

# Government of Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Amendment Report

# **Application for Licence Amendment**

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

Licence Number L8777/2013/1

Licence Holder Buru Energy Limited

**ACN** 130 651 437

**File Number** DER2014/000609-2

APP-0028971

Premises Ungani Production Facility

Petroleum Production Licences L20 and L21 GEEGULLY

**CREEK 6728** 

As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1

**Date of Report** 9/06/2025

**Decision** Revised licence granted

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## 1. Purpose and scope of assessment

Buru Energy Limited holds Licence L8777/2013/1 for the Ungani Production Facility, which processes crude oil extracted from multiple wells on-site. This facility is located on Petroleum Production Licences L20 and L21, about 100 km east of Broome and 85 km southwest of Derby, on Yakka Munga Pastoral Station.

The facility uses segregation tanks to separate oil, gas, and water from the production wells. After separation, the oil is stored in stock tanks, while the produced formation water (PFW) is directed to a segregation tank for further separation and storage in water tanks. The PFW from these tanks is re-injected into the Ungani Dolomite formation through injection wells.

On 5 May 2025, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L8777/2013/1 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to change the location of a groundwater monitoring bore (GQ2), update Figure 3 with the new proposed location and add wording to Condition 9 to account for monitoring access issues which can be experienced during the wet season.

This Amendment Report details the changes made under sections 59 and 59(B) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act). The decision report for the existing licence will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

In amending the licence, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <a href="https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents">https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents</a>.

## 2. Amendment description (from application)

The Licence Holder submitted an application proposing a change to the location of the GQ2 groundwater monitoring bore from its current position at Ungani 3 to a new, proposed location at Ungani 4 and updating Figure 3 to reflect this change.

The Licence Holder has explained the GQ2 bore was "handed over" to a local pastoralist and a bore pump was installed to enable the watering of livestock. The Licence Holder discovered during the 2023-24 reporting period the bore pump prevents the recording of standing water level (SWL) at GQ2, a requirement under Condition 12 of the licence. As this will result in a non-compliance with the licence conditions, the Licence Holder initiated an application for amendment.

Furthermore, the Licence Holder has requested additional wording for Condition 9 to consider potential access issues to monitoring sites during the wet season and the Ungani Facility's ongoing care and maintenance period.

#### 3. Decision Rationale

To inform decision-making the Delegated Officer requested further justification from the Licence Holder regarding how the proposed location for GQ2 at Ungani 4 is a representative site of the current Ungani 3 location considering the large distance (~1.5 km) between the sites. The following information was provided:

- Both sites intersect similar geological sections.
- There is an insignificant difference in ground water level (<2m over 1.5 km laterally).</li>
- Groundwater is brackish (~1,800 mg/L TDS) within a sandstone reservoir at both sites.

The Licence Holder provided further information on the initial decision to use Ungani 3's groundwater bore for monitoring purposes. Ungani 3 is a designated discharge point and was chosen as a monitoring location in a 2015 amendment following an application to use a ~2,500 kL PFW evaporation pond at that location. This pond is no longer present at Ungani 3 and leaves no reason to continue monitoring at this site. Additionally, Ungani 4 is also a designated discharge point.

Based on this assessment the Delegated Officer determines Ungani 4 a representative site suitable for conducting the quarterly groundwater bore monitoring as per Condition 12 of licence L8777/2013/1.

The Delegated Officer has accepted the request for additional wording added to Condition 9. Sub-sections 'c' and 'd' have been added to Condition 9 to consider access issues for the quarterly groundwater monitoring during the wet season. The care and maintenance period has not been addressed in these sub-sections as the Delegated Officer does not consider this a justifiable reason for scheduled monitoring to be missed.

The amendments detailed in this report do not alter the risk profile of the activities conducted on the premises therefore no risk assessment has been conducted.

#### 4. Consultation

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Licence and Amendment Report on 3 June 2025

On 5 June 2025 the Licence Holder waived the comment period.

#### 5. Decision

Based on the rationale in this Amendment Report the Delegated Officer has determined that an amended licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary administration and reporting requirements.

### 6. Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised licence as part of the amendment process.

**Table 1: Summary of licence amendments** 

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 9	Sub-sections 'c' and 'd' added.
Figure 3	Updated to reflect GQ2's new monitoring location at Ungani 4

## 7. References

1. Licence amendment application form and supporting documents provided by the Licence Holder on 5 May 2025: APP-0028971