




How to interpret information on contaminated sites

This fact sheet is designed to help people understand the information provided by DER in response to an online search of its public contaminated sites database or by submitting a written request (Form 2) for information. Contaminated sites information is provided in the form of a **basic summary of records (BSR)** or a detailed summary of records (DSR). An example (hypothetical) BSR is shown below.

 Government of Western Australia Department of Environment Regulation		Page 1 of 3
Contaminated Sites Act 2003 Basic Summary of Records Search Response		
Report generated at 02:43:58PM, 24/07/2015		
		<i>Receipt No:</i> DER1234
		<i>ID No:</i> 12199
Search Results		
This response relates to a search request received for: 1 North St Booragoon, WA, 6154		
This parcel belongs to a site that contains 2 parcel(s). According to Department of Environment Regulation records, this land has been reported as a known or suspected contaminated site.		
Address	1 North St Booragoon, WA, 6154	
Lot on Plan Address	Lot 4 On Plan 1234	
Parcel Status	Classification: 01/12/2006 - <i>Contaminated - remediation required</i> Nature and Extent of Contamination: The site was historically used as a chemical/oil recycling and waste transfer station. The main operation on-site was the recycling of solvents by a distillation process. The process area was located in the southern half of Lot 4 (1 North Street). On completion of distillation, solvents were stored in underground storage tanks on lot 99 or in 205 litre drums for subsequent re-sale. Drummed sludge waste and other chemicals were stored on Lot 6 South Street. Soil Petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons are present in subsurface soils in numerous locations at concentrations above risk-based soil criteria derived for the Site. Groundwater A mixed groundwater contaminant plume (including heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents) has been identified at the regional water table below the central area of Lot 4. Restrictions on Use: Groundwater abstraction is not permitted at this site due to the nature and extent of groundwater contamination. A site-specific health and safety plan is required to address the risks to the health of any workers undertaking intrusive works until further notice. Reason for Classification: The Site was reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) prior to the commencement of the 'Contaminated Sites Act 2003'. The Site classification is based on information received by DEC by November 2006. The Source Site was historically used as a chemical/oil recycling and waste transfer station. The main operation on-site was the recycling of solvents by a distillation process. On completion of distillation,	

Excerpt from basic summary of records

Information available on contaminated sites

Single residential properties and many commercial/industrial properties comprise a single parcel of land (or 'parcel'). Larger residential and commercial/industrial properties may contain more than one parcel.

A summary of records relates to a single parcel of land, however, a contaminated site may comprise one or more parcels. If you require details on all the parcels making up a site, you will need to request and pay for a summary of records for each of those parcels.

There are two types of summaries available from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (CS Act)—**basic** and **detailed**. A hypothetical example of a basic summary of records (BSR) is shown on the previous page.

How to interpret your BSR

The time and date the BSR was generated is displayed top right hand corner. The information in the BSR is valid at the time and date the BSR was generated and reflects the most recent classification of the site (the classification date is provided under **Parcel Status**).

Below this is a receipt number—applies when a prescribed fee is paid with a Form 2 application—and DER identification number (DER use only).

Down the left hand side of the page is a list of key headings in boxes, which are described in detail below.

Search Results: the parcel address to which the BSR relates followed by the number of parcels included in that particular site, e.g. this parcel belongs to a site that contains three parcels.

Address: the parcel street address from the Certificate of Title—at the time of classification.

Lot on Plan Address: the parcel land description from the Certificate of Title—at the time of classification.

Parcel Status: contains up to six sections:

1. Classification—the date of classification and the classification given to the site (refer to Fact sheet 4 for more information on site classifications). Sites can be reclassified if additional technical information is submitted to DER.

2. Nature and Extent of Contamination—briefly outlines the type(s) of contamination present and where it is found on the site. The description is parcel-specific and may differ between parcels making up the site.

3. Restrictions on Use—DER may advise against certain activities if contamination is present. Examples include restrictions on:

- the abstraction and use of groundwater,
- the performance of underground maintenance work; and
- a change to a more sensitive land use which may increase exposure to contamination (e.g. changing from commercial to residential land use).

4. Reasons for Classification—explains the contamination issues identified at the site as a whole. Information listed here may include:

- when and why the site was reported to DER as a known or suspected contaminated site;

- the nature of potentially contaminating activities undertaken;
- the identified contaminants of concern;
- the extent of investigation undertaken;
- the extent of any remediation (clean-up) undertaken and a brief description of what was done and when; and
- the assessment criteria used to assess the suitability of the site for the current land use and to classify the site

5. Other Relevant Information—information listed here may include:

- if DER considers the site meets the definition of a **source** or **affected** site under the CS Act (*the site which is the origin or source of contamination is known as the **source site** and the adjacent properties affected by contamination migrating from the source site are known as **affected sites***)
- if an accredited contaminated sites auditor is required to review and report on the standard of work carried out and to produce a mandatory auditor's report.

6. Action Required—a summary of the actions (such as investigation, risk assessment and/or remediation) and the required time frames considered necessary by DER to address the suspected or known contamination at the site.

