



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L7391/1999/9
Choose an item.	A. Richards Pty Ltd
ACN	008 734 852
File Number	APP-0027497
Premises	Richgro, Nowergup Site 206 Wesco Road NOWERGUP WA 6032 Part Lot 12738 on Plan 193226 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1 of the revised licence
Date of Report	20 March 2025
Decision	Revised licence granted

Abbie Crawford
Manager, Waste Industries

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

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1. Decision summary

Licence L7391/1999/9 is held by A. Richards Pty Ltd (licence holder) for the Richgro Nowergup facility (the premises), located at 206 Wesco Road, Nowergup.

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 L7391/1999/9 has been granted.

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 Amendment summary and background

On 16 June 2022, A. Richards Pty Ltd (Richgro; the licence holder) submitted an application to amend licence L7391/1999/9 to include untreated timber products as a solid waste feedstock. During the assessment, it was found that Richgro were accepting bulk compost products produced on the Richgro Bannister and Jandakot sites at the Nowergup site for blending.

On 28 March 2023, a draft amended licence and amendment report was provided to the licence holder. In considering the findings of the risk assessment, the delegated officer found the risk to groundwater quality (and by extension groundwater users/ groundwater connected ecosystems) through the infiltration of leachate to groundwater resulting from the storage and blending of compost products on the premises, as unacceptable. Previous issues with the permeable hardstand and pooling of leachate on the premises have led to leaching of nutrients from high-risk putrescible feedstocks stored on the premises into groundwater resulting in a degradation of groundwater quality.

On 27 July 2023, the licence holder provided a response to the draft amended licence and amendment report addressing the issues identified in the amendment report including a water management assessment and proposed actions and controls. As a result, the amendment was granted subject to conditions for the management on leachate on 10 October 2023.

On 27 May 2024, the licence holder submitted quarterly groundwater monitoring for April 2024 to the department. Groundwater monitoring results indicated that concentrations of total nitrogen were again increasing to almost historical high levels in MB3 and MB4. Analysis of aerial imagery of the premises showed significant pooling of leachate on the premises outside of the leachate pond.

As a result of these findings, on 5 August 2024, the department initiated a compliance inspection of the premises to address compliance with conditions relating to leachate management.

During the site visit four non-compliances were identified on the premises including a blockage of sand in the V-drain causing leachate to be diverted and pool outside of the leachate pond within the premises boundary. As a result, it was determined that condition 8, which stated that all leachate is contained within the boundary of the premises or removed offsite to an appropriately licensed facility, was not functioning as intended to prevent the discharge of leachate off the premises.

On 13 February 2025, the department initiated an amendment to licence L7391/1999/9 to amend condition 8 to prevent further discharge of leachate off the premises as outlined in the risk assessment conducted for the previous amendment.

3. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 1: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence holder was provided with draft amendment on 20 February 2025.	Licence holder responded on 19 March 2025, advising they have no objection to the proposed amendment.	N/A

4. 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.

4.1 Summary of amendments

Table 2 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 2: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
8	Amended to state that all leachate must drain to the leachate pond.

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