

Application for Licence Amendment

Part V Division 3 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Licence Number	L6826/1994/13
Licence Holder	Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd
ACN	106 075 763
File Number	DER2014/000604-1
Premises	Beaufort River Meats Abattoir
	46 Macri Road
	BEAUFORT RIVER WA 6394
	Legal description – Part of Lot 508 on Plan 418913
Date of Report	10 June 2025

1. Purpose and scope of assessment

Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd (licence holder) operates the Beaufort River Meats Abattoir (the Premises) which is a red meat processing facility in the rural locality of Beaufort River, about 200 km south-east of Perth. The main activities occurring on the premises include the slaughtering and processing of sheep and goats and management of wastes generated from operations.

On 5 May 2025 the licence holder applied to amend licence L6826/1994/13 (L6826) under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to include a secondary anaerobic pond to the current Premises licence L6826. The secondary anaerobic pond was constructed under Works Approval W6452/2020/1.

This amendment report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from the ongoing operation of the secondary anaerobic pond.

In completing the assessment documented in this report, 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 https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents.

2. Premises background and proposed amendment

The Premises is licensed to operate a sheep and goat abattoir facility. In addition to this the Premises operates a wastewater treatment system comprising of aerobic, anaerobic, and evaporations ponds in conjunction with irrigation fields for discharge of wastewater.

A secondary anaerobic pond (SAP) was constructed under Works Approval W6452/2020/1 to enable the existing anaerobic pond to be taken offline for dewatering and desludging. Figure 1 shows the wastewater treatment process flow path with the SAP in operation. The ongoing operation of two anaerobic ponds will enable the applicant to implement a regular desludging program and improve overall wastewater management practices at the premises. Following construction and completion of time limited operations of the SAP, the licence holder applied to amend the Premises Licence for ongoing operation of the SAP under the current L6826.



Figure 1: Wastewater treatment process flow diagram with secondary anaerobic pond

3. 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.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 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 2 below. Table 2 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Odour	Secondary anaerobic pond	Air/windborne pathway	Pond inlet will be submerged at mid- water depth to minimise odour and surface crust disruption.
			Existing blood and solids removal infrastructure (screw press and sump) in place to prevent them entering

Table 2: Licence Holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			wastewater treatment system.
			Regular inspections to assess odour strength. If abnormally offensive, immediately notify management and attempt to rectify issue.
			Trapped overflow (T-piece) to prevent carry-over of surface floating matter.
			Pond to be constructed with at least 10 m access all around its perimeter to enable vehicle access for future desludging activities, to improve wastewater quality and reduce potential for odour.
Wastewater	Secondary anaerobic pond – overtopping of pond	Overtopping event resulting in a direct discharge to land.	Minimum capacity of 4,819.5 m ³ (excluding minimum freeboard (500 mm from top of embankment to outlet pipe) volume). Outlet pipe installed at 500 mm below top of embankment. Static water level to be maintained at 500 mm below top of embankment. Daily checks of inlet and outlet structures, pipes and pumps to ensure there are no blockages or leaks.
Leachate	Secondary anaerobic pond – seepage through base of pond	Seepage of wastewater through liner to soils and groundwater	Base of pond will meet a minimum permeability of 1 x 10 ⁻⁹ m/s with a HDPE liner.

3.1.2 Receptors

Table 3 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of the operation of the wastewater ponds *(Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

Table 3: Sensitive human and environme	ental receptors and distance from prescribed
activity	

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Residential Premises	Single rural residence 400 m and 1100m southeast of the additional wastewater pond
	Closest townsite is Woodanilling approximately 35km east of the additional wastewater pond
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Karri Groundwater area / underlying	Groundwater depth and flow direction is

groundwater (used for non-potable purposes)	unknown at the premises, although local drilling by previous owners indicates the water table may be deeper than 30 m bgl. A groundwater bore 1.2 km south of the premises has a standing water level of approximately 10 m bgl. Regional groundwater quality is generally brackish to saline (1,650 – 30,250 mg/L) (Raper <i>et al.</i> , 2014).
Soil	Soils are classified as the 'Dellyanine System' comprising a grey sandy duplex (shallow and deep), sandy gravel and red deep sandy duplex.
Surface water bodies (un-named)	120 m east of the premises

3.2 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 3.1. 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 3.1), 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 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 Amended Licence L6826/1994/13 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises.

