



# Decision Document

## *Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V*

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**Proponent:** Shire of Plantagenet

**Licence:** L7026/1997/14

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**Registered office:** 22-24 Lowood Rd  
MOUNT BARKER WA 6324

**Premises address:** Mount Barker Waste Management Facility  
Crown Reserve 23969 O'Neill Rd  
MOUNT BARKER WA 6324  
Being Lot 7546 on Plan 186612 as depicted in Schedule 1

**Issue date:** Friday, 20 June 2014

**Commencement date:** Wednesday, 25 June 2014

**Expiry date:** Saturday, 24 June 2023

### **Decision**

Based on the assessment detailed in this document the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) Delegate, has decided to issue an amended licence. The assessment has taken into account all relevant considerations.

Decision Document prepared by: Tanya Gilders  
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: Caron Goodbourn  
Manager Licensing



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### 1 Purpose of this Document

This Decision Document explains how the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) Delegate has assessed and determined the application and provides a record of the CEO Delegate's decision-making process and how relevant factors have been taken into account. Stakeholders should note that this Decision Document is limited to the CEO Delegate'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.



## 2 Administrative summary

Administrative details							
Application type	Works Approval <input type="checkbox"/> New Licence <input type="checkbox"/> Licence amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Works Approval amendment <input type="checkbox"/>						
Activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category number(s)</th> <th>Assessed design capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>61</td> <td>320 tonnes per annual period</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64</td> <td>5000 tonnes per annual period</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity	61	320 tonnes per annual period	64	5000 tonnes per annual period
	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity					
	61	320 tonnes per annual period					
64	5000 tonnes per annual period						
Application verified	Date: 28/03/2014						
Application fee paid	Date: 15/04/2014						
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"/>						
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						



### 3 Executive summary of proposal

The Mount Barker Waste Management Facility (Mt Barker WMF) includes a Class II landfill and a Liquid Waste Facility operated by the local government authority, the Shire of Plantagenet. Mt Barker WMF is assessed as 'prescribed premises' category numbers 61 and 64 under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*. The Shire of Plantagenet have been operating a Class II (unlined) landfill at the Premises since the 1960's. The Mt Barker WMF occupies a total area of 76ha, with waste disposal activities confined to approximately 16ha of the northern portion of the site.

#### Location and receptors

Mt Barker WMF is located approximately 5km south east of the Mount Barker town-site and is immediately surrounded by native remnant vegetation to the north and east, tree plantations to the south west and cleared rural properties on its western and south eastern boundaries. The closest residential receptor is a rural residence located approximately 1.7km south east of the active landfill area. Sleeman Creek is the closest surface water sensitive receptor and runs through the southern half of the Premises, with seasonal tributary creeklines also running north to south down the western side, all within the prescribed boundary. The creek lies approximately 350m west of the active landfill area. Additional un-named seasonal creeklines and low lying depressions exist within the Premises boundary, in particular across the entire southern section. Groundwater levels vary from around 8-9 m BGL in the northern section of the site, to being at or just below the surface at the southern monitoring bore (MW3). Bore monitoring at 3 sites has been undertaken at the site since 2002. A surface water monitoring program was introduced in 2009. Soil at the site consists of sands over thick layers of clay.

#### Activities

The Mt Barker WMF is the primary landfill site for the acceptance of household, commercial and industrial wastes collected by the Shire of Plantagenet and its waste contractor from properties located within the town sites of Mount Barker, Kendenup, Porongurup, Rocky Gully and Narrikup. Waste Transfer Stations have been established at all the smaller population centres with nearly all putrescible waste being regularly transferred to the Mt Barker WMF for burial, with some exceptions where local registered landfills provide disposal options. The facility also receives wastes from nearby rural residents including putrescible waste, general household wastes, green waste and assorted recyclable materials.

Operations at the Mt Barker WMF include the receipt of controlled wastes into a new liquid waste receival pond built under a current works approval (W4729/2010/1) and commissioned in October 2013. Under this works approval an additional new HDPE lined evaporation pond is to be constructed adjacent to the new liquid waste receival pond. Construction of the new pond is almost complete, now awaiting submission of a compliance document. Licence conditions with respect to the receipt of controlled (liquid) wastes were first included in the 2002 Licence. In 2008, the need to construct a suitably lined storage pond for liquid waste was identified, resulting in the submission of a works approval application and construction of the new pond. The Liquid Waste Facility, Category 61 was added to the Licence in January 2013. The Premise is licensed to accept controlled waste categories as follows: animal effluent or residues, septage wastes, grease trap wastes and vegetable and food processing wastes up to a maximum volume of 320kL per year. Once the new evaporation pond is complete and connected to receive overflow from the current LWRP, the capacity to receive and store liquid wastes will increase to 1,000kL per year, thus requiring a licence amendment.

The primary activities on site are landfilling and the receipt of liquid wastes. However, the Mt Barker WMF also provides an integrated waste management facility for nearby residents, with drop off areas for recyclables including metals, waste oil, car batteries, tyres, green waste, a Drum Muster compound and a hook lift bin for temporary storage of putrescible wastes to avert the need for the general public to directly access the landfill. Green waste is permitted to be burnt at the premises only within a designated burning area, and is otherwise mulched. Mulched green waste is stored within the waste transfer (recyclables) area of the facility. The Shire of Plantagenet also plans to open a reuse shop (Tip Shop) near the entrance to the site in mid



2014. Additional infrastructure on site includes a site office, security fencing and gravel roads providing access to the liquid waste pond, waste transfer area and the active landfill.

