



Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Proponent: Pilbara Iron Company Services Pty Ltd

Licence: L6759/1996/12

Registered office: Level 22 Central Park
152-158 St George Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

ACN: 107 210 248

Premises address: Paraburdoo Wastewater Treatment Plant and Liquid Waste Facility
Crown Lease 3116/4590
PARABURDOO WA 6754

Issue date: Friday, 15 May 2015

Commencement date: Monday, 8 June 2015

Expiry date: Sunday, 7 June 2020

Decision

Based on the assessment detailed in this document, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has decided to issue a licence. DER considers that in reaching this decision, it has taken into account all relevant considerations.

Decision Document prepared by:

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Decision Document authorised by:

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1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application for a works approval or licence, and provides a record of DER's decision-making process and how relevant factors have been taken into account. Stakeholders should note that this document is limited to DER's assessment and decision making under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Other approvals may be required for the proposal, and it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they have all relevant approvals for their Premises.

Works approval and licence conditions

DER has three types of conditions that may be imposed on works approvals and licences. They are as follows;

Standard conditions (SC)

DER has standard conditions that are imposed on all works approvals and licences regardless of the activities undertaken on the Premises and the information provided in the application. These are included as the following conditions on works approvals and licences:

Works approval conditions: 1.1.1-1.1.4, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.

Licence conditions: 1.1.1-1.1.3, 1.2.1-1.2.4, 5.1.1-5.1.4 and 5.2.1.

For such conditions, justification within the Decision Document is not provided.

Optional standard conditions (OSC)

In the interests of regulatory consistency DER has a set of optional standard conditions that can be imposed on works approvals and licences. DER will include optional standard conditions as necessary, and are likely to constitute the majority of conditions in any licence. The inclusion of any optional standard conditions is justified in Section 4 of this document.

Non standard conditions (NSC)

Where the proposed activities require conditions outside the standard conditions suite DER will impose one or more non-standard conditions. These include both premises and sector specific conditions, and are likely to occur within few licences. Where used, justification for the application of these conditions will be included in Section 4.



2 Administrative summary

Administrative details		
Application Type	Works Approval <input type="checkbox"/> New Licence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Licence amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Works Approval amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	
Activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises	Category number(s)	Assessed Design capacity
	54	900 cubic metres per day
	61	1825 tonnes per annual period
Application verified	Date: 30/03/2015	
Application fee paid	Date: 01/04/2015	
Works Approval has been complied with	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Compliance Certificate received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial-in-confidence claim	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial-in-confidence claim outcome		
Is the proposal a Major Resource Project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Was the proposal referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal subject to Ministerial Conditions?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: EPA Report No:
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Water consulted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If Yes include details of which EPP(s) here.		
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If Yes, include details here, e.g. Site is subject to SO ₂ requirements of Kwinana EPP.		



3 Executive summary of proposal

Pilbara Iron Company Services Pty Ltd (PICS) operates the Paraburdoo Wastewater Treatment Plant (PWWTP) and Liquid Waste Facility. The PWWTP services the town of Paraburdoo. The PWWTP consists of an Imhoff tank and a series of ponds (primary and secondary stabilisation ponds, effluent pond and evaporation pond). Treated wastewater is either discharged to the evaporation pond or if this full, water is discharged down a drainage line through the licensed discharge point. The liquid waste facility consists of two concrete pits separate to the WWTP process, where waste is broken down anaerobically.

PWWTP is located approximately 1.5km south west of Paraburdoo, the nearest population centre. The nearest sensitive receptor is located approximately 1km to the North.

This partial Decision Document relates to the reissue of the licence in the old style format; all the licences associated with Rio Tinto will be converted to the REFIRE format as a collective as agreed upon by DER and Rio Tinto. Changes include updating global updates (e.g. updating contact details and numbering etc.).

DER has not re-assessed the acceptability or impacts of emissions and discharges from the premises, or revisited any existing emission control levels. This licence is the successor to L6759/1996/11.



4 Decision table

All applications are assessed under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*, DER's *Policy Statement No.7 – Operational Risk Management* and the risk matrix attached to this decision document in Appendix A. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision table.

DECISION TABLE				
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	OSC or NSC	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Licence Duration	N/A	N/A	The licence has been issued in its current format until the REFIRE licence is finalised. The premises are a low priority premises and the licence will be issued for 5 years.	N/A

Removal of condition 3 given the remoteness of the operation from sensitive receptors.

Removal of free chlorine in the parameters (column 3, Table 2) being monitored as part of the treated wastewater monitoring program. Chlorine is no longer used in the process (approved by DER) as UV exposure has been sufficient to manage the levels of bacteria.

Requested removal of effluent water quality discharge criteria proposed to be included in the licence reissue.

Clarification of condition wording that relates to the calculation of contaminant loads.

Accepted and amended on the basis that the risk is low. The operation is in a remote location with the nearest residence being approximately 1km to the north. There have been no odour complaints associated with the operation.

Proposed change accepted and table amended.

DER proposed to introduce wastewater quality discharge targets. This condition has been removed for this reissue on the basis that a risk assessment has not been undertaken; an assessment will be undertaken as part of the impending conversion process to the latest REFIRE format may result in the introduction of effluent water discharge criteria.

Comments accepted and condition wording updated.



Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
		Removal of the conditions relating to the bunding and containment of environmental hazardous materials / chemicals, including the following condition that related to management of stormwater collected in the bunding. Chlorine is no longer used in the process as approved by the DER previously. Any chemicals used onsite in response to any spill etc would be obtained from the mine site nearby.	Proposed changes accepted and conditions removed.



6. Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No. 07 - Operational Risk Management

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Rare	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High