



Application for Works Approval Amendment

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

Works Approval Number	W6799/2023/1
Works Approval Holder	Shire of Ashburton
File Number	APP-0028097 and DER2023/000240
Premises	<p>Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility</p> <p>Onslow Road</p> <p>TALANDJI WA 6710</p> <p>Legal description –</p> <p>Part of Lot 550 and Lot 551 on Plan 414367, being Reserve 53324</p> <p>Certificate of Title: Volume LR3169, Folio 963</p>
Date of Report	16 May 2025
Decision	Revised works approval granted

Grace Heydon

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

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1. Decision summary

Works approval W6799/2023/1 is held by the Shire of Ashburton (works approval holder) for the Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility (the premises), located at Part of Lot 550 and Lot 551 on Plan 414367, being Reserve 53324, Onslow Road TALANDJI WA 6710.

This amendment report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, revised works approval W6799/2023/1 has been granted.

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

The Delegated Officer has determined the following 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.

On 5 March 2025, the works approval holder submitted an application to the department to amend works approval W6799/2023/1 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited only to extending the time limited operations duration from 30 April 2025 to 31 July 2025, and amend the waste acceptance receival rates to a consolidated cumulative total.

At the time of this application, the applicant was preparing an application to amend their operational licence (L9304/2021/1) to include the new ponds and drying bed as constructed under this works approval. The time limited operations period on the existing works approval expires on 30 April 2025. To allow sufficient time for the applicant to complete their review of operations and prepare the licence amendment application, and to allow the department time to assess the application, this amendment application requests the time limited operations phase be extended by three months to 31 July 2025.

Condition 9 of the works approval specifies that the works approval holder must only accept waste into the evaporation ponds or drying beds at a rate or below the limits specified in The Waste Acceptance Table (Table 2) of the works approval. This table currently specifies the acceptance rate for individual or groups of waste types, however footnote 1 of the Waste Acceptance Table specifies "*waste streams are variable for the site, however quantity limits for waste acceptance overall must not exceed the approved premises production or design capacity stated on page 1 of this works approval*". The Shire would like this to be clarified, and the table amended to represent a combined total waste across the waste types for clarity and to allow for some operational flexibility.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the following amendment request does have the potential to alter the risk profile of the site and has therefore been risk assessed is section 3 of

this amendment report.

On 4 April 2025 the applicant submitted an additional amendment request to be included in this works approval amendment. The additional amendment includes the request for the temporary storage of drill muds (N205) and other bulk liquid waste, to be stored in fully sealed containers adjacent to the new drying beds constructed as part of the works approval. The proposal involves the receipt of drill muds on site in 30 x 20 m² ISO containers which are offshore-rated sealed units. These containers will be temporarily stored in the proposed ISO storage area, with up to 12 containers processed per week. All containers will be processed within 4 weeks, after which the empty containers are returned to the client.

3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises construction and operation which have been considered in this amendment report are detailed in Table 1 below. Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the works approval holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 1: Works approval holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Soil contamination	Spills and leaks of drill mud	Seepage to soil and groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill muds and bulk liquid waste stored in sealed offshore-rated ISO containers only; • Containers must only be stored in this area for a maximum of 30 days; • The sealed containers will be stored in a manner that prevents discharge of waste to the environment; and • The containers will be regularly inspected for leaks or spills and any spills will be managed in accordance with conditions 18 and 19 of the works approval.
Leachate	Storage of drill muds and bulk liquid waste in ISO storage area		

