



Application for a replacement licence

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Licence number	L8613/2011/3
Licence holder	Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd
ACN	009 070 624
File number	DER2014/000604-1
Premises	Hillside Meat Processors 148 Boxsell Road NARROGIN WA 6312 Legal description - Lot 50 on Plan 80743 Lot 6 on Plan 233183
Date of report	21 September 2022
Proposed decision	Intent to grant licence

1. Scope and purpose of assessment

1.1 Application summary

Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd (licence holder) submitted an application to replace expiring licence L8613/2011/2, issued under Division 3 Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, on 09 June 2022. The current licence expires on 11 October 2022.

The department has determined to update the licence format and conduct a risk review of the licence as part of the replacement process, to ensure the risks to human health and the environment from activities on the premises, as previously assessed by the department, have not materially changed.

In replacing the licence 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>.

1.2 Assessment exclusions

The Delegated Officer has identified that emissions and discharges from fellmongering and the use of outdoor holding yards is occurring that has not been assessed or authorised. As the licence holder has indicated that these activities will be the subject of a separate licence amendment application, these activities have not been included within the scope of this assessment.

1.3 Background

The licence holder operates a Category 15 abattoir with an approved production capacity of 16,200 tonnes of livestock per year, processing primarily sheep and some goats.

The premises is located approximately 9km north of Narrogin in Hillside, in the Shire of Narrogin and is located approximately 9km north from the Narrogin townsite. The land is zoned "farming" under the local planning scheme, with farming the predominant surrounding land use.

The surface geology is colluvial fresh rock soils comprising gradational red and brown loams, clay loams and loamy duplexes with minor sandy duplexes and gritty yellow sands. The soils have been assessed as sandy loams with infiltration rates of 20mm/hr and a phosphorous retention index of 50. Soils are at least 50 cm deep and with clay subsoil at 50-80 cm.

The premises has a Mediterranean climate characterised by warm to hot, dry summers and cool wet winters. Moderate to strong south to southwesterly winds dominate the summer period and mild easterly winds occur in the winter. The average annual rainfall is around 720 mm, with most rain falling during May to August.

The closest sensitive receptor is a residence approximately 1.8 km north-east of the premises and Narrogin Brook, a tributary of the Blackwood River, is located on the southern boundary of the premises. Remnant vegetation is mapped across the northern boundary of the premises and west of the abattoir operations.

2. Current operational aspects

Livestock (sheep and goats) are delivered to the premises into the covered lairage shed and adjoining outdoor lairage yards. Wash waters generated from the covered lairage shed is directed into the wastewater treatment system through a solids separator.

The premises consists of the abattoir infrastructure being the slaughter area, offal area, lairage, de-boning area and cold storage. All wastewater generated from the abattoir is discharged to the pond-based wastewater treatment system.

The premises also operates a truck wash for the washing of refrigeration trucks only with wash waters being discharged into the wastewater treatment system. The licence holder advises that not more than 2000L per day of wash water is generated.

Offal and blood are taken off-site for processing and or rendering.

Manure and paunch material is stored within the Manure Paunch and Material Storage, adjacent to the solids separator, which is removed off-site monthly.

Mortalities unsuitable for processing and paunch is authorised to be buried on-site in designated clay lined carcass pits.

Skins are salted, cured and dried in the skin shed. See section 1.2 - Assessment exclusions.

Outdoor holding yards have no drainage and manure, and sediment contaminated stormwater is directed to bushland. See section 1.2 - Assessment exclusions

The wastewater treatment system consists of six clay lined ponds: 2 anaerobic ponds, 2 aerobic ponds and 2 evaporation ponds.

Treated wastewater from the final pond is irrigated across two irrigation areas totalling 37 hectares. An annual hay crop is harvested from the irrigation areas as a means of exporting nutrient from the site.

3. Consultation

The Shire of Narrogin was advised of the renewal of Licence L8613/2011/2 on 25 July 2022, no comment was received.

4. Decision

The Delegated Officer has determined to grant a renewed licence with the existing licence converted into the new format with the following additions:

Given that manure contaminated wastewater from the lairage and fellmongering shed is directed to the wastewater treatment system, the delegated officer has added additional parameters for monitoring being *E.coli* and total dissolved solids.

Category 55 will be removed from the licence as the holding of stock awaiting slaughter (lairage) is directly associated with the primary activity, being an abattoir.

The licence holder is required to report on additional waste streams and inputs/outputs, such as weight and number of carcasses either buried or removed off-site, volume of blood removed off-site, weight of animal by-products removed off-site, volume of solid waste removed off-site each month and the number of slaughtered animals exported, to enable the Department to monitor all inputs and outputs associated with the premises.

The licence holder is required to report the number of trucks washed per week at the premises to monitor the inputs into the wastewater treatment system.

A full list of amendments can be found in section 5.1 of this report.

In amending the licence, the delegated officer has also:

- updated the format and appearance of the licence;
- deleted the redundant AACR form set out in schedule 1 of the previous licence;
- revised condition numbers, and removed any redundant conditions and realigned condition numbers for numerical consistency; and
- corrected clerical mistakes and unintentional errors.

4.1 Licence holder comments on draft decision

The licence holder was provided with a draft of the revised licence and amendment report for

comment on 9 September 2022. The licence holder provided comments on 21 September 2022, of which are summarised along with DWER's response as an attachment to this report.

