Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Decision Report

Application for Licence

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

Licence Number	L3198/2026/1
Applicant	Kimberley Cotton Company Limited
ACN	649 678 197
File number	APP-0032845
Premises	Kimberley Cotton Gin Mulligans Lagoon Road, Kununurra WA 6743 Legal description Lot 510 on Deposited Plan 421305 Certificate of Title Volume 3172 Folio 202 As defined by the premises maps attached to the issued licence
Date of report	18/05/2026
Decision	Licence granted

Caron Goodbourn
Manager, Process Industries
an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, licence L3198/2026/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this decision report, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department; DWER) 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 and overview of operations

On 12 December 2025, Kimberley Cotton Company Limited (the applicant) submitted an application for a licence to the department under section 57 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) to authorise the ongoing operation of a cotton ginning facility located approximately 10 km north of Kununurra, within the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley.

The premises is prescribed under Category 26 – textile operations in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (EP Regulations), with an assessed production capacity of 100,000 tonnes of raw cotton processed per year.

This licence application follows completion of construction and time-limited operations conducted under works approval W6728/2022/1.

The department has assessed this application in accordance with the Guideline: Risk Assessments (DWER 2020), with consideration given to the nature and scale of emissions and discharges, the location of the premises, operational controls, and the applicant's demonstrated compliance during the time-limited operations phase.

The applicant demonstrated compliance with works approval W6728/2022/1 prior to undertaking time-limited operations (TLO) between 2 September 2025 and 1 March 2026. No complaints regarding operational emissions, discharges or amenity impacts were reported during the TLO period, as documented in the TLO report. This information has been taken into account when reassessing emissions and discharges for this licence.

Operations

The cotton ginning process separates seed cotton into cotton seed, cotton lint and gin motes (products), as well as cotton trash (waste). The cotton seed is proposed for use as high-quality cattle stock feed in the Kimberley region and can also be used for cotton seed oil. Cotton lint bales will be stored on-site and exported for further processing into yarn. Gin motes; small, broken, or immature seeds with fibres still attached; are further processed to extract fibres and separated organic material is moved to the cotton trash storage area. Cotton trash is vegetative/organic material removed during processing which can be used as mulch/soil conditioner.

The cotton ginning process which will be undertaken on the premises is summarised as follows:

Unloading: - Incoming seed cotton arrives at the premises in round bales. The bales are initially stored in the module storage yard and then carried into the module feeder bay for processing. The module feeder system removes the wrapping on the bales, then utilizes high speed spiked cylinders to separate the cotton bolls for processing. The automatic air suction control pulls the cotton bolls into the conveyance system for ginning.

Drying and pre-cleaning: - A multi-stage drying and pre-cleaning treatment process involves heated air drying the seed cotton. The cotton moves onto an inclined cleaner which further separates the cotton and cylinder spikes are used to remove smaller trash. A secondary cleaner removes larger trash such as sticks and leaves.

Distribution and overflow: - A specially designed trough conveyor delivers the cleaned and dried cotton to hoppers mounted above a feeding system into the gin saws. An overflow system captures any excess seed cotton and returns this back into the system.

Feeding and ginning (gin stands): - The gin stand is where the lint and seed are separated. The gin stand will comprise a bank of saws that rub against a bank of ribs to pull the lint away from the seed. The bank allows the lint to fall through and separates the seed.

Lint cleaning: - First stage lint cleaning is through a centrifugal cleaner which uses centrifugal force to spin away contaminants. The final stage is a gentle saw cleaner which combs out the lint.

Condensing and moisture restoration: - The condenser takes the fibres of lint and presses them into a blanket layer (batt). Moisture is reintroduced to the fibre to enhance the compressibility of the cotton fibre.

Pressing and bale handling: - Cleaned lint is compressed into rectangular cotton bales which are weighed and strapped before being moved into the bale storage shed for export.

