



## Application for Licence Amendment

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

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L7023/1997/11
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Shire of Wiluna
<b>File Number</b>	2012/006675-1
<b>Premises</b>	Wiluna Refuse Disposal Site Rubbish Tip Road  Legal description – Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 418719 Certificate of Title Volume LR3176 Folio 494  As defined by the Premises maps attached to the Revised Licence
<b>Date of Report</b>	25 November 2024
<b>Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

**Grace Heydon**

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

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## 1. Decision summary

Licence L7023/1997/11 (L7023) is held by Shire of Wiluna (Licence Holder) for the Wiluna Refuse Disposal Site (the Premises), located at Lot 550 Rubbish Tip Road.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L7023 has been granted.

The Revised Licence issued as a result of this amendment consolidates and supersedes the existing Licence previously granted in relation to the Premises. The Revised Licence has been granted in a new format with existing conditions being transferred, but not reassessed, to the new format.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

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>.

### 2.2 Application summary

On 8 and 14 August 2024, the Licence Holder submitted two applications for an amendment to Licence L7023/1997/11 (L7023) to incorporate the following changes:

- New Premises land entity; and
- Increase liquid waste acceptance from 400 tonnes per annual period to 800 tonnes per annual period.

As the Licence Holder submitted two applications in close succession, DWER has processed acceptance and payments of both applications separately but has combined both amendment applications into one Decision Report and Licence amendment to streamline the assessment process.

The Premises is located in the Northern Goldfields Region of Western Australia, approximately 957km north-east of Perth. The town site of Wiluna is approximately 1.5km north-east of the premises. The premises accepts waste including domestic and septic waste from the town site and surrounding Mine Camps. The facility operates as a category 64 Putrescible Landfill, and a Category 61 Liquid Waste Facility.

This amendment is limited only to changes to Category 61 from the Existing Licence. No changes to the aspects of the existing Licence relating to Category 64 have been requested by the Licence Holder. Table 1 below outlines the proposed changes to the existing Licence.

**Table 1: Proposed design or throughput capacity changes**

Category	Current design throughput capacity	Proposed design throughput capacity	Description of proposed amendment
61	400 tonnes per annual period	800 tonnes per annual period	The Licence Holder is seeking to increase the acceptance capacity at the existing drying trench but does not require an increase in the existing drying trench Production and Design Capacity (P&DC).

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) provided the licence holder with a letter dated 22 February 2024 outlining that Reserve 8394 has been redescribed to now comprise Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 418719 and a Management Order has been issued in favour of the Licence Holder. Accordingly, the Premises details need to be amended.

The request to increase the accepted annual tonnage comes in response to the increased demand from mining operations in the area. The Premises receives septage and grease trap wastes liquid from small liquid waste trucks and waste is managed on site through a series of unlined shallow trenches (Septage trenches), where the high evaporation rate results in quick drying of the waste allowing the removal of the dry sludge to the landfill putrescible cell. The premises is unlined with an underlying geology comprised of clay, silt, sand, and a depth to groundwater between 16m- 18m. The material underlying the Septage trenches is the equivalent to a liner with the properties as outlined in the *Water Quality Protection Note 27 Liners for containing pollutants, using engineered soils guideline*. This has been demonstrated through the submission and assessment of a geotechnical environmental study relevant to the premises area, which was provided as a supporting document to the application.

### 2.3 Amendment history

Table 2 provides the amendment history for L7023/1997/11.

**Table 2:** Licence amendments

Instrument	Issued	Amendment
L7023/1997/8	14/03/2005	Licence re-issue – short term licence
L7023/1997/9	26/02/2006	Licence re-issue
L7023/1997/10	26/02/2011	Licence re-issue
L7023/1997/11	18/02/2016	Licence re-issue and converted into the latest DER format
L7023/1997/11	29/04/2016	Licence amendment – extension of expiry date
L7023/1997/11	08/06/2016	Licence amendment – include category 61 to the Licence
L7023/1997/11	21/05/2019	Amendment Notice 1 – Increase in Category 61 design capacity from 200tpa to 400tpa.
L7023/1997/11	25/11/2024	Licence amendment to change premises entity and increase liquid waste capacity from 400 to 800 tonnes per annual period.

### 2.4 Consolidation of Licence

As part of this amendment package the department has consolidated the licence by incorporating changes made under the Amendment Notices as summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3:** Licences consolidated in this amendment

Instrument	Issued	Summary of approval
L7023/1997/11	21/05/2019	Amendment Notice 1 – Increase in Category 61 design capacity from 200tpa to 400tpa.

The obligations of the Licence Holder have not changed in consolidating the licence. The department has not undertaken any additional risk assessment of the Premises related to previous Amendment Notices.

In consolidating the licence, the CEO has:

- updated the format and appearance of the Licence;
- deleted the redundant AACR form set out in schedule 1 of the previous licence and advise the Licensee to obtain the form from the department's website; and
- revised licence condition's numbers, and removed any redundant conditions and realigned condition numbers for numerical consistency.

The full consolidation of licence conditions as they relate to this Revised Licence are detailed in Section 5.1. Previously issued Amendment Notices will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

### 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. This risk assessment will only apply to the proposed changes in Category 61 activities as a change to these activities may result in a change in the existing risk profile at the premises.

