



Application for Licence Amendment

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

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| Choose an item. | L6395/1993/16 |
| Licence Holder | Harvey Industries Group Pty Ltd |
| ACN | 117 597 985 |
| File Number | INS-0001315 APP-0032668 |
| Premises | Harvey Beef Abattoir Seventh Street HARVEY WA 6220 |
| Date of Report | 12 January 2026 |
| Decision | Revised licence granted |

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

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1. Scope of assessment

1.1 Background and Application Summary

Licence L6395/1993/16 is held by Harvey Industries Group Pty Ltd (licence holder) for the Harvey Beef Abattoir (premises) located at Seventh Street, Harvey within the Shire of Harvey.

The licence relates to operation of a red meat processing facility on the outskirts of Harvey, approximately 140 km south of Perth. The main activities on the premises include the slaughtering and processing of cattle, and the management of abattoir wastes generated from operations.

Major existing facilities at the premises include stockholding areas, a lairage yard, abattoir and rendering plant, a Removal of Nitrogen for Irrigation (RENOIR) pond, a covered anerobic lagoon (CAL), a series of storage ponds (Ponds 3, 4, 5 and 6), and cropped irrigation paddocks. Wastewater from the abattoir and rendering plant is directed through primary (solids removal) and secondary wastewater treatment systems for removal of nutrients. Treated effluent is used to irrigate pastures and crops in accordance with a site Nutrient Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP).

On 28 November 2025, the licence holder submitted an application to the Department to amend the Licence under sections 59 and 59B of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act). The amendment seeks to change the sludge disposal method from offsite removal to onsite application. The proposed works involve maintenance of Pond 5 and removing accumulated sediment (sludge) from the pond base. The dewatered sludge is then intended to be applied as a soil amendment to existing paddocks which are approved land application areas designated for wastewater.

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

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>.

1.2 De-sludging process and land application

As part of the licence holder's maintenance program, excess sediment (sludge) will be removed from the bottom of Pond 5. The sediment and water will be pumped through geobags, which will filter the water and return it to the pond. The remaining sediment will be left to dry in the geobags before being spread on-site as a soil conditioner (Figure 1).

The proposed paddocks for applying the dried sludge are already approved for wastewater disposal under the current licence, which specifies nutrient loading limits and includes environmental monitoring such as groundwater and soil sampling. The nutrient limits remain unchanged, ensuring that excess nutrients will not accumulate in the environment.

