overland runoff to vegetation	Transfer of water from tankers to pond will be carried out on existing impermeable hardstand. Hoses to discharge within cooling pond embankments
Contaminated water	Pond failure	Seepage to soils and groundwater	Pond is lined with HDPE liner
		Overland runoff to vegetation	Pond freeboard of approximately 8 GL to be maintained

### 2.6.2 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 3 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 3: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity**

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
No residential or human receptors within 2 km	N/A
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Threatened Ecological Community	From 100 m southeast corner of cooling pond
Threatened Ecological Community (Critically endangered)	Approximately 1 Km northeast of cooling pond
River (Major Tributary) Barritt Brook	Approximately 300 m east of northeast corner of cooling pond
Groundwater	Superficial aquifer from 0-15 m bgl across the Premises.

Geomorphic wetlands and surface water resources	From approximately 600 m to the northeast of the cooling pond.

## 2.7 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 2.6. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Licence Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 2.6), 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 4.

The Revised Licence L5271/1982/14 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises i.e. the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery.

The conditions in the Revised Licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015)

**Table 4. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises**

Risk Event					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
<b>Operation</b>								
Storage of washwater	Contaminated water	Loss of containment, pond failure, Overland runoff causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	Priority flora from 100 m from pond  Geomorphic wetlands from 600 m from cooling pond	Refer to Section 5.1	C = Moderate L = Rare <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	<b><u>Condition S1(c) and Condition S1(d)</u></b>	The Delegated Officer considers the addition of proportionally small volumes of wastewater to the existing facility, do not result in change to the medium risk associated with the containment of water in the existing cooling pond. The Licence Holder proposes to receive wash water from a third party that is pretreated to remove dissolved polymers and achieve a pH between 6-9. The pond is considered fit for purpose on the basis that it is lined with HDPE and has sufficient available freeboard to mitigate overtopping risks. Condition S1(c) and S1(d) were added to the licence to allow the acceptance of L150 and to set limits on rate of acceptance, origin of waste and storage location in line with the application.
		Leaks in liner seepage to groundwater	Groundwater		C = Moderate L = Unlikely <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y		
Transfer of washwater	Spills leaks and loss of containment during transfer of washwater to pond	Overland runoff	TEC from 100 m from cooling pond	Transfer of washwater will occur within the pond embankment	C = Minor L = Rare <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	<b><u>Condition S1(c) and Condition S1(d)</u></b>	The Delegated Officer considers the addition of proportionally small volumes of wastewater to the existing facility, do not result in change to the low risk associated with the containment of water in the existing cooling pond. The pond embankment hardstand is considered fit for purpose on the basis that it is compact and directs towards the pond. Transfer will occur directly into the HDPE lined section.

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

Note 2: Proposed Licence Holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by the Department.

### 3. Decision

The Delegated Officer's decision making on each amendment requested by the Licence Holder (as summarised in section 2.2) is set out below.

#### 3.1 Changes to prescribed premises description

The Licence Holder's request is summarised in section 2.2.1. The Delegated Officer accepted the proposed changes to

- remove Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 44739, which is not held by the Licence Holder; and
- add Lot 302 on Deposited Plan 35411, Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 35411 and Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 417051.

The Delegated Officer considered the changes do not alter the risk profile of emissions and are administrative in nature.

#### 3.2 Remove completed construction and compliance conditions

The Licence Holder's request is summarized in section 2.2.2. The Delegated Officer noted the Licence Holder has completed spillway construction and fulfilled compliance reporting obligations. The Delegated Officer agreed conditions WSK1, WSK2 and WSK3 can be deleted as they are redundant.

#### 3.3 Changes to spill management requirements

The Licence Holder's request is summarised in section 2.2.3. The Delegated Officer agreed with the Licence Holder that condition R1, Table 13: Operation of Infrastructure requirements Column 3, did not clearly stipulate regulatory requirements to manage small spills within the filtration facility and this has the potential to place an unnecessary burden of statutory reporting requirements. However, the Delegated Officer specified a different revised wording (than that proposed by the Licence Holder) which better reflects the Department's condition setting principles in its *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*.

The Delegated Officer amended condition R1 as depicted by the red text below.