3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the works approval holder's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 2 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Pastoral stations and leases	Lands used for agricultural purposes (grazing) on Minderoo and Peedamulla station extend from ~3.2 km west and ~8 km north of the premises. Minderoo Station homestead is located ~20 km south-west of the premises. Peedamulla Station homestead and campground are located ~40km east northeast of the premises.
Onslow town site and industrial areas	Wheatstone oil and gas worker accommodation is located ~22 km north-west of the premises. Onslow town site is located ~30 km north-west of the premises
Users of Conservation Park (existing and proposed)	The proposed extension to the Cane River Conservation Park (CRCP) includes all lands surrounding the premises except easements associated with the Onslow Road and associated infrastructure. The boundary of the proposed extension to the CRCP is located between 150 and 1,500 m from the PRWMF infrastructure.
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Cane River Conservation Park (CRCP)	Current: located approximately 32 km south-east. Proposed extension: surrounding the premises, between approximately 150 m and 1,500 m from the PRWMF infrastructure. No management plan has been published for the existing or proposed extension to the CRCP. Consistent with section 56 of the CALM Act, the purpose of conservation parks is to conserve the natural environment, protect flora and fauna and preserve features of archaeological, historic or scientific interest while providing for suitable levels of public recreation.
Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947	The Cane River Water Reserve Priority 1 PDWSA is located approximately 21.1 km north-east (upgradient) of the premises.
Surface water bodies	A series of non-perennial lakes are situated to the west (down-gradient), south-west (up-gradient) and north-east (up-gradient) of the premises. The closest of these is located approximately 2.3 km west of the premises. Beyond these is a series of Saline Coastal Flats which extend towards the Indian Ocean.
Groundwater: superficial and confined aquifers	The premises is located with the Carnarvon confined Birdrong aquifer and Carnarvon superficial aquifer. Talis (2018a) reported that the superficial aquifer was not encountered during intrusive investigations at the premises. Depth to groundwater ranges across the

	premises from 5.4 metres below ground level (m BGL) (BH03 January 2018) to 20.9 m BGL (BH10 April 2019). Groundwater dependent ecosystems have not been investigated within the unallocated crown land surrounding the premises, proposed as an extension to the CRCP, for the purposes of the risk assessment they are assumed to be potentially present.
Users of groundwater resources	The premises is located within the RIWI Act proclaimed Pilbara Groundwater Area. Groundwater licences are granted ~20 km southwest (Ashburton River – bore is up-gradient), ~27 km north-east (Cane River – up-gradient) and from ~16 km north-west (down-gradient) of the premises. A series of licences are also granted along the Onslow Road from ~5 km north-west (up-gradient) and ~1 km south-east (up-gradient) that are predominately granted to Main Roads Western Australia. Groundwater may also be used for stock water on nearby pastoral stations.

