Amendment Report

Application for a licence amendment

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Licence number	L5939/1988/11
Licence holder	Tronox Management Pty Ltd
ACN	009 343 364
DWER file number	
Premises	Tronox Chandala Processing Plant Brand Highway, Muchea Western Australia
Date of report	29/04/2025
Status of report	Final

Amendment description

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend the existing licence issued under the EP Act for a prescribed premises as set out below. This notice of amendment is hereby given under section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

This amendment is limited to expanding the footprint of the temporary coal stockpile area and using it as a permanent coal stockpile.

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 https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents.

Purpose and scope of assessment

Tronox Management Pty Ltd (licence holder) is seeking to amend licence L5939/1988/11 for the operation of an expanded coal stockpile on the premises. An application has been submitted to increase the stockpile area and bund size and monitor dust emissions.

Background

The licence holder operates a processing plant for titanium chemicals mined by the licence holder. The premises is located at Lot M1261 on Diagram 5326, Muchea.

Coal is used on the premises as an input into the synthetic rutile kiln. Stockpiling of coal is already an approved activity at a permanent stockpile location. Due to local coal supply disruptions, the licence holder is now needing to source coal from outside Western Australia. The new coal supply will be delivered via shipments through the Bunbury Port.

The existing coal storage bins and stockpile on the premises are designed for multiple deliveries of local coal spaced over time therefore are relatively small. As the coal shipments will arrive at the premises in larger volumes, a larger coal storage facility is required to facilitate storage of coal shipments.

The licence holder previously applied for a licence amendment to construct a temporary coal stockpile area lasting for 6-8 months, situated on a compacted limestone pad and a limestone containment bund, the amendment was granted on 26 April 2024 (DWER, 2024). The department undertook a compliance assessment on 11/10/2024 which deemed the construction of the coal stockpile pad as compliant.

Proposed amendment

The licence holder proposes to increase the size of coal stockpile area, expand the containment bund and to operate it long term as a result of limited stored options, additionally dust monitoring has been installed to monitor PM_{10}.

Currently the approved coal stockpile is 70m x 115m and will be expanded to 105m x 120m. The pad is to be constructed with compacted limestone and the limestone containment bund (~500mm in height) to buffer the low pH runoff from the coal stockpile. The proposal to construct the coal stockpile area was previously granted on 26/04/2024.

Consultation

The licence holder was provided with a draft amended licence and amendment report for comment on 1 April 2025

The licence holder provided comment on the draft that included clarification on the longevity of the coal stockpile stating it will be a permanent stockpile and for the parameter of

“temperature” to be removed from the licence. Both comments have been accepted and amended accordingly due to no change in risk.

Emissions and licence holder controls

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

Table 1: Licence holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Dust	Coal stockpile (loading, unloading and storage) Vehicle movements	Air/windborne pathway	Dust suppression using water spray or chemical coating. Continuous dust monitoring of PM_{10} at the closest site boundary, downwind of the stockpile to determine compliance with existing conditions and the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure 2016 (Ambient Air NEPM) relevant criteria. This dust monitoring will also inform dust management at the premises as per the Chandala Air Emissions Management Plan and Dust Management Procedure. Onsite vehicle speed limited to 15 km/hr. Regular passes of water cart and street sweeper.
Contaminated stormwater (low pH, coal sediments)	Coal stockpile	Infiltration	Limestone pad to provide a barrier to infiltration and neutralise low pH contaminated stormwater. Monthly groundwater monitoring will be sent to a NATA accredited laboratory that will measure pH, TDS, EC, Mn, Fe, Al, sulphate, and chloride at four existing bores around the coal stockpile.
		Overland runoff	Limestone containment bund on three sides (north, west and east) to mitigate stormwater ingress/egress and aid in neutralising runoff. Regular inspection of containment bunds A stormwater collection system comprising a $2m^3$ collection sump at the northwestern corner of the stockpile area, a pump (10L/s) and a pipeline will be installed to manage stormwater. The limestone pad will be graded toward the collection sump. Runoff collected in the sump will be pumped via the pipeline

			into the closest existing stormwater catchment system to the south west. The sump will be monitored and maintained.

Decision

Increased area of the coal stockpile.

The delegated officer has determined that the proposal to increase the area of the existing coal stockpile is unlikely to increase environmental risk. This determination is based on the previous risk assessment of the existing coal stockpile and that the controls provided by the applicant align with that assessment (Table 1).

The delegated officer has also determined that work and compliance conditions should be amended in the licence to ensure the new section of the coal stockpile is constructed in accordance with the same requirements. No additional regulatory requirements are necessary.

The delegated officer notes that the licence holder should continue to look for a more permanent coal storage area.

Conclusion

Based on this assessment, it has been determined to amend the existing licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

Summary of amendments

The below table 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 works approval as part of the amendment process.

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 39	Removal of temperature from groundwater monitoring
Condition 40	Condition has been amended to reflect the changes in coal stockpile size. Removal for construction of the drainage pond (already constructed).

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2017, *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guideline: Decision Making*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. Tronox Management Pty Ltd (Tronox) 2025, *Chandala Processing Plant, L5939 Licence Amendment Request – Coal Stockpile Area Upgrade,* Muchea, Western Australia.
4. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2024, *Amendment Report for L5939/1988/1,*