Dust management system: Cotton ginning uses high speed air flow to move materials through the process. Exhaust air from the process collects dust and cotton particulates (cotton trash) and is directed through a system of extraction fans, cyclones and rotary drum filters designed to separate cotton trash from the process airflow prior to discharge. Cyclones primarily treat air from the pre-cleaning and separation stages, while exhaust air from the final cleaning processes is directed via fans to the dust house which contains rotary drum filters to remove remaining particulates prior to discharge. The filters are expected to reduce particulate emissions to 5 mg/m^3 or less prior to discharge to atmosphere via discharge stack mounted into the roof of the dust house. Exhaust air from the cyclones is also directed to the dust house for further treatment. Cotton trash collected by the cyclones and rotary filters is pneumatically conveyed to a cotton trash hopper bin for temporary storage prior to loading into trucks and transport to an open compacted gravel pad, referred to as the cotton trash yard. The applicant proposes to return collected cotton trash to cotton farms for spreading on paddocks as organic matter to increase soil quality and soil carbon.

Stormwater: The premises stormwater management system is designed to capture the first flush of rainfall runoff, which is likely to contain the highest sediment load. The cotton trash yard, module storage yard, premises roads and hardstands drain to open channel stormwater drains which will transfer stormwater to a detention dam to capture and settle stormwater runoff potentially carrying organic matter and sediments. The detention dam is designed to slow or stop the water velocity to 0.01 metres per second to allow heavier sediments and organic fragments to settle to the bottom of the dam.

Water settled through the dam will be discharged via an earthen channel with control structures to the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA scheme) drainage channel present in the northeast corner of the premises. The discharge is expected to occur 8 – 16 times per year, rainfall dependent. The ORIA is proclaimed under the *Right to Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The Ord Irrigation Cooperative (OIC) hold licence SWL156287 and monitor and sample surface water within the ORIA scheme. Settled stormwater from the premises is considered suitable to meet the OIC water quality requirements for nutrients, organic carbon, suspended solids, electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and herbicides.

Collected stormwater will also be used for dust suppression on the premises.

The operation of the premises is proposed to be in accordance with the operational summary provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed hours of operation

Activity	Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday and Public Holidays
Ginning Operations	24 hours	24 Hours	24 hours (subject to weekly maintenance operations)
Weighbridge hours (receival and dispatch)	• 5am – 7pm during ginning season (June to December) • 7am – 4 pm outside of ginning season (Mon – Fri) • Extended weighbridge hours – 24 hours/7 days a week for initial receival of cotton modules until yard is filled (2-4 week period in June)		
Maintenance of plant and equipment (non-ginning season)	7 am – 5 pm	7 am – 1 pm	Nil

3. Planning approvals

The Development Assessment Panel approved development for the cotton ginning facilities and cotton modular laydown area at Lot 510 and Lot 501 on 20 January 2023. The land use was approved as a use not listed under Local Planning Scheme No. 9 (LPS 9) – 'Industry – Rural" by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley under development approval DA 52.22.

The applicant has not applied for Lot 501 to be included on this licence. Accordingly, no prescribed or cotton ginning activities are authorised to occur on Lot 501 under this licence.

4. Noise impact assessment

The applicant engaged a consultant to undertake a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) of potential noise and vibration impacts for operation of the premises using acoustic model SoundPLAN 8.2 with CONCAWE algorithms.

Primary noise sources from the operation of the premises are sound radiation from enclosed cotton ginning building walls and roof, external fan bay, external cyclone fans, seed shed fans, haulage trucks, and mobile plant. The nearest sensitive receptors were identified as 17 farms, rural residences, and small businesses, located on Mulligans Lagoon Road and Weaber Plain Road (refer to Table 3).

The premises is proposed to operate 24 hours (see Table 1) therefore the NIA considered relevant night-time criteria (as per the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (Noise Regulations)) inclusive of a +5 dB tonality penalty for all industrial process noise sources (ginning and seed sheds). A tonality penalty was not applied to haulage truck movements.

The applicant undertook three modelling scenarios:

- Scenario 1 – Initial design, no additional attenuation or building treatments.
- Scenario 2 – Detailed design including noise mitigation treatments.
- Scenario 3 – Scenario 2 with a 4-metre earth bund for noise mitigation.