Certificate of Title Memorial: four site classifications (*contaminated – remediation required, contaminated – restricted use, remediated for restricted use and possibly contaminated – investigation required*) require a memorial to be placed on the Certificate of Title (DER instructs Landgate to do this). A memorial will also be placed on the Certificate of Title if DER has issued a regulatory notice relating to the site.

Current Regulatory Notice Issued: confirms if DER has issued a regulatory notice (*hazard abatement, clean-up or investigation notice*) against the site, or the site's owner and the date the notice was issued. If no notice has been issued the word 'Nil' will be displayed.

General: includes other information relevant to the site such as the date and nature of appeals lodged with the Contaminated Sites Committee (an independent decision-making body set up under the CS Act). This may include appeals against the site classification or regarding the parcel's inclusion in the site (contact the [Contaminated Sites Committee](#) for further information).

How to interpret your DSR

The DSR (see over) includes all the information provided in the BSR, plus:

Certificate of Contamination Audit: confirms if a certificate of contamination audit (CCA) has been issued for the site—the DSR lists the date the CCA was issued and a copy will be attached to the DSR. If no CCA has been issued the word 'Nil' will be displayed.

Environmental Reports: a comprehensive list of reports on the site held by DER. The information will include the author, date and report title. The listed reports may include management plans, sampling and analysis programmes and any other information (including technical reports) which DER's chief executive officer considers appropriate.

Auditor Reports: if applicable, a full list of Mandatory Audit Reports (MARs) on the site held by DER.

The higher fee charged for a DSR also includes access to the environmental and auditor reports. An electronic copy of the report(s) will be supplied if available otherwise, contact DER to arrange a mutually convenient time to view the documents listed in the DSR.

 <p>Government of Western Australia Department of Environment Regulation</p>	<p>Page 1 of 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contaminated Sites Act 2003 Detailed Summary of Records Search Response</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Report generated at 02:28:11PM, 24/07/2015</p>
---	--

Receipt No: DER1234

Search Results

This response relates to a search request received for:
[REDACTED]

This parcel belongs to a site that contains 1 parcel(s).

Address	[REDACTED]
Lot on Plan Address	[REDACTED]
Parcel Status	<p>Classification: <i>Not Classified</i></p> <p>Nature and Extent of Contamination: Unspecified</p> <p>Restrictions on Use: Nil</p> <p>Reason for Classification: Nil</p>
Certificate of Title Memorial	Nil
Current Regulatory Notice Issued	<p>Type of Regulatory Notice: <i>Nil</i></p> <p>Date Issued: <i>Nil</i></p>
Certificate of Contamination Audit	Date Issued: <i>Nil</i>
Environmental Reports	<p>1. Annual Groundwater Monitoring Programme 2010 (Environmental Consultants, October 2010) Report Author: Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. [Report Date: 01/10/2010, Receival Date: 26/10/2010]</p> <p>2. Sampling and Analysis Plan (Environmental Consultants, August 2010) Report Author: Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. [Report Date: 01/08/2010, Receival Date: 17/08/2010]</p>
Auditor Reports	<p>1. Mandatory Audit Report (WA Auditing Pty Ltd, January 2014) Report Author: WA Auditing Pty Ltd. [Report Date: 18/01/2014, Receival Date: 19/01/2014]</p>
General	No other information relating to this parcel.

Disclaimer
 This Summary of Records has been prepared by Department of Environment Regulation (DER) as a requirement of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003. DER makes every effort to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of this information at the time it was prepared, however advises that due to the ability of contamination to potentially change in nature and extent over time, circumstances may have changed since the information was originally provided. Users must exercise their own skill and care when interpreting the information contained within this Summary of Records and, where applicable, obtain independent professional advice appropriate to their circumstances. In no event will DER, its agents or employees be held responsible for any loss or damage arising from any use of or reliance on this information. Additionally, the Summary of Records must not be reproduced or supplied to third parties except in full and unabridged form.

More information

For advice on contaminated sites or related matters, please contact DER's **Contaminated Sites Information Line 1300 762 982** or email contaminated.sites@der.wa.gov.au

This document is available in alternative formats and other languages on request.

Related documents

Other fact sheets and guidelines relating to investigating and managing contaminated sites are available at www.der.wa.gov.au/contaminatedsites.

Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. The full text of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* is available electronically from the State Law Publisher website at www.slp.wa.gov.au.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is provided by DER in good faith as a public service. However, DER does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this document and it is the responsibility of recipients to make their own enquiries as to its accuracy, currency and relevance. The State of Western Australia, DER and their servants and agents expressly disclaim liability, in negligence or otherwise, for any act or omission occurring in reliance on the information contained in this document or for any consequence of such act or omission.

Limitation

The Western Australian Government is committed to providing quality information to the community and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the data contained in this document. However, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the quality of information. Confirmation of the information may be sought from the relevant originating bodies or the department providing the information. DER and the State of Western Australia reserve the right to amend the content of this document at any time without notice.

Legal advice

The information provided to you by DER in relation to this matter does not constitute legal advice. Due to the range of legal issues potentially involved in this matter, DER recommends that you obtain independent legal advice.