The conditions in the Amended 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 during operation

	Risk Event							
Source/ Activities	Potential emission s	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Applicant controls	Conseq uence rating ¹	Likelihoo d rating ¹	Risk ¹	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
Category 15	5: Abattoir: p	premises on whi	ch animals are slaughtered –	Operation	of an anaero	bic pond		
Wastewate r treatment - operation of new anaerobic pond (Pond 2)	Odour	Receptors: A single residence 400 m south of premises boundary Pathway: Air/windborn e pathway Impact: Amenity	Pond inlet will be submerged at mid-water depth to minimise odour and surface crust disruption. Existing blood and solids removal infrastructure (screw press and sump) in place to prevent them entering wastewater treatment system. Regular inspections to assess odour strength. If abnormally offensive, immediately notify management and attempt to rectify issue. Trapped overflow (T-piece) to prevent carry-over of surface floating matter. Pond to be constructed with at least 10 m access all around its perimeter to enable vehicle access for future desludging activities, to improve wastewater quality and reduce potential for odour.	Minor – low level impact to amenity at a local scale.	Possible – the risk event could occur at some time.	Medium Risk	There is potential for offensive odour to be generated from the secondary anaerobic pond, due to ammonia (NH ₃) and hydrogen sulphide (H ₂ S). However, the Delegated Officer considers that the separation distance between the source and potential receptors is sufficient noting that ongoing fugitive odour from the operations of the secondary anaerobic pond is not expected to be significant, compared to existing abattoir operations onsite. Applicant proposed controls, such as the inlet pipe being submerged to minimise surface crust disruption, will be conditioned as an operational requirement in the amended licence.	Condition 1 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements Condition 9-10 – Audit of compliance and maintenance of records

Risk Event								
Source/ Activities	Potential emission s	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Applicant controls	Conseq uence rating ¹ Likelihoo d rating ¹		Risk ¹	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
	Leachate	Receptors: Soil and groundwater beneath the pond liner Pathway: Seepage of wastewater through the liner. Impact: Contaminate d soil and groundwater	Base of pond will meet a minimum permeability of 1 x 10 ⁻⁹ m/s with a HDPE liner.	Moderat e – mid level onsite and low level offsite (local scale) impacts.	Unlikely – the risk event will probably not occur in most circumsta nces.	Medium Risk	The applicant has installed a HDPE liner that meets a minimum permeability of 1×10^{-9} m/s. This is consistent with the recommendation in Water Quality Protection Note 39 (WQPN 39), Ponds for stabilising organic matter (DoW 2009) and WQPN 27 Liners for containing pollutants, using engineered soils (DoW 2013). The liner must be maintained to achieve a minimum hydraulic conductivity (permeability) of 1 x 10-9 m/s to mitigate the risk of leaking and allowing leachate to enter the environment.	Condition 1 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements Condition 9-10 – Audit of compliance and maintenance of records
	Wastewat er	Receptors: Soil, groundwater, and surface water Pathway: Overtopping event resulting in a direct discharge to land. Impact: Contaminate	Outlet pipe installed at 500 mm below top of embankment. Static water level to be maintained at 500 mm below top of embankment. Daily checks of inlet and outlet structures, pipes and pumps to ensure there are no blockages or leaks.	Moderat e – mid level onsite and low level offsite (local scale) impacts.	Unlikely – the risk event will probably not occur in most circumsta nces.	Medium Risk	The pond has a 500 mm feeboard, which is in accordance with WQPN 27 and WQPN 26 Liners for containing pollutants, using synthetic membranes (DoW 2013). 500 mm of freeboard is to prevent unintended overflow of water from storm events and wave action from wind. As this pond is connected in series, and is not a final holding pond, a condition will be added to the works approval for a freeboard of 500 mm to be maintained during operation of the pond. This is to minimise the risk of wastewater overtopping the pond due to rainfall and wave action.	Condition 1 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements Condition 9-10 – Audit of compliance and maintenance of records

Risk Event								
Source/ Activities	Potential emission s	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Applicant controls	Conseq uence rating ¹	Likelihoo d rating ¹	Risk ¹	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
		d soil, groundwater, and surface water.						

4. Consultation

Table 5 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response				
Licence holder was provided with draft amendment on 6 June 2025	Applicant waived the 21-day consultation period.	N/A				

Table 5: Consultation

5. Decision

Based on the assessment in this amendment report, the delegated officer has determined that ongoing operation of the secondary anaerobic pond is unlikely to present signific risk to the closest receptors, provided that the infrastructure is maintained and operated in accordance with the requirements set out in the licence. Therefore, the delegated officer has determined to grant the amendment.

6. Summary of amendments

Table 6 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.

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
1, Table 1	Wastewater collection and treatment – minor changes to the operational requirements for the Wastewater treatment system to include the use of the secondary anaerobic pond. The wording reflects the operational requirements previously set for the secondary anaerobic pond for operation during the time limited operations period on Works Approval W6452/2020/1
N/A	Updated 'Map of Emission points and monitoring locations' to reflect the location of the secondary anaerobic pond.

 Table 6: Summary of licence amendments