Modelling was conducted using measured noise data from a comparable facility in Coleambally, NSW. The results for each modelled scenario are summarised below.

Scenario 1

L_{A10} night-time levels were predicted to be exceeded at 15 of the sensitive receptors. Major contributors to noise levels were the gin building façade and roof, external cyclones, cotton seed shed and fan bay. This was based on the operation of the gin building with no acoustic insulation properties, 21 cyclones with 21 stacks from the gin building, cotton seed shed, and unrestricted vehicle movements operating at 100% duty.

Scenario 2

Scenario 2 included the following noise mitigation treatments:

- Installation of sound attenuation insulation in the walls and roof of the cotton gin building, and doors closed during operation.
- All plant operating at 100% duty.
- Seed conveyor (high noise source) entirely enclosed in pit within the cotton gin building.
- Cotton seed shed and seed shed fans removed from the facility.
- Cyclone emission points capped with steel duct and routed to the dust house.
- Front end loaders (2) restricted to operate between bale pad and west facade of cotton gin building.
- Broadband reversing alarms in place of tonal reverse beepers on mobile plant.
- Haulage trucks (4) located simultaneously at outer extents of haulage routes and one truck at staging weighbridge.

For scenario 2 the predicted L_{A10} night-time levels were found to comply with the night time criteria for all 17 sensitive receptors. The highest L_{A10} night-time noise level from industrial processes (cotton ginning) was predicted to occur at receptor R4 with 29 dB, compared with an assigned level of 43. The L_{A1} assigned noise levels were considered for haulage truck and mobile plant operation rather than L_{A10} due to their infrequent operation. Receptors R1 to R4 were predicted to marginally comply with L_{A1} night-time levels associated with haulage truck and mobile plant noise being 1-2dB below the relevant L_{A1} night-time assigned level at these locations.

Scenario 3

Scenario 3 included 4-metre earth bunds as visual and acoustic screening to improve the margin of compliance with assigned noise levels at the nearest receivers, R1 – R4 during haulage truck pass-byes and front-end loader operations.

The model outcomes indicated the earth bunds had no effect at R1 and R2, to the south and south-east; and will have varying effect at sensitive receptor R4 (5.5 dB), to the north-east. Elsewhere, R15, 16 and 17 showed a 1 – 2 dB(A) difference.

4.1 DWER findings

The delegated officer reviewed the NIA and concluded that the operational noise modelling was technically sound in terms of referenced criteria, inputs, methodologies, and scenarios. The delegated officer noted that most high noise processes and plant will be located within the main cotton ginning building which is proposed to include noise mitigation treatment. Given predicted cotton ginning noise levels (excluding haulage) are significantly lower than the night-time assigned noise levels even with the 5dB adjustment for tonality, cumulative noise assessment was not required. Implementation of the proposed noise mitigation treatments will be required to ensure the predicted compliance with assigned noise levels is achieved.

Predicted noise levels from haulage trucks and mobile plant will marginally comply with the night-time L_{A1} assigned noise levels at several (Receptors 1-4) of the 17 closest sensitive receiving locations. Based on the noise modelling outcomes, the applicant's proposed 4-metre-high earth bund is expected to have limited noise reduction capacity. As nighttime noise associated with haulage truck and mobile plant operation is predicted to only marginally comply with the assigned levels at the closest receptors, implementation of a complaint management process is considered necessary to assist in enabling the applicant to respond to potential noise complaints.

5. Air quality impact assessment

The applicant engaged a consultant to complete an air quality impact assessment (AQIA) for particulate emissions from the premises.

A WRF-CALMET/CALPUFF modelling system was used to model the premises dust sources (detailed below) to predict worst case ground level concentration (GLC) of total suspended particulates (TSP), particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm or less (PM_{10}) and particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less ($PM_{2.5}$).

- Vehicle movements generating road dust and wind erosion from bare earth and gravel.
- Particulate emissions discharged from the dust house following treatment of via the dust management system comprising extraction fans, cyclones and rotary drum filters in the dust house.
- Particulate emissions from the seed bin discharged via a cyclone (this infrastructure will not be built as part of this works approval).

