



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L4275/1982/15
Licence Holder	Mid-West Port Authority
File Number	INS-0001135
Premises	Geraldton Port GERALDTON WA 6530 Legal description – Part of Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 57801
Date of Report	22 July 2025 (FINAL)
Choose an item.	Revised licence granted

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1. Decision summary

Licence L4275/1982/15 is held by Mid-West Ports Authority (Licence Holder) for the Geraldton Port (the Premises), located as Part of Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 57801.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L4275/1982/15 has been granted.

The Revised Licence issued as a result of this amendment consolidates and supersedes the existing Licence previously granted in relation to the Premises.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, the department 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

On 05 May 2025, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L4275/1982/15 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited to:

- Relocation of the Solid Waste Drying and Storage Facility (SWDSF).
- Clarification that heavy mineral concentrate is also loaded via the existing bulk handling facility at Berth 4.
- Inclusion of new handling method for heavy mineral concentrate; loading via Rotainers over Berth 6.

2.2.1 Overview of the existing SWDSF

The current SWDSF is centrally located on the Berth 7 Reclamation Area, as shown in the Figure 1 below and consists of two flat-bed concrete bunkers, with a total area of 109m², where solid waste is dewatered. Excess water drains into a two-stage earthen infiltration sump that discharges into the dredge pond within the Berth 7 Reclamation Area.

Once adequately dried, the remaining solid waste is sampled and tested in accordance with the *Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 (as amended 2019)* before being transported to a licensed offsite disposal facility, Meru Landfill.

The facility is designed to manage non-hazardous solid wastes generated through routine port operations, including:

- Sediments and sludge collected from stormwater sumps and drainage systems;
- Sediments and sludge collected from washdown of Berth 4 infrastructure that cannot be returned to the product owner;
- Surplus fill from excavations during maintenance activities within the port and Fishing Boat Harbour.

The Licence Holder has advised that solid wastes from metal concentrate handling is excluded from the facility (ie. lead, copper, zinc, iron and spodumene concentrates). These products are recovered and returned to the product owner for reprocessing at mine sites.

The Licence Holder has also advised that the current facility has several operational limitations hence there is a need to upgrade facilities, mainly it's restricted capacity affects drying efficiency and the ability to manage solid and liquid waste streams effectively. Additionally, its location within a key logistics area used increasingly for wind turbine component imports presents ongoing challenges to port operations.

The existing location for the SWDSF is shown in Figure 1.

2.2.2 Overview of the proposed SWDSF

The proposed facility will operate under the same methodology as the current facility. No changes are proposed to the types of waste received, nor to the handling, operation or discharge processes. The new facility will be constructed on the western side of the Berth 7 Reclamation Pond (refer to Figure 1 and 2) as a purpose-built installation. It will consist of three sloped concrete bunkers, with a total area of 176m², designed to optimise the drainage and drying of solid waste. Each bunker will be fitted with seven perforated base pipes and three drainage lines, each equipped with isolation valves, to improve water removal efficiency.

Waste materials will be temporarily stored in the bunkers, allowing free water to drain into a secondary sump. Water will first pass through a coarse sediment filter (sandbag mesh) before entering the secondary sump settlement zone. From there, remaining water will either evaporate or infiltrate into the dredge pond via a sand-lined infiltration sump.

The proposed location and layout for the SWDSF is shown in Figure 1 and 2 and the proposed schematic of an individual bunker for the new facility is shown in Figure 3.

To ensure continuity of operations, the Licence Holder will continue to use the existing facility until the new installation is fully operational. Once operational, the outdated facility will be decommissioned, and any residual waste will be removed and appropriately disposed of.

