



# Decision Document

## *Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V*

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**Proponent:** **Wellard Animal Production Pty Ltd**

**Licence:** **L6826/1994/13**

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**Registered office:** Level 3  
12-14 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

**ACN:** 118 342 859

**Premises address:** Beaufort River Meats  
346 Leggoe Road  
BEAUFORT RIVER WA 6394  
Being Lot 5164 on Plan 227799 as depicted in Schedule 1

**Issue date:** Thursday, 30 April 2015

**Commencement date:** Saturday, 02 May 2015

**Expiry date:** Tuesday, 01 May 2018

### **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 and legal requirements and that the Licence and its conditions will ensure that an appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Decision Document prepared by:

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Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by:

Jonathan Bailes  
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## 1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application 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, 5.1.2. and 5.3.1

Licence conditions: 1.1.1-1.1.4, 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	<b>Category number(s)</b>	<b>Assessed design capacity</b>
	15	34 675 tonnes per annual period
	55	50 000 animals or more per year
Application verified	Date: 19/03/2015	
Application fee paid	Date: 20/03/2015	
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	Claim upheld	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Environmental Protection South West Agriculture Zone Wetlands Policy 1998</i>	
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



### 3 Executive summary of proposal and assessment

The Beaufort River Meats (BRM) premises became occupied by Wellard Animal Production Pty Ltd in early 2013. The abattoir facility has been operational since around 1994, slaughtering sheep and goats and is located about 260 kilometres south-southeast of Perth within the Shire of Woodanilling.

Potential sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the BRM include:

- Surrounding agricultural activities, primarily cropping and livestock;
- Private residences, the closest located about 300 metres south of the prescribed premises boundary; and
- Local groundwater, the depth below ground level (bgl) at the premises is unknown. Local drilling by the occupier has failed to locate usable water supplies and depth is estimated to be at least 30 metres bgl. However, the water source for the Premises is a bore located approximately 1.2km south on an adjacent property, where the groundwater is estimated to be approximately 10 metres below ground level. The Premises is located between 265 and 290 meters AHD.

Operations at BRM include:

- The temporary storage of animals prior to slaughter in the abattoir complex;
- Abattoir and freezer facilities;
- Temporary solid waste storage facility;
- Hide treatment (salting) and storage shed;
- Wastewater treatment system comprising of a simple screen pit, three treatment ponds and a treated wastewater irrigation area.

No rendering of animal waste takes place at the premises. The main emissions are odour, noise and the discharge of treated wastewater to land (irrigation). Currently a newly issued works approval (W5788/2015/1) is being implemented intended to improve the quality of the treated wastewater and therefore reduce the risk posed by the irrigation of treated wastewater. This includes plans to install three aerators on the second, aerobic treatment pond and improve solid waste screening and removal prior to wastewater treatment.

The emissions risks for the Premises have not been reviewed as part of this Licence reissue. Existing Licence conditions have been transferred to the current REFIRE format licence and include other minor administrative changes in addition to standard licence conditions required under the new format licences. A full emissions risk assessment will be undertaken following completion of the works identified in the works approval, as part of a future Licence amendment to accommodate all site upgrades.



## 4 Decision table

All applications are assessed in line with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*, DEC's Policy Statement - Limits and targets for prescribed premises (2006), and DER's Operational Procedure on Assessing Emissions and Discharges from Prescribed Premises. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision document.

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
General conditions	L1.2.5	OSC	<p><b>Operation</b></p> <p><u>Emission Description</u>  <i>Emission:</i> Stormwater contaminated with leachate from abattoir operations, including areas where animals are held prior to slaughter.  <i>Impact:</i> Contamination of surrounding land and surface water drainage systems. However, the only nearby surface water bodies are a series of rain water dams within and adjacent to the Premises boundary. Potential impacts on ecology of surface water from the addition of nutrients and microorganisms.  <i>Controls:</i> The main animal holding pen is roofed preventing contact with manure deposited during holding periods. The Licensee directs contaminated stormwater to a clay lined wastewater treatment pond system. Most roofed areas of the abattoir complex have gutters to capture stormwater runoff.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u>  <i>Consequence:</i> Minor    <i>Likelihood:</i> Possible    <i>Risk Rating:</i> Moderate</p> <p><u>Regulatory Controls</u>            OSC 1.2.5 has been added to the licence to require the Licensee to operate and maintain a surface water management system that directs uncontaminated stormwater away from the operational and processing areas and away from the lined wastewater treatment pond system, keeping stormwater that has come into contact with waste separated from that which has not. The condition requires that stormwater that has come into contact with waste is considered and managed as leachate.</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i>.</p>



