



Application for Works Approval Amendment

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

Works Approval Number	W6515/2021/1
Works Approval Holder	MEPAU Perth Basin Pty Ltd (MEPAU)
ACN	009 204 031
File Number	DER2021/000104
Premises	Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2 Pye Rd YARDARINO WA 6525 Legal description – As defined by the Premises maps attached to the Revised Works Approval
Date of Report	30 July 2024
Proposed Decision	Revised works approval granted

MANAGER, PROCESS INDUSTRIES

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

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1. Decision summary

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to Works Approval W6515/2021/1. The amendments are administrative in nature therefore they 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

Works Approval W6515/2021/1 (W6515) is held by AWE Perth Pty Ltd (Works Approval Holder) for the Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2 (the Premises).

The Premises relates to the category and the assessed design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing Works Approval W6515.

On 24 May 2024, the Works Approval Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Works Approval W6515 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited to;

- Administrative name change of the works approval holder from AWE Perth Pty Ltd to MEPAU Perth Basin Pty Ltd, noting that legal entity remains the same (ACN and ABN unchanged);
- Extending the works approval expiry date from 2 August 2024 to 31 October 2025;
- Extending time limited operations (TLO) from 90 days to 180 days to allow additional time for the transition from time limited operations to licence;
- Amending the design capacity from 250 terajoules per day (export) to 91.25 petajoules per annum (export) to align with recent amendments to Ministerial Statement 1164 (April 2024); and
- Revision of prescribed premises boundary to include the gas gathering infrastructure such as extraction/production wells or flowlines and to align with the development envelope of the amended Ministerial Statement 1164.

3. Legislative Context

3.1 Part IV of the EP Act

Ministerial Statement 1164 (MS 1164) was issued to AWE Perth Pty Ltd on 1 February 2021. The proposal is for the construction and operation of Waitsia gas plant and related infrastructure. It considered the environmental factors of air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, social surroundings, flora and vegetation, and inland waters.

Two s45C amendments have been made to MS 1164. The first amendment was on 4 October 2021 and was limited to increasing the development envelope to include the additional Stage 2B wells, hubs and flowlines and disturbance footprint.

The second amendment was approved on 16 April 2024 and included changes to the facility capacity from 250 terajoules per day to 91.25 petajoules per annum and further increases to the development envelope to include the additional Stage 2B wells, hubs and flowlines. This amendment seeks to convert the capacity of current works approval to match that now authorised by MS1164.

3.2 Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

In Western Australia, all onshore petroleum exploration and developments are subject to approval by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) under the following legislation:

- *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resource Act 1967*;
- Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012 (PGERE Regulations);
- *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* (PP Act); and
- Petroleum Pipelines (Environment) Regulations 2012 (pipeline Regulations).

DEMIRS regulate environmental risks associated with the drilling of extraction wells and the transport of reservoir fluids via flowlines to the gas gathering hubs and gas processing infrastructure through approved Environment Plans in accordance with the PGER Regulations and Pipeline Regulations.

Environment Plans approved by DEMIRS under the PGER Act and regulations relating to the construction and operation of the existing extraction wells and flowlines on the premises include:

- Waitsia Stage 2: Facilities and Temporary Construction Village Environment Plan (WGP-HSE-PLN-00007);
- Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2: Flowline and Hubs Construction Environment Plan (WGP-HSE-PLN-00002); and
- Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2: Gas Export Pipeline Construction Environment Plan (WGP-HSE-PLN-00003).

Commissioning and operation of the Waitsia Stage 2 Project is subject to a separate EP (Waitsia Stage 2: Commissioning and Operations Environment Plan, WGP-HSE-PLN-00019), approved by DEMIRS on 24 October 2023.

As part of the assessment of this works approval amendment application, DEMIRS has advised that the recovery and conveyance of gas for stage 2B can continue to be managed the PGER Act and PP Act and associated regulations. MEPAU has obtained, or is in the process of seeking further, all required approvals under the Acts and associated regulations for the recovery and conveyance of gas for Stage 2B to the processing plant.

- Proposed revision to MEPAU's Waitsia Gas Field – Field Management Plan – Production Licence L1 and L2 (P-WGP2-091, Revision 2.1) – currently under assessment.
- MEPAU's Drilling and Completions Activities Environment Plan (PB-HSE-PLN-00023, Revision 2) which described a petroleum activity involving the drilling of five additional development wells within Production Licence L 1 (and the approved development envelope) associated with Waitsia Stage 2B – approved.
- Proposed revision of the Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2: Flowline and Hubs

Construction Environment Plan (WGP-HSE-PLN-00002, Revision 5), to describe further works associated with the construction of flowlines and gas gathering infrastructure for Stage 2B of the project – currently under assessment.

DEMIRS also advised the department that MEPAU have consulted with them and confirmed the intention to submit proposed revisions of other previously approved Environment Plans, in relation to Stage 2B of the project. Further, MEPAU has or will be required to submit proposed Well Management Plans for its new well activities which will be assessed by DEMIRS in due course.

DEMIRS also confirmed that MEPAU is the registered holder of multiple petroleum and pipeline titles, including Production Licence L 1 which overlaps spatially with the expanded premises boundary, and includes Lot 123 on Plan 2993. The Stage 2B area is within the entirety of Petroleum Production Licence L 1.

4. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 1: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advised of proposal 26 June 2024	Refer to Section 2.4 Summary comment indicates that DEMIRS does not have any concerns at this time with respect to MEPAU's current approvals or their ability to obtain further approvals as may be required from time to time.	Noted.
Works Approval Holder was provided with draft amendment on 23 July 2024 and provided comments 29 July 2024.	Comments limited to minor administrative corrections and changes to both the amended Works Approval and Amendment Report.	Works approval and amendment report updated to reflect all changes.

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. In amending the works approval, the delegated officer notes that the amendment is administrative in nature, and the existing controls on the works approval continue to apply for the infrastructure, commissioning and time limited operations of the plant.

As per existing regulatory approval requirements, extraction and conveyance of gas is regulated under the PGER Act and PP Act and associated regulations, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they obtain and comply with all necessary approvals under this legislation.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 2 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 works approval as part of the amendment process.

Table 2: Summary of works approval amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Works Approval Holder	Name of works approval holder updated to MEPAU Perth Basin Pty Ltd (MEPAU)
Expiry Date	Extended to 31 October 2025
Assessed Design Capacity	Amended to 91.25 petajoules per annum (export)
14	Increase time limited operations to 180 calendar days. Part a and Part b of this condition now align to the standard condition format for time limited operations, noting that 180 days is considered sufficient to allow the department to process a licence application. Authorisation beyond 180 days is not considered necessary.
Schedule 1	Premises map updated to include Stage 2B
Schedule 2	Update coordinates to include Stage 2B