



Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Proponent: A Richards Pty Ltd

Licence: L7391/1999/9

Registered office: 203 Acourt Road
JANDAKOT WA 6164

ACN: 008 734 852

Premises address: Amazon Soils & Landscaping Supplies
206 Wesco Road
NOWERGUP WA 6032
Being Lot 12738 on Plan 193226

Issue date: Thursday, 19 December 2013

Commencement date: Monday, 06 January 2014

Expiry date: Wednesday, 05 October 2016

Decision

Based on the assessment detailed in this document, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has decided to issue an amended 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: Jane Dalin
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: Alan Kietzmann
Delegated Officer



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1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application for a works approval or licence, 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.



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	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity
	67A	100,000 tonnes per annual period
Application verified	Date: N/A	
Application fee paid	Date: N/A	
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 checked="" 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"/> If Yes include details of which EPP(s) here.		
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, include details here, e.g. Site is subject to SO ₂ requirements of Kwinana EPP.		



3 Executive summary of proposal

Amazon Soils & Landscaping Supplies (Amazon) on Wesco Road in Nowergup has been composting biosolids, greenwaste, sawdust and other materials for the A. Richards Pty Ltd (Richgro) group since 2004.

An approximate total of 34,254 tonnes of various compost component materials (coarse green waste, jarrah and pine bark, sawdust, biosolids, food waste, manures and plasterboard) are used to produce compost. Greenwaste is accepted from councils, contractors and other sources, but not from the general public. Compost is manufactured by grinding raw green waste, blending it with sawdust, other materials and biosolids before turning it into windrows. Regular aeration (at least once a week) takes place to ensure that optimal temperature and oxygen levels are maintained.

The closest sensitive receptor is a rural residence approximately 1.1 km to the west-north-west, with the next closest residence 1.4 km to the south-west. Directly adjoining the premises (to the south) is an active limestone quarry, with several other quarry operations in the surrounding area. Pinjar pine plantation is to the north-east of the premises, with all separation distances complying with Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No. 3 - Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses (June 2005).

The main discharges that have the potential for concern are: contaminated stormwater and composting leachate, dust from vehicles and composting operations, odour from biosolids and active composting windrows and noise from machinery operation.

Compacted limestone hardstands, bunds and site topography are used to direct leachate and contaminated run-off to the lined storage dam. Amazon has received permission from the Water Corporation to utilise an additional lined leachate dam in the north-western corner of the lot to assist in managing excess wastewater and run-off when it occurs.

Amazon holds a current groundwater licence for the abstraction of bore water and this is utilised for dust suppression (sprinklers and a water cart), mulch production and in the active composting windrows.

Odour generation is managed primarily through the effective control of the composting process, however, along with noise, these impacts are primarily mitigated by the isolation of the site from sensitive receptors.

The current amendment is sought to update the acceptance criteria definitions to include food waste and manures. Discharges and emissions have not been reassessed as part of this amendment. DER has updated wording to reflect the latest licence template requirements.



4 Decision table

All applications are assessed under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*, DER's Corporate Policy Statement No.7 – Operational Risk Management and the risk matrix attached to this Decision Document in Section 6. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision table.

DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
General conditions	L1.2.3 L1.3.1 (Table 1.3.1)	<p>Condition 1.2.3 has been removed as all chemicals onsite are managed to adhere to Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004 and Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-Explosives) Regulations 2007.</p> <p>Waste acceptance table has been updated to include the acceptance of food waste and manures on site. This was an oversight when the licence was converted to the new template. Amazon have been accepting this material for over 12 years without any issues with compliance inspections or complaints until recently.</p> <p>See Appendix A for further information.</p>	<i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations, 2004.</i>
Fugitive emissions		<p>Dust emissions – fugitive dust emissions are sufficiently regulated under the general provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. As a result condition 2.6 of the previous licence, which requires the licensee to suppress dust within the premises boundary, has been removed as part of this amendment.</p> <p>DER will monitor site operations and complaints associated with dust emissions and where warranted the licence may be amended to include prescriptive conditions relating to the management of dust emissions.</p>	<i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations, 2004.</i>
Odour		Fugitive odour emissions are sufficiently regulated under the general provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> . As a result condition	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>



DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
		<p>2.7 of the previous licence, relating to odour emissions, has been removed as part of this amendment.</p> <p>DER will monitor site operations and complaints associated with odour emissions and where warranted the licence may be amended to include prescriptive conditions relating to the management of odour emissions.</p>	EPA Guidance Statement No. 3 - Separation Distances Between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses 2004.
Improvements	4	<p>The improvements section of the licence has been removed as the licensee has met all of the commitments in Table 4.1.1.</p> <p>Groundwater monitoring is proposed to be placed on this licence as a result of the improvement conditions. As this amendment is only dealing with adding the acceptance of food waste and manures to the licence, the groundwater monitoring will be assed and included in the subsequent amendment coming from Amazon Soils to accept liquid waste. The frequency of monitoring will be assessed and included in this amendment to be in line with the acceptance of liquid waste.</p>	Amazon Soils DER Improvement Program – L7391/1999/9, 27 August 2014

5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
21/10/2015	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	No comments. Waiver for emailed back on 22 October 2015	N/A



6 Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No.7 – 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



Appendix A

Waste Acceptance

Amazon Soils & Landscaping Supplies (Amazon) on Wesco Road in Nowergup has been composting biosolids, green waste, sawdust and other materials for the A. Richards Pty Ltd (Richgro) group since 2004. The site, an old limestone quarry, has been used for composting for approximately 20 years.

During May and August of 2015, the City of Wanneroo received a number of odour complaints. The City of Wanneroo substantiated a complaint relating to odour on 27 August 2015 by tracing the sewage odour back to Amazon's western facility boundary. An easterly wind was blowing at the time. The City of Wanneroo inspectors noted that a processing/aeration process for the biosolids was being carried out which may have been the cause of the odour. It was also noted that a large pile of chicken manure was on the premises and a Cleanaway truck was emptying bread and vegetables onto one of the mulch piles. The City of Wanneroo was concerned that these mulch piles could be creating an environment for fly breeding. The City of Wanneroo requested that Amazon take steps to immediately ensure that all odour is contained within the property so that it does not create a nuisance to surrounding properties. The City of Wanneroo letter to Amazon was dated 10 September 2015.

DER was also notified of the City of Wanneroo letter to Amazon. In response, DER organised an inspection of the premises. The inspection was carried out with a Compliance Inspector, Enforcement Officer and Controlled Waste Officer on 24 September 2015.

The outcome of the inspection note that the licensee was accepting waste not authorised on the licence.

DER inspectors directed the licensee to immediately stop receiving food waste, manure and any other wastes not listed in table 1.3.1 of this licence (set at the time of inspection on the 24 September 2015) until such time the licence is amended authorising the acceptance of other waste streams.

The Licensee has always accepted food waste and some manures for composting. The removal of the ability to accept food waste and manures in the REFIRE licence (6 Jan 2014) was an oversight by the Licensee.

This amendment is to rectify the acceptance of food waste and manures on site as it has been accepting this waste for 12 years.

Due to the urgency of this amendment to start accepting food waste and manures as was previously the case, a subsequent amendment will be applied to accept liquid waste on site.