



## Application to renew a licence

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

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L6863/1994/14
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
<b>ABN</b>	13 643 296 019
<b>File Number</b>	SWB1879-02/1
<b>Premises</b>	Margaret River Septage Treatment Plant Wallis Road, ROSA GLEN WA 6285  Legal description - Being Lot 4004 on Plan 207556 as depicted in Schedule 1.
<b>Date of Report</b>	25/07/2024
<b>Decision</b>	To grant a licence

Neville Welsh  
SENIOR INDUSTRY LICENSING OFFICER  
INDUSTRY REGULATION  
Officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

## 1. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer decided to process the application to renew licence 6863/1994/13 without conducting any additional risk assessment.

The licence can be issued for 20 years, which is consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*. In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to remove or add things here that fit what has been done:

- update the format and appearance of the licence;
- incorporate licence amendment/s issued prior to the replacement licence;
- remove redundant conditions;
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements);
- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors; and
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the new licence.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L6863/1994/14, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Application summary

On 24 May 2024 Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (licence holder) applied to renew licence 6863/1994/13, as the licence is due to expire on 26 July 2024. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located at Margaret River Septage Treatment Plant, Wallis Road, Rosa Glen WA 6285 (Premises).

The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity**

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> )	Production / design capacity
Category 61: Liquid waste facility: premises on which liquid waste produced on others premises (other than sewage waste) is stored, reprocessed, treated or irrigated.	1800 tonnes per annual period

The Margaret River Septage Treatment Plant accepts sewage and grease trap waste from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The liquid waste is disposed of into one of two anaerobic ponds, which overflow into a facultative pond then an aerobic pond. Overflow from the aerobic pond flows into a series of vegetated swales for infiltration. The swales are vegetated with a range of native rushes, shrubs and trees.

The sludge is stored within a separate maintenance cell for drying. The dried sludge material is disposed of off-site to landfill. A groundwater monitoring bore is located down hydraulic gradient of the ponds and groundwater monitoring is undertaken twice per year.

This Licence is the successor to licence L6863/1994/13 and continues to authorise the treatment of liquid waste and subsequent disposal of the treated liquid via infiltration.

### 3. Regulatory framework

The Delegated Officer has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position* December 2023.

In granting the licence, the Delegated Officer has considered and given due regard to the department's regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at [DWER Regulatory documents | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/regulatory-documents)

### 4. Considerations for issuing a new licence

#### 4.1 Compliance and enforcement actions

Records shows that a complaint was received by the department on 23 February 2021 alleging that liquid waste overflow from the sedimentation ponds to a creek located on the premises. However, investigations into the matter found no confirmed source and incidence at the site. In the past five years there has been no enforcement action regarding the conditions of this licence.

#### 4.2 Legal occupancy

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises.

#### 4.3 Categories of the licence

The requested categories and the corresponding maximum production capacities for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the categories for which the licensee currently holds the licence and that was originally assessed.

#### 4.4 Previous relevant decision reports

As the replacement of this licence is deemed an administrative licence renewal and there is no additional risk assessment being conducted, then the Delegated Officer likes to note, for the purpose of transparency and ease of access, the previous relevant decision reports shown in Table 2 will remain published on the Departments website.

**Table 2: Previous relevant decision reports**

Description of decision report	Grant Date	Document number
Decision Document – L6863/1994/13 – Shire of Augusta-Margaret River – Margaret River Septage – Issued on 2015	16 July 2015	A937872
L6863 Amendment Notice 1 – 18 July 2019	18/07/2019	A1802918

#### 4.5 Planning approval

The licence holder has informed the department that it has planning approval for the activities on the Premises.

## 5. Summary of changes to the licence conditions

Section 62 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides the legal power to attach conditions to licence. Most licenses are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or environmental harm resulting from emissions and/or discharges from the premises. Table 3 summarises the changes from the expiring licence into the new licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes.

**Table 3: Licence conditions changes, description and rationale**

Current condition / table	Summary of current condition	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
G1 G(a) and G(b), W1(a) to W1(e), W2, W3 and W4(a) to (e)	General Conditions	1 to 15	Retained all conditions without any change
G3	Annual Monitoring Report and Complaints	16	Revised condition consistent with new licensing format
G4	Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR)	17	Revised to current licensing format
G3	Environmental Report	18	Revised to current licensing format.
N/A	Books	19 and 20	Added new conditions consistent with new licensing format
Definitions		Definitions Table 3	Added Table 3 consistent with new licensing format
Schedule 1	Figures 1 and 2	Schedule 1	Maps updated with an additional figure.
Schedule 2	Reporting & Notification Forms, Sections A, B & C		Removed redundant Notification Forms consistent with current licence format.

## 6. Consultation

The Delegated Officer completed consultation on the licence renewal application, see Table 4.

**Table 4: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Delegated Officer's response
Application advertised in the West Australian newspaper plus the Departments website on 17 June 2024.	No submissions were received when submissions closed on 10 July 2024..	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 19 June 2024 and asked to provide comments before 12 July 2024.	The Shire reviewed the draft licence and its proposed conditions and confirm all changes are accepted, particularly condition 10. The Shire also provided update of staff contact details to the Department.	Delegated Officer noted the licence holder comments and approved the update of the corporate database with the new Shire contacts.