The Mt Barker WMF is licensed to accept clean fill, inert waste types 1 (concrete, rubble) and 2 (tyres, plastics), putrescible waste (includes general waste, litter and green waste), special wastes type 1 (asbestos and asbestos cement) and any other solid waste for burial which meets the requirements of a Class II landfill in accordance with the *Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996* (as amended December 2009). The Shire of Plantagenet currently receives and disposes of approximately 5000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per year at this facility. Due to the significant site limitations with respect to meeting the required separation distances to both surface water and groundwater, with limited areas across the site meeting these requirements, a process of above ground landfilling has commenced at the site whilst the Shire further progresses plans for future landfill expansion at the existing Premises or securing a suitable alternative site.

With no landfill liner or leachate management infrastructure currently in place, the main emissions from the site relate to potential contamination of groundwater via the infiltration of leachate from the landfill and fugitive odour emissions.

In accordance with DER's *Guidance Statement: Licence Duration* (Revised May 2015), the licence duration has been extended to 24 June 2023 on 29 April 2016.

This partial Decision Document is for two amendments sought by the Licensee to (1) amend condition 1.3.5 to accurately reflect current practices and (2) update the site plans to accurately reflect surface and groundwater monitoring locations. Additional administrative changes have also been incorporated to address DER policy changes and updates to numbering and formatting.



## 4 Decision table

All applications are assessed under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*, Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision table.

Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
<b>Premises Operation</b>	L1.2.5	<p>Inappropriate processing of waste on site has the potential to result in environmental contamination or inadvertent expansion of the site without a works approval. In addition, the various solid waste streams accepted onto the premises have varying risks, with some requiring special risk management.</p> <p>The Mount Barker WMF has been operating since the 1960's and there is limited information available regarding the history of landfilling practices on the premises. Condition 1.2.5 has been amended to require a minimum separation distance of 2m between waste deposited within the active landfill area and the highest groundwater level. This amendment ensures that the limit is applied to all current and future landfilling operations on the premises.</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions</i></p>



Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Fugitive emissions (dust)	N/A	<p><u>Emission Description</u>  <i>Emission:</i> Earth moving activities associated with burial, covering and formation of trenches at the Mt Barker WMF have the potential to generate dust affecting users of the facility. The accessing of the recyclables area and Tip Shop by the general public and contractors, plus access by delivery contractors to the LWRP, is via gravel roads, so has the potential to generate dust emissions, particularly in summer.  <i>Impact:</i> Reduced local air quality. Nuisance impacts to sensitive receptors. Respiratory impacts to human health. The nearest rural residence is approximately 1.7km away, so is unlikely to be affected by any dust emissions from the Premises.  <i>Controls:</i> The Shire of Plantagenet have access to a water truck to manage dust as necessary.</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>  Dust emissions are unlikely to unreasonably impact on human receptors given the 1.7km separation distance. It is assessed that dust emissions can be sufficiently regulated under section 49 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>. Conditions 2.6.1 and 2.6.2 in the previous licence version have been deleted.</p> <p><u>Residual Risk</u>  <i>Consequence:</i> Minor  <i>Likelihood:</i> Possible  <i>Risk Rating:</i> Moderate</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions</i></p>



Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Odour	N/A	<p><u>Emission Description</u>  <i>Emission:</i> The acceptance, movement and disposal of putrescible waste can generate considerable odour. Also, the storage of liquid wastes and occasional removal, storage and disposal of sludge from the LWRP can generate considerable odour.  <i>Impact:</i> Nuisance impacts to sensitive receptors. The nearest residential receptor to the landfill and LWRP is 1.7km away so is unlikely to be affected by any odour generated.  <i>Controls:</i> Cover material is applied at least weekly to assist in preventing odours.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u>  <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant  <i>Likelihood:</i> Possible  <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p> <p><u>Regulatory Controls</u>            Odour emissions are not likely to unreasonably impact on human receptors given the 1.7km separation distance.</p> <p>It is considered that the risk of odour is low and odour emissions can be sufficiently regulated under section 49 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>. Condition 2.7.1 in the previous licence version has been deleted.</p> <p><u>Residual Risk</u>  <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant  <i>Likelihood:</i> Possible  <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory Principles</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions</i></p>
Improvements	IR1 – IR4	IR1 to IR4 have been removed from the licence as the Licensee has met the requirements of the Improvement conditions.	





Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
<b>Licence duration</b>	N/A	<p>A <i>Notice of amendment of licence expiry dates Section 59B(9) and Section 59(1)(k) Environmental Protection Act 1986 Licensed Prescribed Premises (Notice)</i> was given effect by the Director General on 29 April 2016. The Notice gave regard to the <i>Guidance Statement: Licence Duration</i>. The expiry date of Licence L6316/1991/13 was amended under the Notice from 24 June 2019 to 24 June 2023.</p> <p>The expiry date of the Licence being 24 June 2023 does not provide unmitigated approval for operations at the Premises to continue until this time. Prescribed activities will be subject to ongoing review in accordance with the risk based regulatory framework and appropriate regulatory controls put in place commensurate to the risk posed by emissions from the Premises.</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p> <p><i>Guidance Statement: Licence Duration</i></p>

## 5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
07/06/2016	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	No comments recieved	N/A



## 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