

GS Environmental Risk Assessment Framework
Strategy and Reform
Department of Environment Regulation
Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square
PERTH WA 6850
Email: StrategyandReform@der.wa.gov.au

25 February 2016

**RE: GUIDANCE STATEMENTS - ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT
FRAMEWORK, REGULATORY CONTROLS, REGULATORY
ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

To whom it may concern,

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy and Fertilisers (WesCEF) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comment on the Guidance Statements: Environmental Risk Assessment Framework, Regulatory Controls and Regulatory Assessment Framework.

Guidance Statement: Environmental Risk Assessment Framework

Guidance Statement 3. - During the risk assessment process, will consideration be given to any risk assessments and/or site specific criteria developed by proponents and proponent's consultants?


Guidance Statement 3. - Will the risk assessments be provided to the proponent for review at any stage?

Appendix 2. The first paragraph does not make grammatical sense. Suggest re-writing. eg *"DER will determine the risk of adverse impact to public health and the environment based on the evaluation of consequence and likelihood and establish the risk rating by applying the Risk Assessment Criteria defined in the tables below (which is consistent with DER's risk assessment set out in DER's Corporate Policy Statement No.7 – Operational Risk Management)."*

Appendix 2 Consequence Table - Ecosystem/Environmental Consequence – the significant high value or sensitive ecosystems referred to in the Severe, Major and Moderate categories are not defined. How is this determined, and at what stage in the assessment process?

Appendix 2. Are likelihood and consequence based on inherent or residual risk?

Appendix 2, 2 - Is there any assessment of the environmental value of the receiving environment other than according to its existing label? (E.g. conservation category wetland)?



Appendix 5 - The guidance statement indicates that consequence and likelihood of effects of emissions will be determined with regard to the criteria in Appendix 5; however the risk assessment template does not state how the criteria would be applied. It is also unclear for all criteria provided in Appendix 5 where the criteria would be applied, i.e. at the premises boundary or the nearest sensitive receptor.

Appendix 5 - Will the criteria in Appendix 5 apply inside separation distances proposed in DER *Guidance Statement – Separation Distances*?

Appendix 5 – Irrigation water and Livestock drinking water guidelines are not relevant to industrial water use.

Table 1 notes are labelled alphabetically, whilst the table is annotated numerically.

Guidance Statement: Regulatory Controls

Appendix 1 – Regulatory Control Matrix contains definitions for emission types, however does not include the definition for chemicals, as found in Tables 1 and 2, and to which primary and secondary controls will be applied.

Guidance Statement: Regulatory Assessment Framework

Guidance Statement 1(e) - Are neighbours to a proposal considered to be directly affected; and therefore referred to in addition to public advertisement?

Guidance Statement 1(e) - Why would the Department of Health not be listed as an interested party, when many of the potential impacts detailed in Table 1 of *Guidance Statement: Regulatory Controls* are public health and amenity impacts? This is also not included in Figure 1.

Guidance Statement 2(a) - Risk arising from premises – there is no guidance on what level of risk will trigger the DER to initiate the listed actions in order to control the risk.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the WesCEF submission on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely,



Catherine Finch
Senior Environmental Advisor
Environment Department
Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy and Fertilisers (WesCEF)