R1 *The Licence Holder shall ensure the infrastructure specified in column 1 of Table 5 is maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements in columns 2 and 3 of that table.*

Table 5: Operation of Infrastructure Requirements

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Infrastructure	Description	Operational requirements
Filtration facility	Tanks fitted with high-level alarm systems. Secondary containment	<p>Runoff, drainage <del>or</del> and spillage <del>within the filtration facility is must be immediately recovered or contained</del> directed into process water systems for reuse.</p> <p>Secondary containment must be maintained and in a fit for purpose condition for containing liquids, and free of damage which may impact its ability to contain fluids.</p> <p><del>A minimum capacity of Secondary containment capacity of at least 110% of the largest tank or vessel within the filtration facility</del> <del>is must be maintained.</del></p>

In making this determination the Delegated Officer notes that the Licence Holder has been managing spills effectively within the filtration facility and the change to condition R1 does not change the risk profile of emission and discharges from the premises.

### 3.4 Waste acceptance to cooling pond

The Licence Holder's request is summarised in section 2.2.4. The Delegated Officer determined the addition of liquid wastes from washwater will not significantly alter the water quality of the cooling pond. In reaching this conclusion the Delegated Officer considered the following:

- Containment infrastructure is pre-existing and will not require modification to allow for the acceptance of washwater.
- The volumes of waste to be accepted will not change the water quality of the existing cooling pond.
- Adequate space is available to allow for the acceptance of water and maintain freeboard
- The Licence Holder has committed to pretreat water to remove dissolved polymers and achieve a pH between 6-9.
- The addition of washwater from flocculant producing facilities is not expected to impact the quality of the pond liner
- The Licence Holder must comply with requirements for the acceptance of Controlled Waste set out in the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*.

### 3.5 CEO-initiated amendment

The Department commenced a review of the Part V licence in December 2022. However, the review has been put on hold pending completion of the Environmental Protection Authority's

(EPA) Part IV assessment and Ministerial decision making on the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal (assessment number 2253) under Part IV of the EP Act. The Department’s review will take into consideration any outcomes from the assessment and decision making of the revised proposal under Part IV.

Completion of the Part IV assessment and the Part V licence review were considered unlikely to be completed prior to the licence expiry, which was previously due to expire on 16 June 2026. A CEO-initiated amendment to extend the licence duration by one year is expected to provide sufficient time for completion of the EP Act Part IV assessment and decision making, and the Part V licence review.

The Delegated Officer has amended Licence L5271/1983/14 in accordance with section 59(1) of the EP Act by extending the licence expiry date from 16 June 2026 to the 16 June 2027.

## 4. Consultation

Table 6 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the Department.

**Table 6: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the Department’s website (18/09/2025)	None received	N/A
Local Government Authority advised of proposal (17/09/2025)	<p>The Shire of Murray replied on 08/10/2025 and advised that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comments relating to the withdraw aspects of the application</li> <li>2. The Shire does not object to the amendment to condition R1, and suggests that in column 3, the sentences are placed in reverse order to better match column 2 for clarity of spill control measures.</li> <li>3. The Shire of Murray’s response anticipated that previous submissions relating to the Department’s current licence review of L5271/1983/14 may be considered</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted, no longer applicable.</li> <li>2. Noted.</li> <li>3. Noted.</li> </ol>
Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advised of proposal (17/09/2025)	None Received	N/A

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) advised of proposal (17/09/2025)	DEED replied on 30/09/25 and advised that:  DEED had no Objections, however noted that the application form incorrectly completed Part 7.2 of the application form. Alcoa should have ticked yes and listed the <i>Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra) Agreement Act 1969</i> .	The error has been noted by the Delegated Officer.
Other stakeholders advised of application 17/09/2025	One stakeholder responded on 17/09/2025. The stakeholder indicated their general disagreement with Alcoa's operations in Pinjarra with specific reference to dust emissions.	Noted.

## 5. Licence Holder's comments

The Licence Holder was provided with a draft of the Amended Licence and this Amendment Report for comment on 31 October 2025 and a second draft of both documents on 25 February 2026. Refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of the Licence Holder's comments on the Draft Amendment and the Department's response.