<b>DECISION TABLE</b>				
<b>Works Approval / Licence section</b>	<b>Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence</b>	<b>OSC or NSC</b>	<b>Justification (including risk description &amp; decision methodology where relevant)</b>	<b>Reference documents</b>
	L1.3.1 - L1.3.5	NSC	<p><u>Residual Risk</u> <i>Consequence:</i> Minor <i>Likelihood:</i> Unlikely <i>Risk Rating:</i> Moderate</p> <p>NSC 1.3.1 has been included to replace condition 4 of the previous licence. NSC 1.3.2 has been added to the licence as a standard condition to describe and identify containment infrastructure requirements of all vessels or compounds on the Premises that store waste material, replacing condition 16 of the previous licence. NSC 1.3.3 has been added to the licence as a standard condition to describe the disposal and operational requirements for the management of wastes. NSC 1.3.4 has been included to replace conditions 5, 6 and 7 of the previous licence. NSC 1.3.5 has been included to replace condition 8 of the previous licence.</p>	
<b>Emissions general</b>	L2.1.1	OSC	Descriptive limits will be set through condition 2.6.2 of the licence and therefore the OCS regarding recording and investigation of any limits or targets exceeded has been included.	
<b>Point source emissions to air including monitoring</b>	N/A	N/A	There are no point source emissions to air from the premises that require regulation through this section. SC 1.2.1 applies.	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004.</i></p>



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
Point source emissions to surface water including monitoring	N/A	N/A	There are no point source emissions to surface water from the premises.	
Point source emissions to groundwater including monitoring	N/A	N/A	There are no point source emissions to groundwater from the premises.	
Emissions to land including monitoring	L2.5.1, L2.5.2 L3.5.1	OSC	<p>Emissions to land and the monitoring of these emissions have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. The existing requirements to monitor emissions to land and report on emission limits for the application of treated wastewater have been converted as follows:</p> <p>OSC 2.5.1 has been included to replace condition 13 of the previous licence and clearly identifies the emission point from where both treated wastewater flow monitoring and sampling for quarterly monitoring takes place.</p> <p>OSC 2.5.2 has been included to replace condition 10 of the previous licence (with the exception of the requirement to develop a NIMP).</p> <p>OSC 3.5.1 has been included to replace conditions 13, 14 and 15 of the previous licence (excluding any requirement to monitor groundwater bores as there are currently no groundwater bores to sample from).</p> <p>Upgrades to the wastewater treatment system are being implemented under works approval W5788/2015/1. Subsequent to completion of these works a reassessment of the risks of emissions to land will be completed and incorporated into a future licence amendment. Future requirements may include the development of a NIMP and the installation of groundwater bores.</p>	<p>Aquasol Water Treatment Solutions 2014, Department of Environment and Regulation – Wellard abattoir waste water treatment plant, Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>General provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986</p>



**DECISION TABLE**

<b>Works Approval / Licence section</b>	<b>Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence</b>	<b>OSC or NSC</b>	<b>Justification (including risk description &amp; decision methodology where relevant)</b>	<b>Reference documents</b>
<b>Fugitive emissions</b>	L2.6.1	OSC	Fugitive emissions have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. OSC 2.6.1 has been included to replace condition 3 of the previous licence.	
<b>Odour</b>	L2.7.1	OSC	Odour has not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. OSC 2.7.1 has been included to replace condition 2 of the previous licence.	
<b>Noise</b>	N/A	N/A	Noise emissions have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. As the previous licence did not impose controls on noise, no specified conditions have been included in this section.  The <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> and SC 1.2.1 apply.	<i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i>
<b>Monitoring general</b>	L3.1.1 – L3.1.4	OSC	Emissions to land are required to be monitored under condition 3.5.1. OSCs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 have been included to ensure precision and accuracy with monitoring volumes of treated wastewater irrigated to land and accuracy during sample collection and analysis, and that sufficient time is provided between samples.  OSC 3.1.1 has been included to replace conditions 11 and 12 of the previous licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
<b>Monitoring of inputs and outputs</b>	L3.6.1	OSC	OSC 3.6.1 has been included to replace conditions 13 and 14 of the previous licence with respect to monitoring and recording the volumetric output of treated wastewater irrigated to land.  In addition OSC 3.6.1 requirements for input monitoring of the number of animals slaughtered has been included to replace condition 17 (v) of the previous licence. The additional requirement to monitor the live weight of animals slaughtered is required as part of conversion to the REFIRE format licence and monitoring against the approved production capacity of the abattoir.	





