



Category 54 Standardised Approval Application for Licence

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

Licence number	Instrument number
Applicant	Name
ACN	ACN <i>(delete this row if ACN not applicable)</i>
Application Number	APP-XXXX/XXXXXX
Premises	Name of premises Street address Legal description Part of/Lot XXX on Deposited Plan XXXXX Certificate of Title Volume XXXX Folio XX As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1 of the licence As defined by the [premises maps] attached to the issued licence
Date of report	DD Month 20YY
Decision	Licence draft.

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1. Decision summary

This decision statement details the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the operation of a Category 54 prescribed premises that has been assessed through the Standardised Approval pathway.

As a result of this assessment the delegated officer has granted a Category 54 Standardised Approval licence.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

The Department has pre-determined eligibility criteria applicable to a Standardised Approval licence by applying its regulatory framework and relevant policy documents, which are available on the department's website at [DWER Regulatory documents | Western Australian Government](#). These criteria are detailed in the [Guideline: Category 54 Sewage facility Standardised Approval Pathway](#).

To be eligible for the Standardised Approvals pathway, an application for a Standardised Approval licence must meet all the eligibility criteria for that prescribed premises category.

In conducting the assessment detailed in this decision statement, the delegated officer has reviewed the application against the eligibility criteria and, where the application complies, has granted a Standardised Approval licence.

2.2 Prescribed premises category

This decision statement relates to the prescribed premises category detailed in Table 1, as per Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations).

Table 1: Prescribed premises category

Category	Category description	Production or design capacity
54	Category 54: Sewage facility premises: (a) on which sewage is treated (excluding septic tanks); or (b) from which treated sewage is discharged onto land or into waters.	100 m ³ or more per day

2.3 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a Category 54 Standardised Approval **all** activity criteria and siting criteria must be met.

Activity criteria

The activity criteria for a Category 54 Standardised Approval are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Activity criteria

Factor	Criteria
Facility location	The sewage facility must be located on a mine site.
Authorised design capacity	Sewage treatment less than 500 m ³ per day.
Authorised process types	Sewage is treated, with the treated wastewater discharged on land via irrigation. Sewage treatment is limited to 'package-type' wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) generally comprising pre-assembled, self-contained systems designed to treat wastewater, typically for mining accommodation camps or for other project construction camps.

A Standardised Approval licence does not provide any authorisation for the clearing of native vegetation. The clearing of native vegetation requires a clearing permit under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), unless an exemption applies.

Siting criteria

The siting criteria for a Category 54 Standardised Approval are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Siting criteria

Siting criteria	Criteria	Reference ¹
Local government zoning		
Land uses	The activity must comply with Local Government Authorities' planning approvals and land use zoning under the Planning and Development Act 2005 , and associated regulations and policies.	Planning and Development Act 2005
Human Receptors and Sensitive Land Uses		
Human receptors ² – non-industrial land uses	Activities must not be located within 500 m	Visual inspection
Registered Aboriginal sites as defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972	Activities must not be carried out within 50 m of the specified area	DPLH-099

¹ Unless stated otherwise, listed datasets may be accessed via the Data WA website. Note that some datasets listed are managed by other government departments or agencies. All datasets change over time; applicants should ensure that they are always referring to the most up to date information.

² This includes land uses considered to be potentially sensitive to emissions from industry and infrastructure, such as residential developments, hospitals, hotels, motels, hostels, caravan parks, schools, nursing homes, childcare facilities, shopping centres, playgrounds, and some public buildings. Some commercial, institutional and industrial land uses which require high levels of amenity or are sensitive to particular emissions may also be considered "sensitive land uses". Examples include some retail outlets, offices and training centres, and some types of storage and manufacturing facilities.