Emissions from the cotton gin building under normal operating conditions (90 bales/hour, operating 24 hours per day, with associated truck and loader movements) formed the basis of the modelling. The same 17 sensitive receptors outlined in the NIA were used within the modelling (see Table 3). A worst-case scenario was modelled for PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5,}$ and TSP and predicted GLC were compared against ambient air quality guideline values (AGVs) detailed in the department's Draft *Guideline: Air Emissions*. AGVs are based on the *National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (NEPM) (NEPC 2016) criteria for PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ and the *Environmental Protection (Kwinana) (Atmospheric Wastes) Regulations 1992* for TSP. Relevant background particulate concentrations from the DWER Kalgoorlie air quality monitoring station (AQMS) was included in the assessment to consider both incremental and cumulative dust impact risk.

5.1 DWER findings

The delegated officer considered the AQIA used an appropriate air quality modelling system WRF-CALMET/CALPUFF, and the model settings were appropriate. The modelling results indicate that particulate emissions from the premises are predicted to comply with relevant AGVs at the closest sensitive receptors, and the incremental contribution of the premises to GLC is reasonable.

There is however some uncertainty with the model inputs, specifically the emissions inventory and background concentrations, which have both conservative and potentially non-conservative elements. The applicant did not develop an emissions inventory based on individual processes rather considered overall cotton processing emissions based on estimated emissions from the dust house, seed bin cyclone and wheel generated dust. The applicant used measured emissions from a Queensland cotton facility and scaled these to estimate dust emissions for the cotton gin based on production rate. In the absence of site-specific data from the Queensland facility, there is a level of uncertainty on the representativeness of the emission rates used in the modeling.

Furthermore, the applicant did not consider a plant upset scenario such as the breakdown of the dust house thus intermittent emissions have not been considered. Kimberley Cotton has indicated that less than five malfunction events in a ginning season is projected for the dust control system equipment. In this event a scheduled ginning production stop for repairs and maintenance would be undertaken.

Considering the uncertainty associated with the estimated emissions used to predict air quality impact, the delegated officer considers an appropriate regulatory approach will include verification monitoring (TSP, $PM_{10,}$ $PM_{2.5}$) at the source during time limited operations to allow comparison between actual and predicted emission rates. The outcomes of the comparison will inform the application of regulatory controls for dust emissions during ongoing operation of the premises.

Although the maximum predicted cumulative 24-hour PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ GLCs are 97% and 93% of the relevant AGV for receptor 4, the delegated officer noted this was due to conservative background concentrations adopted by the applicant (second highest recorded value was adopted) and that the

incremental contribution predicted for the premises is considered reasonable. When background concentrations are adjusted to use of 70th percentile, which is considered appropriate, GLC at receptor 4 are predicted to be less than 55% of the 24-hour AGV for PM_{10} and less than 29 % for $PM_{2.5}$.

6. Monitoring of discharges to surface water

The delegated officer has considered the risk assessment undertaken under Works Approval W6728 in relation to the discharge of the detention dam to the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA) Scheme. Based on that assessment, the requirement to monitor detention dam water quality has been carried forward and retained on the licence. The condition requires monitoring of total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), total suspended solids (TSS) and total dissolved solids (TDS) within 12 hours of any overflow from the detention dam to the ORIA Scheme with analysis conducted at a facility with NATA accreditation.

Given the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the irregular nature of discharge events, the delegated officer has determined that retention of this condition remains appropriate and does not impose an unreasonable burden on the licence holder. Data collected through this monitoring program will inform future regulatory decisions, and may be reviewed, amended or removed by the CEO or delegated officer in future if monitoring results demonstrate that the requirement is no longer necessary.

7. 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.

7.1 Source-pathways and receptors

7.1.1 Emissions and controls

Table 2 below details the control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling emissions during operations.

