



Application for Works Approval Amendment

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

Works Approval Number	W6154/2018/1
Works Approval Holder	Albemarle Lithium Pty Ltd
ACN	618 095 471
File Number	DER2018/000968
Premises	Albemarle Kemerton Plant 109 Kemerton Road Wellesley, WA 6233 Legal description – Part of Lot 254 on Deposited Plan 416513 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1 of the Revised Works Approval
Date of Report	9 June 2023
Decision	Revised works approval granted

Amine Fisher
A/Manger Process Industries
an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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1. Decision summary

Works Approval W6154/2018/1 is held by Albemarle Lithium Pty Ltd (works approval holder, Albemarle) for the Albemarle Kemerton Plant (the premises), located at 109 Kemerton Road, Wellesley 6233.

The delegated officer has determined to make amendments to works approval W6154/2018/1. The amendments do not alter the risk profile of the premises, providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in existing approvals remain unchanged.

This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision report for the existing works approval will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the works approval, 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 16 January 2023, Albemarle submitted an application to the department to amend works approval W6154/2018/1 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited to:

- updating the premises street address;
- extending the environmental commissioning period, originally from 180 to 210 calendar days in aggregate for each train, subsequently adjusted to 365 calendar days in aggregate for train 1 only; and
- allowing the environmental commissioning sampling to be undertaken during that period.

The premises relates to the categories and the assessed production/design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing works approval W6154/2018/1.

Further details of the requested amendments are provided below.

Change of premises street address

The primary access road to the premises (Kemerton Road) had not been established when the works approval was first granted but has subsequently been constructed and named. The street address of the premises therefore requires updating from Wellesley Road, to 109 Kemerton Road. No change to the boundary of the premises will occur as a result of this change.

Environmental commissioning authorised duration and sampling frequency

The current works approval specifies an environmental commissioning period of 180 calendar days in aggregate for each processing train and for two stack emission testing rounds to be undertaken within the first four months of emissions through each specified discharge point. Albemarle advised that due to the complexity of the commissioning process, and a range of plant commissioning problems, there has been limited opportunities to complete stack testing

at the pyrometallurgical units, sodium sulphate dryers and lithium hydroxide dryers when the plant is running at a steady state and design throughput. Sampling when the plant is operating in a steady state at design throughput ensures collection of a representative sample for comparison with predictions and emission limits. Due to the commissioning problems experienced Albemarle has not been able to complete the required two rounds of stack emission tests when the plant is operating in a steady state and requires further time to complete environmental commissioning and undertake representative stack emission sampling.

Albemarle initially requested to amend Table 3 and Table 5 of the works approval to extend the authorised duration for environmental commissioning from 180 to 210 calendar days in aggregate for each train. During the assessment process, Albemarle sought to change the request to 365 calendar days in aggregate for train 1 only as lessons learnt from the start-up of train 1 can be applied to subsequent trains. Relating to this, Albemarle also requested the two separate environmental commissioning sample events to be undertaken within the 365 day environmental commissioning period for train 1, rather than the currently specified four month period, so they can be undertaken at a representative time during the environmental commissioning period.

3. Consultation

The works approval holder was provided with the draft Amendment Report on 5 April 2023. Comments received from the works approval holder on 25 May 2023 have been considered by the delegated officer. The works approval holder requested that an increase in aggregate environmental commissioning days for train 1 to 365 days be considered, with sample events to be conducted within this period. The extended period for train 1 is to ensure appropriate monitoring is undertaken. The works approval holder anticipated that the environmental commissioning for train 2 (and any further trains) would be completed in a timely manner from the lessons learnt in commissioning train 1 therefore excluded remaining trains from the amendment application.

The delegated officer noted this information and deemed that the extension to the environmental commissioning period for train 1, and associated monitoring period to be appropriate to ensure representative environmental commissioning monitoring is undertaken.

4. Decision

The delegated officer determined to grant an amendment to change the premises street address (administrative change) and increase the authorised duration for environmental commissioning and stack testing of train 1. The delegated officer considered the timeframe extension was acceptable on the basis that, it will not alter the emission profile or assessed risk associated with the emissions from the premises and will allow for emission testing to be undertaken when the plant is operating at a steady state which increases the likelihood of the collected sample being representative of ongoing emissions. The delegated officer also determined it appropriate to align the duration for stack testing of the remaining trains with their respective environmental commissioning authorised duration to ensure representative sampling is undertaken.

In undertaking this assessment the delegated officer identified and corrected two administrative errors in the works approval which as listed below. The corrections are administrative and do not change obligations of the works approval holder.

- The legal description of the premises was corrected to part of Lot 254 rather than the lot in its entirety. The premises boundary as shown and described in Schedule 1 has not changed in making this correction. The delegated officer noted that the licence holder is still negotiating an updated lease agreement for Lot 254 but notes the updated lease agreement should be provided once available as evidence of legal land

access.

- A circular condition reference in condition 9, in the same condition was corrected to reference condition 10.

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the delegated officer has determined that an amended works approval will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes.

Table 1: Summary of works approval amendments

Condition no.	Amendments
Cover page	Premises street address changed from Wellesley Road to 109 Kemerton Road. Premises legal description corrected from Lot 254 to Part of Lot 254.
Condition 7 Table 3	Authorised environmental commissioning duration extended from 180 to 365 calendar days in aggregate for processing train 1, processing trains 2 -5 remain at 180 aggregate calendar days.
Condition 9	Circular reference to condition 9, corrected to refer to condition 10.
Condition 10 Table 5	Frequency of environmental commissioning monitoring changed from two sample events within four months of emissions through the discharge point to two sample events within the 365 aggregate calendar day environmental commissioning period and the frequency for processing trains 2 – 5 was similarly changed to align with the 180 aggregate calendar day environmental commissioning period for those trains.

References

1. Albemarle Lithium Pty Ltd 2023, *Application form*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) 2022, *Albemarle Lithium Pty Ltd, Works Approval W6154/2018/1*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) 2022, *Albemarle Lithium Pty Ltd, Amendment Report W6154/2018/1*, Perth, Western Australia.