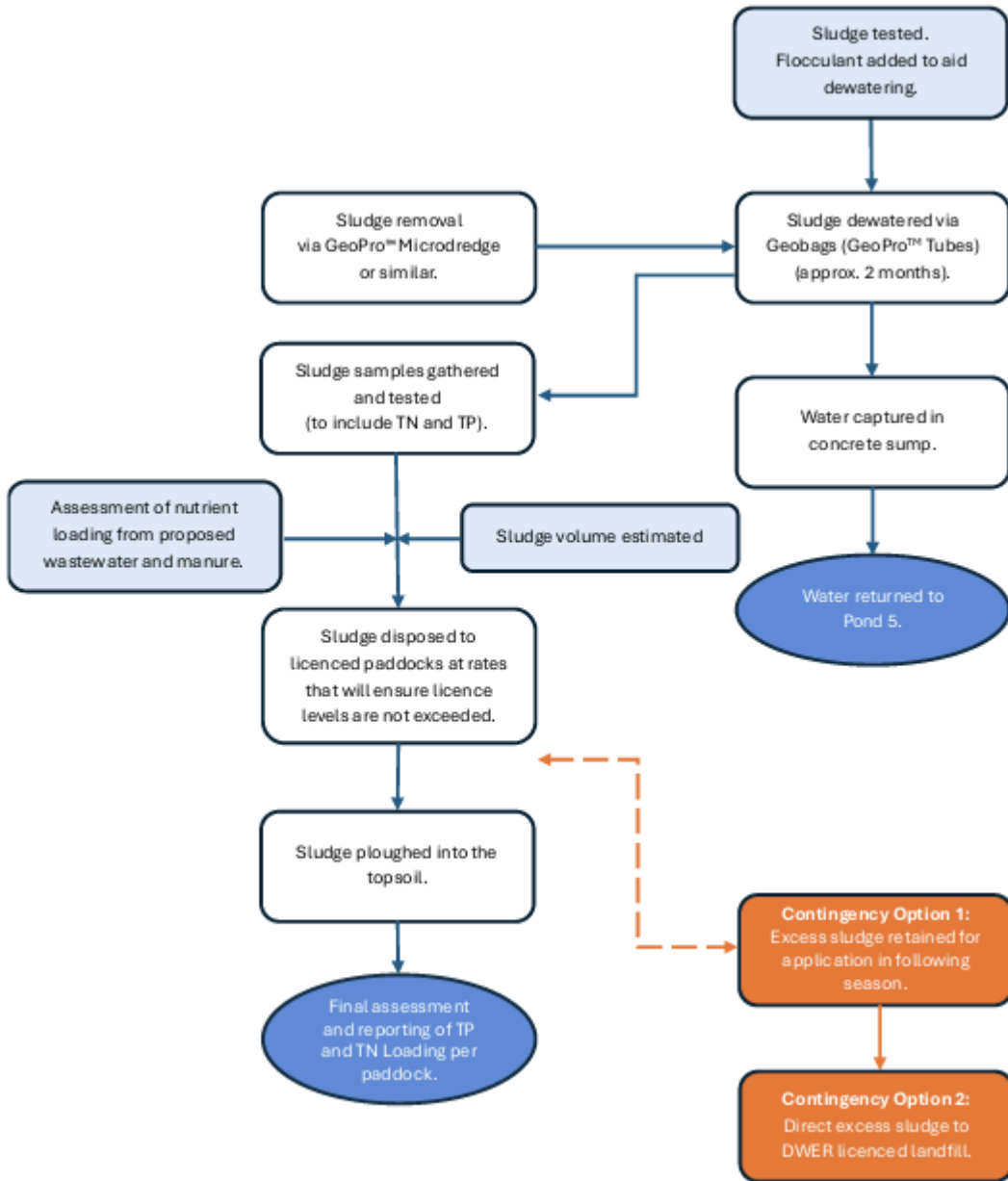


Figure 1. Pond 5 desludging process

2. 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.

2.1 Source-pathways and receptors

2.1.1 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

| Emission | Sources | Potential pathways | Proposed controls |
|----------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Odour | Desludging activities (pond disturbance) | Air/windborne pathway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notify relevant stakeholders and neighbouring properties of the proposed activities. Desludging of the existing RENOIR pond and CAL, - Carry out twice-daily inspections during desludging to check for odour and spillage. |
| | Geobag storage | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pond 5 and proposed Geobag pad are directly north of Uduc Rd, and opposite a neighboring property (paddocks). Wind at 9 am at the site is easterly or south easterly for the majority of the year, which would direct odours away from many of the nearby residential premises. |
| | Disposal of sludge to land | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvey Beef will notify relevant stakeholders and neighboring properties of the proposed activities. - Harvey Beef will record and respond to potential odours originating from paddocks and irrigation areas, when identified during routine inspections. - Harvey Beef will continue to monitor BOD concentrations in irrigated wastewaters in accordance with applicable conditions of L6395/1993/16. - Harvey Beef will continue to monitor feedback (including complains) form on their website which includes an option to raise a complaint. |
| Leachate | Runoff from dewatering pad | Seepage to soils and groundwater | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geobags will be placed on a new designated pad adjacent to Pond 5 that is graded to direct water runoff to a concrete sump. Water is then directed via return water pump and pipeline to Pond 5. - The use of a designated pad will reduce |

| Emission | Sources | Potential pathways | Proposed controls |
|----------|--|--------------------|---|
| | Application of sludge to land and Runoff from paddocks | | <p>the potential for soil, surface water and groundwater contamination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual inspections of Geobag pad area. - Conformance to annual nutrient loading limits prescribed in the DWER licence for TN, TP and BOD. - Implementation of Sludge Management Plan and approved NIMP (HIG, 2024). - Sampling and analysis of dewatered sludges prior to application to licenced paddock areas. - Sludges applied to licenced paddock areas will be applied using a muck spreader and ploughed in to the soil profile with a speed till. - Ongoing treatment of wastewater to maintain compliance with current licence load limits for TN, TP and BOD5 in Areas A, B and C. - Ongoing monitoring of soil and groundwater network and continued analysis of key parameters at prescribed locations in accordance with DWER licence. - Visual inspections of sludge drying and irrigation areas to ensure land area is suitable for irrigation especially following rainfall events. - Management of stocking numbers for cattle held on farm. |

