



Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Licensee: Shire of Irwin

Licence: L8551/2014/1

Registered office: 11-13 Waldeck Street
DONGARA WA 6525

Premises address: Dongara Transfer Station
Crown Reserve 26494
Dee Street
DONGARA WA 6525
Being Lot 187 on Plan 208408 and Lot 300 on Plan 41494

Issue date: Thursday, 18 December 2014

Commencement date: Monday, 22 December 2014

Expiry date: Saturday, 21 December 2019

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: Caroline Conway-Physick
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: Stephen Checker
Delegated Officer



Contents

Decision Document	1
Contents	2
1 Purpose of this Document	2
2 Administrative summary	3
3 Executive summary of proposal and assessment	4
4 Decision table	5
5 Advertisement and consultation table	9
6 Risk Assessment	10

1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application 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
	61	350 tonnes per annual period
	62	1000 tonnes per annual period
Application verified	Date: N/A (P4 Form received 14/09/2015)	
Application fee paid	Date: N/A	
Works Approval has been complied with	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Compliance Certificate received	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> (Compliance report received 14/09/2015)	
Commercial-in-confidence claim	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commercial-in-confidence claim outcome	N/A	
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 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 and assessment

The Dongara Transfer Station is located 351 kilometres (km) north of Perth and is located 4km south of Dongara. The Premises is managed by the Shire of Irwin (Shire). According to the 2011 census, the Shire of Irwin has a population of 3,647.

The Shire currently operates a transfer station, liquid waste facility and landfill at the Premises. The Premises has a Registration (R1651/2004/1) for a category 89 putrescible landfill. The site accepts a very small amount of putrescible waste for burial. Waste consisting of builder's rubble and asbestos is also buried on site. All landfilling activities will continue to operate under the Registration.

Dongara Transfer Station accepts and stores scrap metal, white goods, newspapers, putrescible waste (consisting mostly of mattresses), green waste, electronic waste, tyres, batteries, paints and waste oil prior to removal. Green waste is stored on the site for mulching.

The majority of Dongara and Port Denison is sewered with waste treated at the Dongara Water Corporation facility. The liquid waste facility at the Premises receives tankered septage and grease waste from the local community.

The septage and grease waste ponds include three high density polyethylene (HDPE) lined evaporation ponds and one clay lined overflow pond. The evaporation ponds are approximately 18 metres (m) x 4m x 0.6m, each with an approximate capacity of 43 200 litres (43.2 tonnes). The dried septage sludge is scraped out and disposed of by landfilling.

The evaporation rate for the Dongara-Port Denison area is approximately five times the annual rainfall rate which assists in increasing the capacity of the evaporation ponds to accept greater waste volumes at the Premises. The ponds are filled on an alternating basis with one pond drying as the other is filled. Water balance calculations have demonstrated that the site has the capacity to receive 100 tonnes of septage and grease waste per annual period. However, the current capacity of the ponds is not sufficient to contain the volume of septage and grease waste received by the Premises (120 350 litres between 01/07/2013-13/05/2014).

The potential emissions from the Premises are dust associated with vehicle movement and odour from putrescible waste and the liquid waste facility. The closest sensitive receptor is the Port Denison golf course which is located on adjacent land to the east of the Premises boundary. The golf course is approximately 175m from the operational areas. The Premises is surrounded by unallocated crown land on the north, west and south boundaries with the eastern boundary being Crown Reserve 20720.

The depth to groundwater is unknown for the Premises. Groundwater bores found approximately 904m to the north-east of the Premises show that the underground aquifer links to the Greenough River basin. Static water level is 13.5m, with Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) being approximately 3294 milligrams per litre (mg/L) (moderately saline).

This partial decision document is for the inclusion of an additional liquid waste evaporation pond and an increase in liquid waste capacity (category 61) for the premises, from 100 tonnes to 350 tonnes per annual period. Additional administrative changes have been included within the amendment process to convert the licence to latest format.



4 Decision table

All applications are assessed in line with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and DER's Operational Procedure on Assessing Emissions and Discharges from Prescribed Premises. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision document.