**DECISION TABLE**

<b>Works Approval / Licence section</b>	<b>Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence</b>	<b>OSC or NSC</b>	<b>Justification (including risk description &amp; decision methodology where relevant)</b>	<b>Reference documents</b>
<b>Process monitoring</b>	N/A	N/A	Process monitoring requirements have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. As the previous licence did not require process monitoring no specified conditions have been included in this section.	
<b>Ambient quality monitoring</b>	N/A	N/A	<p>Ambient quality monitoring requirements have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. The previous licence, under condition 15, had required quarterly sampling and monitoring from 3 groundwater bores. The requirement to install the bores was specified in condition 9 of the licence with a timeframe for completion specified as 31 December 2012. However, subsequent inspection of the Premises and Annual Environmental Reporting submitted in 2014 identified non-compliance with these conditions of the licence, in that no groundwater bores had been installed and therefore no subsequent monitoring has occurred.</p> <p>Groundwater is thought to be at least 30m below ground level and the Licensee identified issues with the presence of shallow bedrock as having prevented successful installation of any bores on the Premises. The nearest operating bore which supplies water for use in the abattoir is about 1.2km south of the abattoir. Groundwater is estimated to be around 10 metres below ground level at that point.</p> <p>As an alternative to previous licence conditions 9 and 15, with respect to assessing potential impacts of any emissions to groundwater from the existing three wastewater treatment ponds, the Licensee has been required to test the permeability status of the pond liners. The test results from March 2014 showed a permeability of <math>1.6 \times 10^{-7}</math>m/sec, which is below the standard permeability rating requirement of <math>1 \times 10^{-9}</math>m/sec.</p> <p>Any requirement for future ambient quality monitoring will be considered as part of a licence amendment following completion of the current pond upgrades under Works Approval W5788/2015/1.</p>	



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<b>Works Approval / Licence section</b>	<b>Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence</b>	<b>OSC or NSC</b>	<b>Justification (including risk description &amp; decision methodology where relevant)</b>	<b>Reference documents</b>
<b>Meteorological monitoring</b>	N/A	N/A	Meteorological monitoring requirements have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. As the previous licence did not require meteorological monitoring no specified conditions have been included in this section.	
<b>Improvements</b>	N/A	N/A	Requirements for improvement conditions have not been assessed as part of this licence reissue. Works to upgrade the wastewater treatment system are due to be implemented under a recently issued works approval. Any requirement for further upgrades or improvements will be considered and assessed as part of a future licence amendment.	
<b>Information</b>	L5.1.3 - 5.1.4, L5.2.1  L5.2.2 - 5.2.3  L5.3	SC  OSC  N/A	SC 5.1.3 replaces condition 18 of the previous licence. SC 5.1.4 replaces condition 17(iii) of the previous licence. SC 5.2.1 replaces reporting aspects of conditions 1 and 14, and conditions 17 & 18 of the previous licence.  OSC 5.2.2 replaces condition 17(ii) of the previous licence. OSC 5.2.3 replaces condition 17(ii) of the previous licence.  Notification requirements have not been reassessed as part of this licence reissue. As the previous licence did not require any notifications no specified conditions have been included in this section.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>



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	This licence is issued for the standard period of three years. It is anticipated that all works currently approved under works approval W5788/2015/1 will be completed well within this timeframe and that a full emissions reassessment will be incorporated into any licence amendments required following completion of the works.	Aquasol Water Treatment Solutions 2014, <i>Department of Environment and Regulation – Wellard abattoir waste water treatment plant</i> , Perth, Western Australia.  General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>



## 5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
30/03/2015	Application advertised in West Australian (or other relevant newspaper)	No comments	NA
10/04/2015	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	No comments	NA

## 6 Risk Assessment

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

**Table 1: Emissions Risk Matrix**

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