#### 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 4 below. Table 4 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

**Table 4: Licence Holder controls**

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Dust	Vehicle movements around the trenches	Air/windborne pathway	Siting of premises. Premise area is small – speed limits in place.
Noise	Vehicle movements around the trenches	Air/windborne pathway	Siting of premises. Trucks used are small in size – limited noise produced.
Odour	Liquid waste trenches	Air/windborne pathway	Siting of premises.
Leachate	Liquid waste trenches	Seepage to soils and	Siting of premises. Geotechnical Study submitted has confirmed

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
		groundwater	that underlying material is equivalent to relevant liner specification for septage trenches. Depth to groundwater 16-18mbgl.
Overtopping	Liquid waste trenches		Siting of premises. Evaporation rates for the region permit rapid drying of septage and grease trap wastes.
Contaminated Stormwater	Liquid waste trenches	Overflow to soils and surface water	Siting of premises. Evaporation rates for the region permit rapid drying of septage and grease trap wastes. Bunding in place at the premises to divert stormwater.

### 3.1.2 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 5 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

**Table 5: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity**

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Residence	1.2 km southwest
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Minor watercourse	1.8 km east
Lake Violet Calcrete TEC Priority 1 Buffer Zone	4 km southeast

## 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 6.

The Revised Licence L7023 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 6. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises operation**

Risk Event					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source / Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
Disposal of liquid waste Vehicle movements	Dust	Air/windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residence 1.2 km southwest	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A	N/A
	Noise			Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A	N/A
	Odour			Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A	N/A
	Leachate	Seepage to soils and groundwater	Groundwater 16-18mbgl	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	Condition 1, 2, 3, 22 and 24.	The Delegated Officer considers the size of the trenches, soil composition, high local evaporation rate in the area in conjunction with separation distance to receptors as sufficient in mitigating the risk of leachate.
	Overtopping	Seepage to soils and surface water	Seasonal minor creek 1.8 km east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	Condition 3, 22 and 24.	The Delegated Officer considers the size of the trenches, high local evaporation rate in the area in conjunction with separation distance to receptors as sufficient in mitigating the risk of overtopping.



Risk Event					Risk rating <sup>1</sup>	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source / Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls	C = consequence L = likelihood			
	Contaminated stormwater	Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality		Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	Condition 18	The Delegated Officer considers the size of the trenches, high local evaporation rate in the area in conjunction with separation distance to receptors as sufficient in mitigating the risk of contaminated stormwater.

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.

## 4. Consultation

Table 7 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

**Table 7: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on 4/10/2024	Licence Holder responded 22/11/2024 advising to waive the comment period. A new Premises Map has been provided.	Noted. New Premises Map added to Licence.

## 5. 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.

### 5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 8 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.

**Table 8: Summary of Licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Premises details	Amended to new land entity Lot 550.
Premises production and design table	Category 61 increase in production and design capacity from 400 to 800 tonnes per annual period.
Condition 1 Table 1	Waste acceptance amended from 400 to 800 tonnes per annual period.

Table 9 provides a summary of the conversion map that has been used to convert existing licence conditions and reformatted into the current licence template.

**Table 9: Consolidation of licence conditions in this amendment**

Existing condition	Condition summary	Revised licence condition	Conversion notes
N/A	Prescribed Premises Category table	N/A	Revised to current licensing format. Amend P&DC of Category 61 from 200 to 400 tonnes per annual period.
1.1.1 1.1.2	Interpretation and definitions	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.
1.1.3	Australian or other standard	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.

Existing condition	Condition summary	Revised licence condition	Conversion notes
1.1.4	Reference to code of practice	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.
1.2.1	Recovery and removal of spills	N/A	Redundant condition. Adequately covered by EP (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004. Deleted from licence.
1.2.2	Stormwater controls	18	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.1	Record and investigate	N/A	Redundant condition. Deleted from licence.
1.3.2 Table 1.3.1	Waste acceptance	1 Table 1	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.3	Waste removal	2	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.4 Table 1.3.2	Waste processing	3 Table 2	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.5 Table 1.3.3	Landfill cell	5 Table 4	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.6	Managing asbestos waste	8	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.7	Managing biomedical and clinical waste	9	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.8	Managing landfill activities	6	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.9 Table 1.3.3	Cover requirements	4 Table 3	Revised to current licensing format. Added 150mm cover material for Putrescible and Inert waste as per standard cover material requirements for Landfills.
1.3.10	Prevent infestations of pest, flies and vermin	12	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.11	Windblown waste	13	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.12	Litter inspections	14	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.13	Security measures	10	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.14	No burning of non-greenwaste waste	15	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.15	Unauthorised fire extinguished within eight hours	16	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.16	Unauthorised fire promptly extinguished	17	Revised to current licensing format.

Existing condition	Condition summary	Revised licence condition	Conversion notes
1.3.17	Premises Sign	11	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.19	Construction of landfill trench	7	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.1	Records	20 and 21	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.2	Complaints	19	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.3	Annual Audit Compliance Report	22	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.4	Special type 1 and 2 waste register	23	Revised to current licensing format.
2.2.1 Table 2.2.1	Annual Environmental Report	24 Table 5	Revised to current licensing format.
2.2.2	Annual Environmental Report assessment	N/A	Condition deleted from licence as no ambient monitoring is required
2.3.1 Table 2.3.1	Notification	25 Table 6	Revised to current licensing format.
Schedule 1: Maps	Premises map	Schedule 1: Maps	New naming convention – New Premises Map
Schedule 2 Reporting & notifications	Annual Audit Compliance Report Form N1 Notification	N/A	Redundant attachment. Deleted from Licence  Forms accessed at <a href="http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au">www.dwer.wa.gov.au</a>

## 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.