Lodged Aboriginal heritage places recorded in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS)		DPLH-100
Environmental receptors³		
Ramsar Wetlands	Activities must not be located within 500 m	DBCA-010
Important Wetlands in Western Australia		DBCA-045
South Coast Significant Wetlands		DBCA-018
Geomorphic Wetlands – Swan Coastal Plain <i>[Management category: “Conservation” and “Resource enhancement” only]</i>		DBCA-019
Geomorphic Wetlands Cervantes South Geomorphic Wetlands Cervantes Coastal Geomorphic Wetlands Cervantes Eneabba Geomorphic Wetlands Darkan Duranillin Geomorphic Wetlands Augusta to Walpole	Activities must not be located within 500 m	DBCA-013 DBCA-014 DBCA-015 DBCA-016 DBCA-017
Geomorphic Wetlands South West Walpole Wilderness Peat Wetlands Geomorphic Wetlands Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge and Donnybrook to Nannup Geomorphic Wetlands Manjimup to Northcliffe		DBCA-040 DBCA-042 DBCA-043 DBCA-044
Surface waters (i.e. major and minor drainage lines, salt lakes, lakes, other wetlands)	Activities must not be located within 200 m	DWER-031
1 in 100-year flood way or flood fringe	Activities must not be carried out within the specified area	DWER-014 or DWER-015
Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas, as listed in the Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005		DWER-046

³ This includes the surrounding environment, which may include areas of high conservation value and special significance (specified ecosystems). These ecosystems may be affected by activities within, or emissions and discharges from, prescribed premises.

Public Drinking Water Source Areas proclaimed under the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909 or the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947		DWER-033
Priority Ecological Communities	Activities must not be located within 100 m	Priority Ecological Communities list
State managed parks (lands and waters)		DBCA-011
Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat	Activities must not be located within 500 m	Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat
Peel Inlet – Harvey Estuary		Peel Inlet – Harvey Estuary
Limestone (karst) or calcrete aquifers		Geological mapping
Portable/stock use bores and dams		Water Register
Annual average maximum groundwater level (metres below natural soil surface) ⁴	Activities must have a minimum of 3 m vertical separation from highest seasonal groundwater level	Perth Groundwater Map (Perth metro area)
Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Swan Coastal Plain Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Estuaries Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Pilbara Coastline Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Albany-Torbay Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Geraldton Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Lower South West	Activities must not be carried out within the specified area	DWER-055 DWER-050 DWER-053 DWER-054 DWER-051 DWER-052
Other Considerations		
A site listed on the Contaminated Sites Database maintained under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 .	Activities must not be carried out within the specified area	DWER-059

⁴ Examples include well construction logs, borehole logging (including soil samples), and groundwater level monitoring (including standing groundwater levels). Where the Perth Groundwater Map is not applicable to a mining premise, site-specific information or equivalent mapping, including these examples, should be used to demonstrate that the siting requirements have been met.

3. Risk assessment

The application for a Category 54 Standardised Approval has been assessed in accordance with the Department's [Guideline: Risk Assessments](#) and [Guideline: Category 54 Sewage facility Standardised Approval Pathway](#).

Table 4 details the risk assessment completed for a Standardised Approval Category 54 licence, and identifies the potential emissions and discharges, and their source. It assesses the activity criteria, siting criteria and other regulatory controls applied to each emission and source. The risk assessment indicates that the overall risk of adverse impacts from the prescribed activities is *low or negligible*

Table 4: Category 54 Standardised Approval risk assessment

Risk event		Summary of risk mitigation / controls		Risk assessment ⁵
Source (activity / infrastructure)	Emission ⁶	Eligibility criteria	Regulatory controls	
Operations				
Treatment of sewage Disposal of treated effluent and wastewater via irrigation spray field	Air emissions – odour	Siting criteria (separation distances from receptors) Activity-based criteria (limits on maximum production and waste acceptance capacity / rate)	Standardised Approval (licence) conditions 1, 2	Siting-based and activity-based eligibility criteria are expected to greatly reduce, although may not fully eliminate, the risk of adverse impacts from air emissions (odour) to potential receptors during operational activities. Regulatory controls have been applied/conditioned, to further reduce risk of impacts through outcomes-based infrastructure specifications. Residual risk rating = Low

⁵ Risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020).

⁶ These are emissions that could impact potential sensitive receptors.

