

# Department of Parks and Wildlife

## Document Review Comments Sheet



<b>Reviewer:</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife	
<b>Document Title:</b>	Draft Guidance Statements: Regulatory Assessment, Environmental Risk Assessment Framework and Regulatory Controls	
<b>Document Revision:</b>	Draft for Public Review	
<b>Date of Review:</b>	February 2016	

Item No.	Section No./Title	Reviewer Comment / Advice
1	Guidance Statement on Regulatory Assessment	<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> That the Guidance Statement: Separation Distances includes reference to the State Sewage Policy for Category 54, Sewage Facility within Appendix 1.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> That a note is added at Appendix 1 to identify that separation distances for wetlands should be measured from the boundary of the mapped wetland.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> That Section 1e(viii) includes provision for seeking advice from the Department of Parks and Wildlife regarding proposals that are likely to affect wetlands of high conservation significance (such as Ramsar wetlands) as well as conservation areas, threatened ecological communities and threatened (declared rare) flora. If possible, it would also be useful to DER to work with the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment to identify areas of critical habitat for threatened fauna that could be used as a trigger for seeking advice.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> That the Guidance Statement (perhaps in Section 7) includes provision for notifying key interested parties involved in providing advice on of the outcomes of relevant decisions.</p>
2	Guidance Statement on Environmental Risk Assessment	<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> That the title of the Guidance Statement be more specific in referring to environmental risks relating to emissions from prescribed premises to avoid potential implication that broader environmental risks, such as physical impacts or other risks to conservation values, such as weed introduction, are being assessed.</p>

Item No.	Section No./Title	Reviewer Comment / Advice
	Framework	<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> <i>That the risk ratings for events that are Likely + Major; Unlikely + Severe; Almost Certain + Moderate in Appendix 2 are amended to 'Extreme' and the table in Appendix 3 is clearly explained as being based on unmitigated risk.</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b> The risk treatment matrix in Appendix 3 indicates an intention that "High" risks will be permitted with primary and secondary controls. Based on the risk matrix in Appendix 2 this includes the environmental risks of events that are <b>likely</b> to occur (the event will probably occur in most circumstances) combined with <b>major</b> consequences (long-term impact to significant high value or sensitive ecosystems expected; long-term impact on a wide scale; adverse impact to a listed species expected; ecosystem criteria exceeded) It is unclear whether the table in Appendix 3 is referring to unmitigated or mitigated risk (i.e. risk level assessed prior or after risk treatments of controls). However, if the table in Appendix 3 relates to mitigated risk, this seems like an unjustifiable level of (mitigated) risk and would not be likely to be appropriate for developments posing risks to important conservation values, such as Ramsar sites.</p>
3	Guidance Statement on Regulatory Controls	<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> <i>That the title of the Guidance Statement on regulatory controls be more specific in referring to regulatory controls <u>relating to emissions from prescribed premises</u> to avoid potential implication that broader environmental risks, such as to conservation values are being assessed.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> <i>That the sections in Table 1 for oil or gas production (10) and/or oil or gas refining (34) include light as an emission that can have an environmental effect.</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b> Artificial light can have significant impacts on fauna behaviour, which could result in alterations to feeding or reproductive success. For example, nesting adult marine turtles and marine turtle hatchlings can become either disorientated (moving randomly) or misorientated (moving in the wrong direction) by artificial lights at nesting beaches. This can result in dehydration, starvation and death. Conversely, artificial light can increase food availability for some birds (e.g. silver gulls) which could lead to an increase in their numbers and flow-on impacts on other species, fouling, noise and human health issues.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> <i>That wastewater discharge include "water" as a pathway for the following categories – cattle feedlot, intensive piggery, abattoir, rendering operations, milk processing, food processing and alcoholic beverage manufacturing – due to the high porosity of many soil types in WA and mobility of nutrients, particularly nitrogen.</i></p>

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