Table 2: Applicant's proposed controls

Emission	Sources	Proposed controls (from application)
Dust from vehicle movements and outside storage areas	Operation of cotton gin facility - including loading and unloading activities, cyclone operation, electric processing equipment and vehicle and machinery movement and maintenance.	Water sprayers greater than 2 L/m2/hour applied to unsealed internal trafficable areas as required during the ginning season. Maximum speed of 40 km/hr on internal haul roads. Detention dam water will be recycled and used for road watering and dust suppression for internal roads.
Air particulate emissions		Rotary drum filters to emission concentration performance is 5 mg/m3 or less for total suspended particulates. Air from the extraction fans is directed to the dust house for further treatment via 6 rotary drum filters prior to discharge to air via a balancing fan, with the discharge stack height 4.5 magl. All cyclone air exhausts are capped with 2mm thick steel ducting and are vented into the dust house for treatment as

Emission	Sources	Proposed controls (from application)
		above. Collected cotton trash is directed to an enclosed cotton trash hopper bin for storage prior to collect. Cotton trash hopper bin has doors that enclose behind and in front of loading vehicles to contain dust emissions during loading. Ginning infrastructure located in an enclosed shed with doors kept shut during operation. Gin shed swept daily to reduce dust levels.
Noise		Ginning operation occurs in the enclosed ginning building installed with the following sound attenuation - S50 Ortech Durra Panel on 300 mm I-Beam with 50/25. All building apertures and doors in closed position during operation. Front End Loaders (2) restricted to operating between the bale pad and west facade of ginning building.
Hydrocarbons and chemicals	Storage of hydrocarbons and chemicals including hydraulic oil, diesel fuel and minor quantities of herbicide.	All drums and tanks storing hydrocarbons or chemicals are stored within impervious bunds pending use or offsite disposal via an authorised waste contractor. Diesel fuel – To be stored in above ground tanks with bunding in accordance with AS1940:2017. This may include self-bunded containerised fuel storage. All containers will be inspected weekly to monitor integrity. Spill equipment will be kept on site to clean up spills.
Sediment and organic material laden stormwater	Stormwater treatment infrastructure	All internal drainage from the hardstands and roads around the cotton trash yard, module storage area, bale storage and ginning building will direct flow to stormwater drains and transfer to a detention dam. Stormwater settled in the detention dam will discharge to the ORIA drain present on the premises via an existing earthen channel with a control structure. Discharges to the ORIA drainage network will adhere to the existing water quality parameters required by the surface water licence held by Ord Irrigation Cooperative (OIC). This includes nutrients, organic carbon, suspended solids, electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and herbicides. Accumulated sediments will be removed from the detention dam to ensure storage volume is maintained. Regrade of stormwater drains on an annual basis to reform batters and beds to maximise laminar (smooth) flow in the drains to avoid scouring or turbulent flow. Areas between roads and formed module pads will be maintained with a grass cover to stabilise the soil and minimise erosion.

7.1.2 Receptors

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

Table 3 and Figure 1 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 3: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	**Distance from prescribed activity**
17 rural residences and industrial premises	Closest receptor 0.655 km north of gin building
Environmental receptors	**Distance from prescribed activity**
Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA scheme) Ord Irrigation District (Proclaimed under *Rights to Water and Irrigation Act 1914*)	The premises is located within the area. A drainage channel which is part of the ORIA scheme is located within the north-east corner of the premises. The ORIA scheme comprises an open canal network that is used to distribute water diverted from the Ord River at Lake Kununurra for irrigated agriculture.
Two perennial waterways	Within premises flowing south to north to the ORIA scheme.

