



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L8332/2009/3
Licence Holder	Cleanaway Co Pty Ltd
ACN	127 853 561
File Number	APP-0026787
Premises	Karratha Liquid Waste Treatment and Waste Transfer Station Legal description – Lot 126 on Plan 183297 COOYA POOYA WA 6714 As defined by the premises maps attached to the revised licence
Date of Report	20 August 2025
Decision	Revised licence granted

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

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1. Decision summary

Licence L8332/2009/3 is held by Cleanaway Co Pty Ltd (licence holder) for the Karratha Liquid Waste Treatment and Waste Transfer Station (the premises), located at Lot 126 on Plan 183297, Cooya Pooya WA 6714.

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 L8332/2009/3 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 Application summary

On 9 December 2025, the licence holder submitted an application to the department to amend licence L8332/2009/3 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- Revision to the Storage Plan (Schedule 1, Figure 2) of the existing licence, to include Evaporation Pond 4.
- Revision of Condition 5, Table 3 to authorise the use of 4 evaporation ponds rather than the 3 currently authorised.

Evaporation Pond 4 was constructed under works approval W6759/2022/1. Compliance with construction conditions of this works approval was determined by the department on 10 July 2025.

On 7 May 2025, the licence holder requested reference to the Hottpad be removed from the licence premises map, as the associated project never eventuated.

No change to the current licence throughput is proposed.

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.

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 1 below. Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the licence holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 1: Licence holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Wastewater discharges	Overtopping of pond	Overland flow	<p>Licence amendment application does not include specific controls, but the following is from the associated works approval:</p> <p><i>Maintenance of a minimum freeboard of 500 mm creating a storage volume of 1,700 m³.</i></p> <p><i>Management of liquid waste quantity within the pond, via removal and redirection to other existing ponds or ceasing acceptance of liquid waste.</i></p> <p><i>Immediate cleanup of any spills.</i></p>
Leachate	Seepages from evaporation pond	Infiltration	<p>Licence amendment application does not include specific controls, but the following is from the associated works approval:</p> <p><i>The pond is lined with a 2 mm HDPE synthetic liner.</i></p> <p><i>During low volumes or when emptied, liner will be inspected for damage and repaired.</i></p> <p><i>Existing licence conditions the monitoring of ambient groundwater quality.</i></p>
Potentially contaminated stormwater	Operation of 4 th evaporation pond	Overland flow	<p>Licence amendment application does not include specific controls, but the following is from the associated works approval:</p> <p><i>Natural landscape diversion of stormwater runoff away from ponds.</i></p> <p><i>Retaining minimum liquid wastes within ponds when high rainfall events are forecast</i></p>
Odour		Air / wind dispersion	<p>Licence amendment application does not include specific controls, but the following is from the associated works approval:</p> <p><i>Odours are existing emissions from three existing evaporation ponds and this application does not request to increase the currently approved throughput.</i></p> <p><i>Investigate the source of excessive odour and potentially lime-dose the pond to adjust the liquid waste pH.</i></p> <p><i>Cease receiving excessively odorous liquid wastes if a particular waste stream is identified as being the cause of excessive odours.</i></p>

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 2 **Error! Reference source not found.** 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 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Residential premises	6.4 km north east of the premises Due to the distance, residential premises are not considered a sensitive receptor
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> – Proclaimed groundwater area	Located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area
<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> – Proclaimed surface water area	Located within the Pilbara Surface Water Area

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 3.

The revised licence L8332/2009/3 that accompanies this amendment report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises i.e. the use of the new evaporation pond.

The conditions in the revised licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence holder's controls				
Operation of Evaporation Pond 4	Leachate	Infiltration to groundwater causing contamination to groundwater or ecosystem disturbance	RIWI Groundwater Area Groundwater dependent vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 5, 6, 7, and 8	N/A
	Overtopping of pond	Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	RIWI Surface Water Area		C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 6, 8, and 18	
	Potentially contaminated surface water				Y	Condition 7, 9 and 10		

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 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence holder was provided with draft amendment on 14/08/2025	Applicant waived remaining comment period on 20/08/2025	N/A

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 5 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 5: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 5, Table 3	Row 1 amended from 3 x Evaporation Ponds, to 4 x Evaporation Ponds
Schedule 1, Figure 2	Updated map to include Evaporation Pond 4.

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.