## 6. Conclusion

### 6.1 Amendments granted

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that an Amended Licence will be granted which includes amendments that relate to:

- Update the description of the Prescribed Premises
- Remove completed construction compliance conditions
- Change the wording of condition R1 to allow for spills small spills to be immediately recovered.
- Addition of category 61: Liquid waste facility to the licence to authorise acceptance of washwater to the existing cooling pond at the premises.

#### 6.1.1 Summary of amendments

Table 7 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 7: Summary of licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
WKS1, WSK2 and WSK3	Remove redundant spillway construction conditions and remove associated compliance audit conditions and reporting conditions and
N/A	Inclusion of Category 61: Liquid waste facility to the licence

S1(a)	Inclusion of reference to Alcoa Perth Office as a waste source
S1(c)	Inclusion of new waste acceptance controls to regulate liquid waste acceptance
S1(d)	Inclusion of new waste monitoring requirements to include monitoring and data recording of liquid waste
R1	Changes to operational requirement within condition R1 to clarify that immediate recovery of spills is permitted within the filtration facility.  Changes to condition R1 such that secondary containment is maintained in fit for purpose condition
N/A	Inclusion of definitions where relevant  Adjustment of condition and table numbering where relevant  Minor edits to headings
Schedule 1: Maps	Update descriptions in Table 14  Update Premises map with revised premises boundary  Inclusion of Table 15: Premises boundary coordinates
Schedule 1: Maps	Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4: Remove redundant figures related to infrastructure location and design plans of spillway

## References

1. Advisian – Worsley Group 2022: *Construction Report – Pinjarra Residue – RSA5 Perimeter Drain Spillway, Alcoa of Australia*, Perth WA.
2. Alcoa – Pinjarra Alumina Refinery: Licence Amendment Application for L5271/1983 – Attachments 2 and 3B (May 2025).
3. Amendment Report, 6 January 2021: Application for Licence Amendment L5271/1982/14 – Pinjarra Refinery, DWER Ref.
4. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
5. Department of Environment Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guidance Statement: Decision Making*, Perth, Western Australia.
6. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
7. DER 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
8. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
9. Licence: L5271/1983/14 – Pinjarra Refinery, DWER Ref. INS-0001193.
10. Licence: L6217/1983/15 – Wagerup Alumina Refinery, DWER Ref. INS-0001287.
11. Licence: L5245/1967/14 – Kwinana Alumina Refinery, DWER Ref. INS-0001190.
12. Works Approval: W6813/2023/1 – Pinjarra Alumina Refinery. DWER Ref. INS-0002667.

## Appendix 1: Summary of Licence Holder's comments on risk assessment and draft conditions

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
Condition A3	The Licence Holder withdrew this aspect of the amendment.	Noted and removed.
Premises description and Table 14	Minor corrections to premises description.	Noted and updated.
Condition S1(c)	Requested wording changes to condition.	The wording used within the condition is standard across licences with waste acceptance and forms part of DWER's condition templates, therefore this condition wording will remain.
	The Licence Holder requested that the words chemical flocculant washwater be replaced with the word industrial washwater	The Delegated Officer considers that the term industrial washwater by itself is too broad, and the licence needs to more specifically describe the type of waste that has been assessed. The description of the washwater has been updated to account for variation in the supplier loads.
	The Licence Holder requested references to pH adjustment and polymer removal are removed.	These items were originally included as descriptions provided within the licence amendment application, the Delegated Officer considers that it is not necessary to condition these requirements.
Condition S1(d)	The Licence Holder requested removal of the requirement to report liquid waste parameters as this duplicates requirements of the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i>	<p>The Delegated Officer accepted that some parameters in the draft documents were unnecessary and these have been removed.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer considers that monitoring inputs of waste to the premises does not duplicate the requirements of the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004. The condition is standard across licences with waste acceptance and is required to determine compliance with licence throughputs and therefore this parameter remains.</p>
Conditions W5 and W6	The Licence Holder provided an updated map for figure one which shows the location of the spillway.	Updated Figure 1 added to the Licence.
Amendment	Minor changes to wording in Table 4	Noted and updated

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
Report, Table 4		