5. Conclusion

Based on this assessment, it has been determined to grant a replacement licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

The below table provides a summary of the proposed changes and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the new licence as part of the replacement process.

Condition no.	Proposed changes
Cover page	Removal of Livestock saleyard or holding pen (Category 55) from licence.
Introduction	Deleted, consistent with current DWER template. This guidance is now available in DWER's Guide to Licensing (June 2019).
Interpretation	Inserted, consistent with current DWER template. Supersedes previous conditions 1.1.3, 1.1.4 & 1.1.5.
History	Updated, consistent with current DWER template.
Condition 1.1.1	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 1.2.1	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 1.2.2	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 1.2.3	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 1 – Table 1	New condition – Infrastructure Table. Premises infrastructure and associated operational requirements which includes wastewater treatment system, truck washdown, wastewater drainage infrastructure, slaughterhouse, covered holding pen, blood collection tank, animal by products loading area, covered lairage shed, outdoor lairage, manure and paunch material storage area, burial pit, and irrigation areas.
Condition 2 – Table 2	New condition and table to specify wastes associated with abattoir activities and the specifications and reporting requirements of these wastes.
Condition 1.3.1	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 1.3.2	Condition now labelled as Condition 3 in revised licence.
Condition 1.3.3	Condition incorporated into new Table 1.
Condition 1.3.4	Condition incorporated into new Table 1.
Condition 1.3.5 a) and b)	Incorporated into Table 1.
Condition 1.3.5 c) d) e) f)	Deleted, redundant.
Condition 1.3.6	Incorporated into new Condition 2, Table 2 – Waste Management.
Condition 1.3.7, Table 1.3.2	Portions of condition incorporated into new Table 1 and Table 2. Redundant aspects of table deleted.
Condition 1.3.8	Condition incorporated into new Condition 1, Table 1.
Condition 1.3.9	Deleted, redundant condition.

Condition 1.3.10	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 2.1.1	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 2.2.1, Table 2.2.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 4, Table 3 in the revised licence.
Condition 2.2.2, Table 2.2.2	Condition now labelled as Condition 5, Table 4 in the revised licence.
Condition 3.1.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 6 in the revised licence.
Condition 3.1.2	Condition now labelled as Condition 7 in the revised licence.
Condition 3.2.1, Table 3.2.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 8, Table 5 in the revised licence. Addition of Total Dissolved Solids and E.Coli monitoring requirements.
Condition 3.3.1, Table 3.3.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 9, Table 6 in the revised Licence. Addition of requirement to monitor slaughtered animals.
Condition 12	New standard Condition 12 prescribing quality standards for records kept by the licence holder.
Condition 4.1.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 13 in the revised licence and updated to the current format.
Condition 4.1.2	Deleted, redundant condition.
Condition 4.1.3	AACR Condition now labelled as Condition 11 in the revised licence and updated to the current format.
Condition 4.1.4	Condition now labelled as Condition 10 in the revised licence and updated to the current format.
Condition 4.2.1	Condition now labelled as Condition 14, Table 7 in the revised licence. Change in wording for AER reporting requirements and addition of reporting requirements for emissions monitoring. Addition of requirement to report the number of trucks washed within the truck washdown. Addition of requirement to report on wastes produced from abattoir activities.
Definitions	Definitions deleted: 'usual working day' – conditions which contained these references have been removed, consistent with current DWER template, 'Schedule 1', 'Schedule 2', 'STP dry'
	Definitions added: 'ACN', 'Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR)', 'books', 'Department', 'discharge', 'EP Regulations', 'emission', 'monthly', 'nutrient loading rate', 'prescribed premises', 'waste'.
	Definitions replaced: 'Act' replaced with 'EP Act' and 'Licensee' replaced with 'licence holder'.
	Definitions modified: 'CEO', 'licence', 'premises', 'wastewater treatment system'.
Schedule 1: Maps	Premises map and irrigation area map updated.
	Map of premises infrastructure updated with updated aerial imagery and infrastructure.
Schedule 2: Reporting and notification forms	Deleted, redundant attachments.

References

1. Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd 2013, *Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan (NIMP) for the re-use of treated waste water from Hillside Abattoir*, 02 September 2013
2. Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd 2022a, *Application to renew licence L8613/2011/2*,

submitted 09 June 2022

3. Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd 2022b, *Response to Request for Further Information*, email to DWER dated 24 August 2022.
4. Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd 2022c, *Response to Request for Further Information*, email to DWER dated 06 September 2022.
5. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
6. DWER 2019a, *Amended Licence L8613/2011/2 and Decision Report for Ausvision Rural Services Pty Ltd*, amended 07 January 2016
7. DWER 2019b, *Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*, Perth, Western Australia.
8. Strategen 2015, *Hillside Meat Processors: Water Balance and Evaluation of Burial Pit Clay Liner*, 02 September 2015

Attachment 1

Summary of licence holder's comments on draft conditions

Licence holder comment	DWER response
<i>Request to increase solid waste storage limit on the Manure and Paunch Material Storage Area from 5m³ to 15m³</i>	<i>DWER has increased the storage limit to 15m³</i>
<i>Additional information regarding holding pen waste management infrastructure provided.</i>	<i>Infrastructure table updated.</i>
<i>Additional information regarding covered lairage shed waste management infrastructure provided.</i>	
<i>Additional information regarding the waste management infrastructure of the animal by-product loading area provided.</i>	