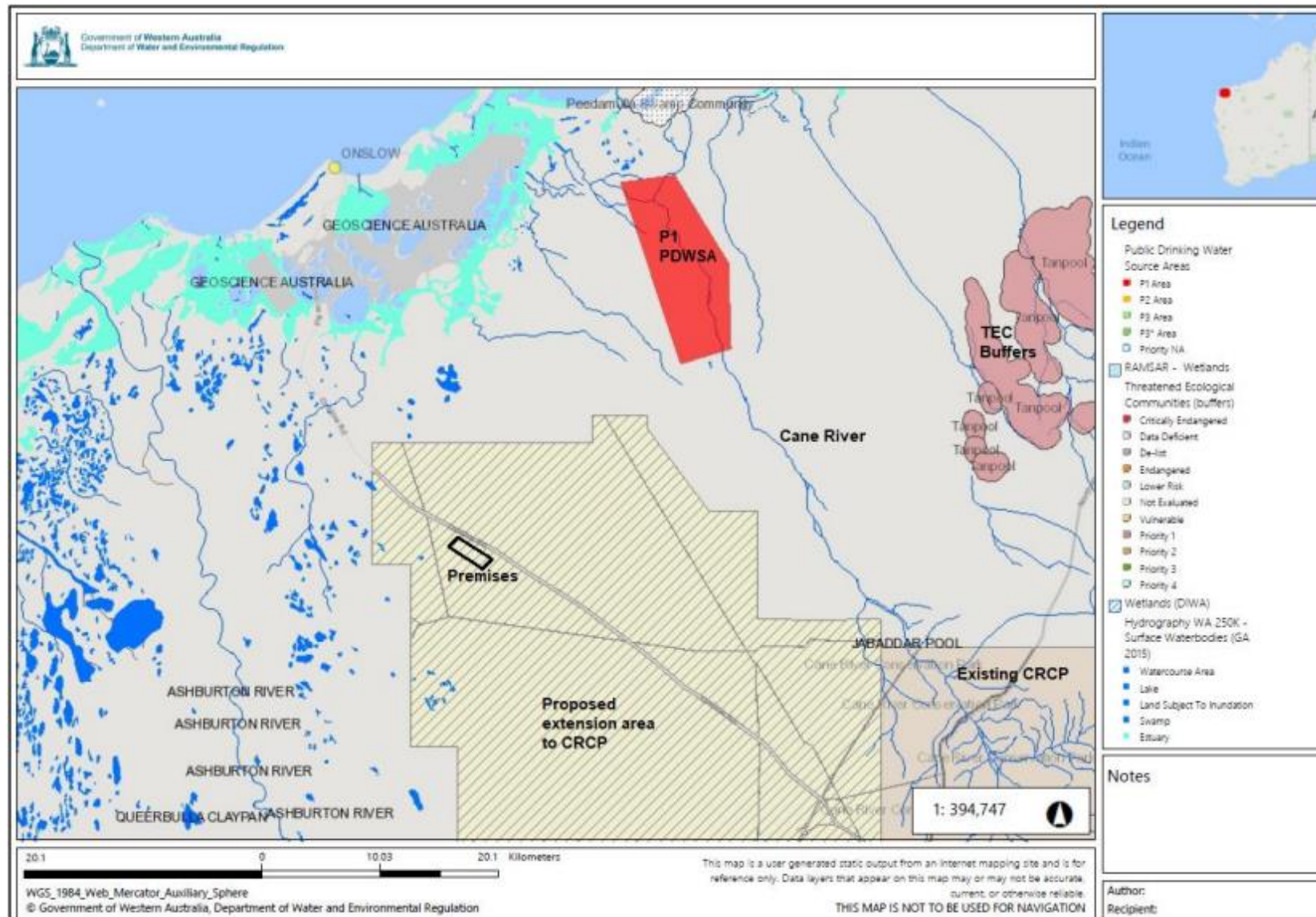


Figure 1: Relative distance to sensitive receptors

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3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the works approval holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the works approval holder's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the works approval as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the works approval holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

The revised works approval W6799/2023/1 that accompanies this amendment report authorises time-limited operations. The conditions in the Revised Works Approval have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A licence amendment is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the Premises. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this Amendment Report, however licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises time limited operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Works approval Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Works approval Holder's controls				
Acceptance and storage of drill muds and bulk liquid waste in ISO storage area	Soil contamination	Spills and leaks of Drill Mud Seepage to soil and groundwater	Terrestrial habitats including the proposed extension of the CRCP (150 - 1,500 m from premises) including native flora and groundwater dependent vegetation	Refer to Section 5.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 8, Table 2, Row 3; points 1 and 3 <u>Condition 8, Table 2, Row 3, points 2 and 4</u> Figure 2, Schedule 1	As the applicant control was to inspect the containers <i>regularly</i> for leaks or spills, and considering the lack of hardstand area, the Delegated Officer considered the risk to receptors high enough to justify conditioning these inspections occur <i>daily</i> . A maximum time period for storage of 30 days has also been implemented.
	Leachate							

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

Note 2: proposed works approval holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

4. Consultation

The works approval holder was provided with the draft amendment report on 12 May 2025. Comments received from the works approval holder on 13 May 2025 have been considered by the Delegated Officer as detailed in Appendix 1.

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 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 4: Summary of works approval amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 7 (a)	Duration of time limited operation period extended from 180 days to 361 days (an extension of 6 months)
Condition 8, Table 2	Addition of row relating to the temporary storage of ISO containers
Condition 9, Table 2	Rate at which waste is received (tonnes/annum) column amended from individual waste quantities to an amalgamated total limit. Removal of note 1 from the Table.
Schedule 1, Figure 2	Updated to include temporary ISO storage area
N/A	Minor administrative changes to correct administrative errors including table numbers and typos.

References

1. *Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions, Perth, Western Australia.*
2. *DWER 2020, Guideline: Risk Assessments, Perth, Western Australia.*

Appendix 1: Summary of Works Approval Holder's comments on draft amendment

Condition	Summary of Works Approval Holder's comment	Department's response
Condition 7	The Shire requested an additional 90 days on top of the original amendment request to allow sufficient time to compile their licence amendment application and for the department to assess the licence amendment.	The Delegated Officer finds the works approval holders reasoning justified. Additional extension granted.