2.1.2 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 because of activities upon or emission and discharges from the

prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2

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

| Human receptors | Distance from desludging |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Residential Area | 540 to 700 m SE and east |
| Residential Premises (rural) | Nearest residences relevant to this application are approx. 500 m to the west and 500 m to the SE of Pond 5. |
| Accommodation | 300 m west |
| Environmental receptors | Distance from prescribed activity |
| Groundwater | Superficial groundwater table beneath property |
| Acid sulphate soils | A peer review of the acid sulphate soil results (Rambol, 2019) concluded that the acid sulphate soil risk at this site is low. |

2.2 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 2.1. 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 2.1), 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 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 Revised Licence L6395/1993/16 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises.

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 ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood | Licence Holder's controls sufficient? | Conditions ² of licence | Justification for additional regulatory controls/ DWER comments |
|---|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Source/Activities | Potential emission | Potential pathways and impact | Receptors | Licence Holder's controls | | | | |
| Operation | | | | | | | | |
| Desludging of Pond 5 | Odour | Air/windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity | Residential area 540 to 700 m SE and E | Refer to Table 1. | <i>C = Slight</i> <i>L = Possible</i> Low Risk | Yes | Condition 8, Table 3 relating to wastewater treatment requirements. | Current operations have not resulted in any specific odour complaints being recorded to date. |
| | Nutrient rich leachate | Loss of containment of leachate from sludge handling and Geobag dewatering pad, leading to soil and groundwater contamination | Site soils, Groundwater beneath surface (>8m from surface) | | <i>C = Slight</i> <i>L = Possible</i> Low Risk | Yes | Condition 8(11), Table 3 relating to biosolids dewatering. | |
| Application of dewatered sludge to land | Odour | Air/windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity. | Residential area 540 to 700 m SE and E | | <i>C = Minor</i> <i>L = Unlikely</i> Medium Risk | Yes | Condition 13, Table 8 | |
| | Nutrient rich leachate | Infiltration through soil and overland runoff to neighboring properties causing ground water contamination, and soil degradation. | Neighboring properties, Site soils, Groundwater beneath surface (>8m from surface) | | <i>C = Minor</i> <i>L = Possible</i> Medium Risk | Yes | Condition 13, Table 8 Condition 15 – loading limits Condition 16 Condition 17 | The nutrient loading limits are unchanged, and any excess nutrients will be detected from the monitoring program on the licence. |

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 department.

3. 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, Shire of Harvey, advised of proposal on 17/12/2025 | No Comments received. | |
| Licence holder provided with draft licence and amendment report on 5/01/2026. | Comments received on 09/01/2026 confirming acceptance of licence conditions, updated monitoring well maps and waiving of the consultation period. | Licensed issued. |

4. 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.

Adding sludge to the application areas is considered low risk for causing environmental harm through nutrient overloading, as the established nutrient loading limits remain unchanged. Furthermore, the existing monitoring program will continue to track soil and water quality, ensuring that any potential changes are identified promptly and managed appropriately.

Odor emissions from dried sludge are also considered low risk. Once the sludge has been dewatered and dried within the geobag, microbial activity and decomposition significantly decrease, reducing the potential for odor generation. Any residual odor is typically short-lived and localised, posing minimal impact to surrounding areas.

This amendment applies solely to the new disposal method for pond sludge. It permits the application of dewatered sludge from pond maintenance to the land application areas already specified in the licence, provided nutrient loading limits are maintained. No other existing conditions or licence holder obligations have been altered.

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. Harvey Industries 2025, *Harvey Beef Pond 5 Maintenance Program Licence Amendment Application Supporting Document*, November 2025
5. Harvey Industries 2025, *Harvey Beef Pond 5 Sludge Management Plan*, November 2025
6. Rambol. 2019. *Review of: Report on Acid Sulfate Soil and Groundwater Investigation Proposed Covered Anaerobic Lagoon*. Perth, Western Australia