DECISION TABLE			
Licence section	Condition number L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
General conditions	L1.2.3	Condition 1.2.3 relating to the storage of hazardous materials and referencing external codes of practice, has been removed from the Licence in accordance with DER procedure. Other requirements of this condition have been adequately incorporated within conditions 1.1.5, 1.2.2 and 1.2.4 of the Licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> . <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> .
Premises operation	L1.3.1 L1.3.4	<p>Condition 1.3.1, Table 1.3.1, 'Quantity limit for septage and grease waste has been changed to 350 tonnes per annual period.</p> <p>The Premises has completed a works upgrade under Works Approval W5847/2015/1 for an additional 2mm thick, HDPE lined evaporation pond. This has increased the capacity for septage and grease waste under Category 61, to 350 tonnes per annual period. As the ponds at the premises are HDPE lined and have adequate capacity to contain the additional waste, no increase in environmental risks are expected from this increase in capacity.</p> <p>Heather Watts (Environmental Health Officer, Shire of Irwin) confirmed that the damage identified in the liners of the original ponds has been repaired as per the improvement condition within the Licence (IR1) (email received 23/09/2015).</p> <p>Condition 1.3.4, Table 1.3.3 has been updated to reflect the correct number of compounds located at the prescribed premises.</p>	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> . <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> .



DECISION TABLE			
Licence section	Condition number L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Emissions general	L2.1.1	Section 2 'Emissions' has been removed from the Licence. There are no expected or proposed emissions from the operation of the premises. 'Section 2' will become Monitoring' under the amended Licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
Fugitive emissions	L2.6.1	<p>Operation Condition 2.6.1 'Fugitive emissions' has been removed from the Licence through the amendment process.</p> <p>No complaints or issues have been identified for the premises in relation to dust.</p> <p>Emission Description <i>Emission:</i> Dust emissions from vehicle movement. <i>Impact:</i> Nuisance dust. <i>Control:</i> Premises is surrounded by unallocated crown land which is surrounded by vacant land and native vegetation. The nearest sensitive receptor is Port Denison golf course which is approximately 176m from the premises. Low speed signs are present and the volume of traffic is low</p> <p>Risk Assessment <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk rating:</i> Low</p> <p>Regulatory Controls Fugitive emissions is considered low risk for the premises and is to be addressed under section 49 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act, 1986</i>. This is in accordance with current DER procedure for the management of dust at prescribed premises.</p> <p>Residual Risk <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk rating:</i> Low</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i>.</p>



DECISION TABLE			
Licence section	Condition number L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Odour	L2.7.1	<p>Operation Condition 2.7.1 'Odour' has been removed from the Licence as part of the amendment process.</p> <p>No complaints or issues have been identified for the premises in relation to odour.</p> <p>Emission Description <i>Emission:</i> Odour from putrescible waste and from liquid waste ponds. <i>Impact:</i> Nuisance odour. <i>Control:</i> Premises is surrounded by unallocated crown land which is surrounded by vacant land and native vegetation. The nearest sensitive receptor is Port Denison golf course which is approximately 176m from the premises.</p> <p>Risk Assessment <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p> <p>Regulatory controls Odour is considered low risk for the premises and is to be addressed under section 49 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act, 1986</i>. This is in accordance with current DER procedure for the management of odour from the prescribed premises.</p> <p>Residual Risk <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i>.</p>
Improvements	L4.1.1-L4.1.2	<p>The improvement condition IR1 has been removed from the Licence.</p> <p>Heather Watts (Environmental Health Officer, Shire of Irwin) confirmed via email on 25/09/2015 with photographic evidence that the requirements under the improvement programme had been completed adequately by the Shire.</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p>



DECISION TABLE			
Licence section	Condition number L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Information	L5.2.1	<p>Condition 5.2.1 has been amended to change the submission of the report after the reporting period to one month for the collation of information for submission within the AER. This gives the Licensee a simpler date reference, now being 1 May annually.</p> <p>Condition 5.2.1, Table 5.2.1 has had the word target removed in accordance with updates to the current DER Licence template.</p>	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
Licence Duration	N/A	DER is aware of no issues or changes to the premises that impact the existing Licence duration. The current Licence expires on 21 December 2019.	



5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
19/10/2015	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	One comment received from the Shire (Felix Neuweiler, Manager Community Safety) on 20/10/2015 to change reporting period to align to financial year.	A change this the reporting period from 1 April to 31 March to 1 July to 30 June (financial year as requested). This will require that the next AER reporting period (2015/ 2016) will need to compensate for the variation in reporting by including information for a 14 month reporting period. The Shire has confirmed that this will be completed (21/10/2015).



6 Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No. 07 - 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