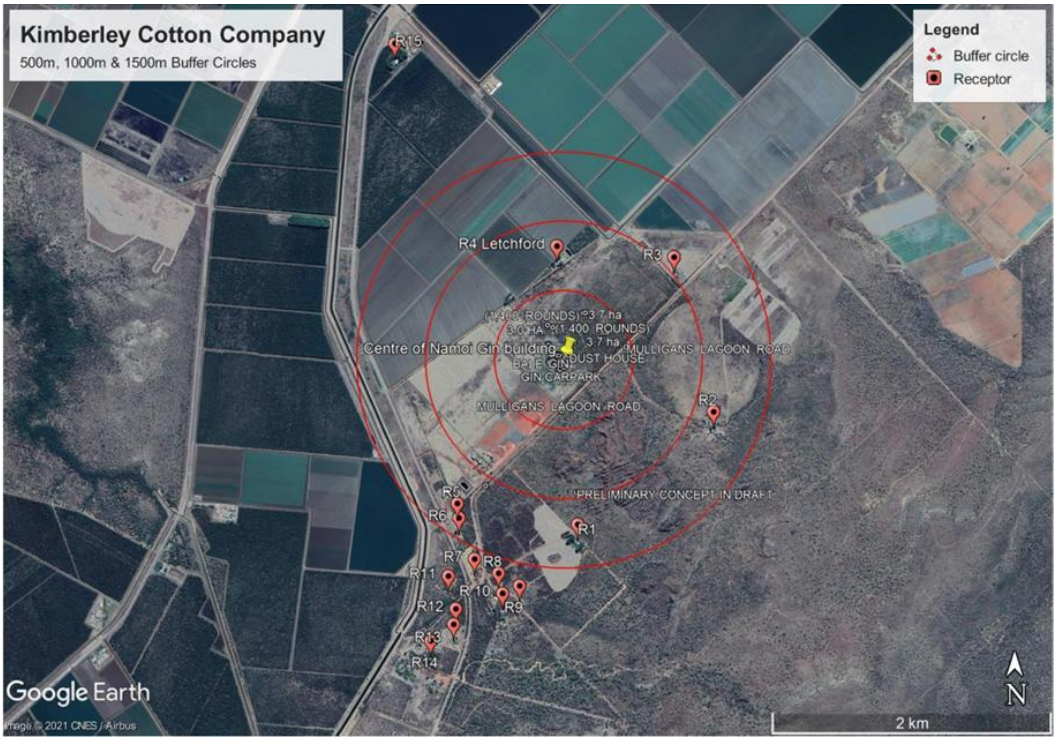

Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors

7.2 Risk ratings

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation have been considered in this decision report and are detailed in Table 4 below.

Where the applicant has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 7.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the delegated officer considers the applicant's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the licence as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the applicant's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 4.

Licence L3198/2026/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the premises. The conditions in the issued licence, have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 4: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation

Risk Event				Consequence rating[1]	Likelihood rating[1]	Risk[1]	Justification of regulatory controls	Regulatory controls
Source/ Activities	**Potential emissions**	**Potential receptors, pathway and impact**	**Applicant controls**					
Ginning operations including vehicle movements on the site.	Dust including cotton fibre particulates	**Pathway and impact:** Air/windborne pathways causing impacts to health and amenity. **Receptors:** Closest residential receptor located 650 m north of gin building	**Refer to section 3.1**	**Minor:** Low level offsite impact	**Unlikely:** The risk event will probably not occur in most circumstances.	**Medium**	The requirement for all doors to the cotton gin to remain closed during ginning operations was proposed by the applicant and has been incorporated as a regulatory control. The delegated officer considers this requirement necessary to ensure the ginning process is conducted within an enclosed environment, thereby mitigating dust emissions. Ginning operations have been assessed on the basis that this control is implemented, and inclusion of the requirement ensures the premises operates in accordance with the assessed standard. Operational and maintenance requirements have also been applied to the seed hopper and cotton trash hopper bins to ensure that unnecessary dust is not generated during their	**Ginning building external doors and other apertures must remain shut when the cotton gin is operating.** **All fans, cyclones, and rotary drum filters must be in operation when the cotton gin is operating and must be maintained in a fit-for-purpose condition.** **Hopper bins used for cotton seed or cotton trash must remain closed when not actively being loaded**