Risk event		Summary of risk mitigation / controls		Risk assessment ⁵
Source (activity / infrastructure)	Emission ⁶	Eligibility criteria	Regulatory controls	
Treatment of sewage Disposal of treated effluent and wastewater via irrigation spray field Pipeline leaks or ruptures	Treated wastewater discharges to land	Siting criteria (separation distances from receptors) Activity-based criteria (limits on maximum production capacity / rate)	Standardised Approval (licence) conditions 1, 2	Siting-based and activity-based eligibility criteria are expected to greatly reduce, although may not fully eliminate, the risk of adverse impacts from treated wastewater discharges to land emissions to potential receptors during operational activities. The unauthorised discharge of certain materials into the environment is also regulated under the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> (no further control is required). Regulatory controls have been applied/conditioned, to further reduce risk of impacts, through outcomes-based infrastructure specifications, treated wastewater water quality limits and monitoring. Residual risk rating = Low
Storage of hydrocarbons or chemicals Treatment of sewage Disposal of treated effluent and wastewater via irrigation spray field	Chemical spills and/or contaminated stormwater / washwater	Siting criteria (separation distances from receptors)	Standardised Approval (licence) conditions 1, 2	Siting-based eligibility criteria are expected to greatly reduce, although may not fully eliminate, the risk of adverse impacts from chemical spills and/or contaminated stormwater / wash water during operational activities. The unauthorised discharge of certain materials into the environment is also regulated under the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> (no further control is required). Regulatory controls have been applied/conditioned, to further reduce risk of impacts through operational requirements. Residual risk rating = Low or negligible

4. Consultation

Table 5 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the Department.

Table 5: Consultation *(examples in red)*

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
<i>Application advertised on the Department's website on [date]</i>	<i>None received</i>	N/A
<i>Local Government Authority advised of proposal on [date]</i>		
<i>Other Stakeholders (e.g. DoH, DPLH, DBCA, DPIRD) advised of proposal on [date]</i>		
<i>Applicant was provided with draft documents on [date]</i>		

5. Decision

Based on the assessment outlined in this decision statement, the delegated officer has determined that the application meets the eligibility criteria for a Standardised Approval (see Section 2.3), and a Standardised Approval Category 54 licence will be granted.

The licence is granted subject to such conditions as the CEO considers to be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the EP Act relating to the prevention, control, abatement, or mitigation of pollution or environmental harm pursuant to section 62 of the EP Act, and for administration and reporting requirements.

6. References

1. Department of Environment Regulation 2015, [Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions](#), Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation 2020, [Guideline: Risk assessments](#), Perth, Western Australia.
3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation 2021, [Guideline: Environmental siting](#), Perth, Western Australia.
4. Environment Protection Authority 2005, [Guidance Statement No.3: Separation distances between industrial and sensitive land uses](#), Perth, Western Australia.

For any documents in this list published by the Department, these may be found on the ["Regulatory documents" page](#) of the Department's website.

Attachment 1: Definitions

The terms in Table 1 have the corresponding meanings ascribed to them in the Definition column.

Table 1: Definitions

Term	Definition
ACN	means Australian Company Number
CEO	means Chief Executive Officer. “submit to / notify the CEO” (or similar), means: Director General Department administering the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> Locked Bag 10 Joondalup DC WA 6919 info@dwer.wa.gov.au
condition	means a restriction or limitation as stated and applied under a works approvals or licence.
Department; DWER	means the Department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> and designated as responsible for the administration of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
discharge	has the same meaning given to that term under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
eligibility criteria	means the activity and siting criteria, the applicant must demonstrate they meet to qualify for assessment under the Standardised Approval pathway.
emission	has the same meaning given to that term under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
EP Act	means the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA).
EP Regulations	means the <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> (WA).
licence	means a licence granted and in force under Part V Division 3 of the EP Act.
mine site	means a premises that is a ‘mine’ according to the definition of mine read with the definition of mining operations in section 8(1) of the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> .
pollution	has the same meaning given to that term under section 3A(1) of the EP Act.
premises	means the premises to which this licence applies, as specified at the front of this licence and as shown on the premises map (Figure X) in Schedule 1 to this approval.

Term	Definition
	<i>[Note: specify which figure, if multiple maps in Schedule 1.]</i>
prescribed premises	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act, being the premises specified in Schedule 1 to the EP Regulations.
sewage	has the same meaning given to the term sewage under regulation 2 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i> .
Standardised Approval	means this pathway provides a standardised assessment process for certain prescribed premises categories that meet defined eligibility criteria and present a low risk to human and environmental receptors.
WWTP	means wastewater treatment plant.