Risk Event				Consequence rating[1]	Likelihood rating[1]	Risk[1]	Justification of regulatory controls	Regulatory controls
Source/ Activities	**Potential emissions**	**Potential receptors, pathway and impact**	**Applicant controls**					
							operation The requirement to remove all cotton trash from the trash yard by 31 December ensures that waste is managed in an acceptable manner and does not remain onsite following the completion of the ginning period (July to December).	**or unloaded.** **All emissions generated within the gin building must vent to the environment via the dust house stack and the height of the stack must be maintained at 4.5 m agl.** **All cotton trash must be removed from the cotton trash yard by 31 December each year.**
Cotton ginning operations and dust management infrastructure including ginning stands, conveyors, extraction fans, cyclones and Vehicle movements onsite	Noise			**Minor:** Low level offsite impact	**Unlikely:** The risk event will probably not occur in most circumstances.	**Medium**	N/A	Applicant controls sufficient. No additional controls.
	Sediment and organic material-laden stormwater	Overflow from detention dam potentially impacting the surface water quality of the ORIA scheme	**Refer to section 3.1**	**Moderate:** **Low level offsite impacts**	**Possible:** **The risk event could occur at some time**	**Medium**	This control is carried over from previous approvals under W6728. The justification was as follows: "To confirm the detention dam operates effectively to remove sediments and organics the delegated officer also considered it appropriate to include a requirement to sample the discharge to the ORIA scheme, within the first 12 hours of discharge occurring during the time limited operation period." This condition has been retained as an	**Monitoring of detention dam water quality following overflow events causing discharge into the ORIA Scheme.**

Risk Event				Consequence rating[1]	Likelihood rating[1]	Risk[1]	Justification of regulatory controls	Regulatory controls
Source/ Activities	**Potential emissions**	**Potential receptors, pathway and impact**	**Applicant controls**					
							operational condition on the licence due to the sensitivity of the receptor and the irregular frequency of the monitoring will not impose an unreasonable burden on the licence holder.	

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

Note 2: Proposed applicant controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

8. Consultation

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

Table 5: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received
Application advertised on the department's website on 19 February 2026	None received.
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley advised of proposal on 19 February 2026	The Shire of Wyndham and East-Kimberley replied on 31 March 2026 and advised that the licence application is consistent with the development approval granted for the use under DA 52/22
Applicant provided with a draft licence and decision report for comment on 28 April 2026.	Comment period waived on 12/05/2026.

9. Decision

Based on the assessment in this report, the delegated officer has determined the proposal to operate the cotton ginning facility at Lot 510 Mulligans Lagoon Road, Kununurra, with an assessed operational throughput of 100,000 tpa of raw cotton, does not pose an unacceptable risk of impacts to off-site receptors. This determination is based on the following:

- processing occurring within an enclosed building with an appropriate dust management system being installed and operated comprising extraction fans, cyclones and rotary drum filters;
- establishment of surface water drainage and a retention dam to capture runoff for sediment removal, prior to use for dust suppression or discharge to the ORIA scheme drainage network;
- air quality modelling indicating the premises activities will contribute less than 27.4% of the relevant 24-hour AGVs to GLCs of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ at all surrounding receptors and cumulative assessment indicating AGVs are also expected to be met; and
- noise modelling indicating noise emissions from the premises will comply with the Noise Regulations during operation, subject to the installation of proposed acoustic controls.

Conditions have been imposed on the licence based on the controls described above as they are considered reasonable and appropriate to maintaining an acceptable level of risk.

The delegated officer determined to apply some additional controls in the licence to confirm the accuracy of predicted ambient air quality impacts associated with dust emissions and ensure stormwater management infrastructure is appropriately managed. These include:

- stormwater drain maintenance, clearing of the cotton trash pad at the end of the annual operational period (31 December each year);
- Ensuring all doors of the gin building are closed during cotton ginning operations;
- Cotton seed and cotton trash bins must remain closed unless being actively loaded or unloaded; and
- Cyclones, extraction fans and rotary drum filters in the gin building must be in operation at all times during cotton ginning and must be maintained.

- Requirement to sample the discharge to the ORIA scheme, within the first 12 hours of discharge occurring during the time limited operation period.

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the delegated officer has determined that a licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

References

1. Kimberley Cotton Company Limited. 12 December 2025. *Licence application and supporting documents.*
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). 17 July 2023. *W6728/2022/1 - Decision Report*, Perth, Western Australia.
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5. Kimberley Cotton Company Limited. 22 December 2025. *Works Approval Construction Conditions - As Completed Stage 1.* Kununurra, Western Australia.