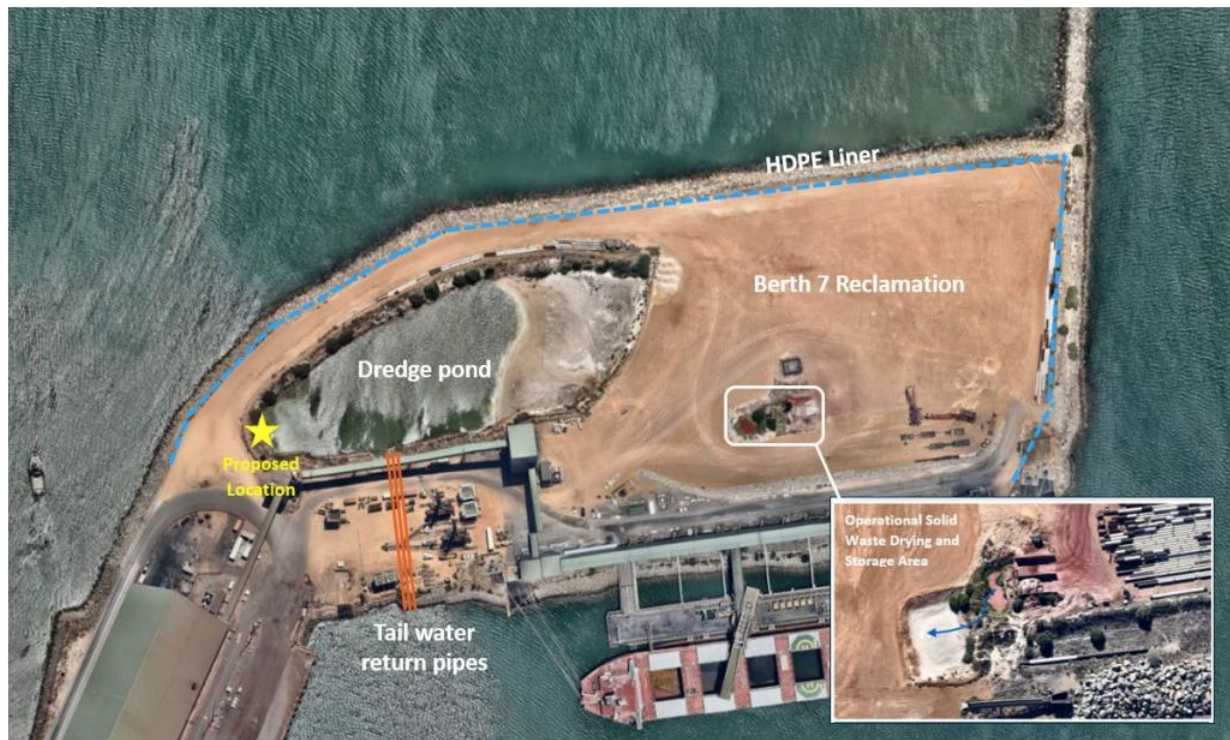


Figure 1: Proposed location of SWDSF



Figure 2: Proposed layout of the SWDSF

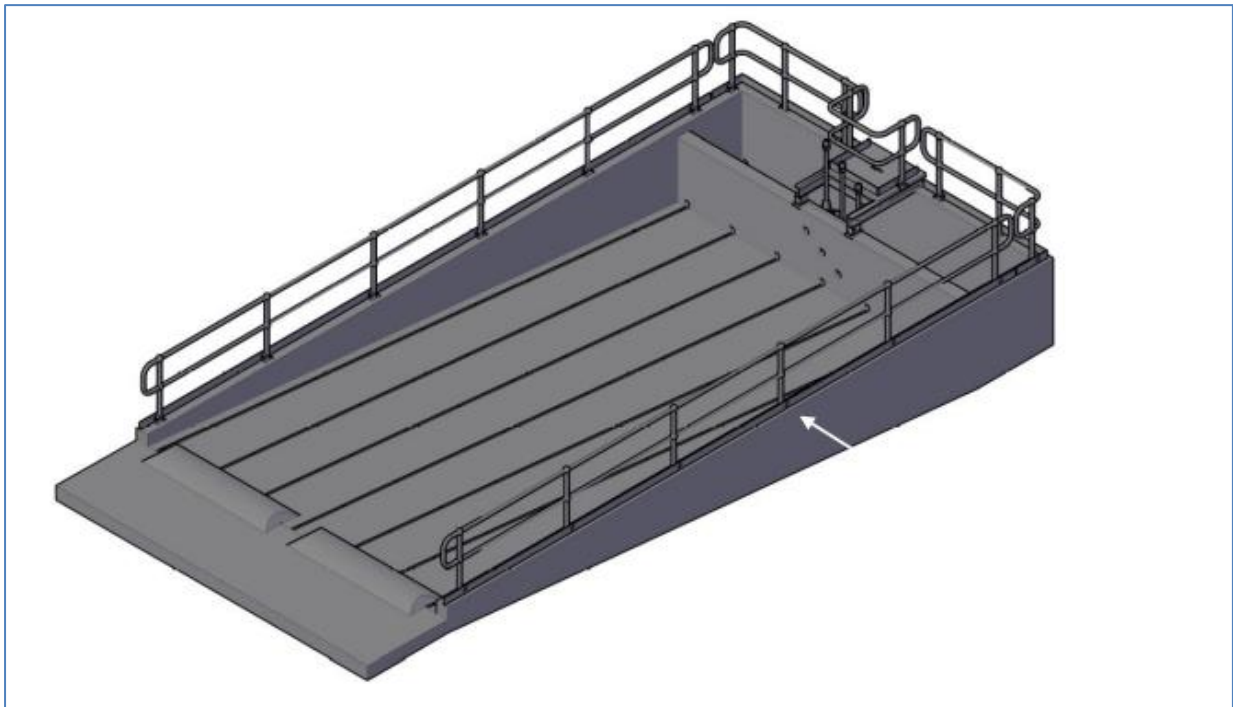


Figure 3: Design of the proposed SWDSF

2.2.3 Handling method for heavy mineral concentrate; loading via Retainers over Berth 6

On the 14 May 2025, the Licence Holder provided a notification to trial the loading of Image Resources heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) from the Port of Geraldton (premises), using a

Rotainer loading system at Berth 6. This notification was provided in accordance with DWER's *Guideline Port Authority bulk handling trials Category 58 and 58A* (DWER, 2018). As part of considering the notification DWER noted that the Licence Holder would formally seek approval to use this method beyond the trial period and would seek to amend the operational licence.

On 21 May 2025, the department determined that the trial that is being conducted in accordance with the trial notification and conditions of licence L4275/1982/15, presents an acceptable level of risk given the above handling methods, product characteristics and distance to receptors.

2.3 Part IV of the EP Act

The Geraldton Port was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) by Geraldton Port Authority (the original proponent). The proposal was to expand the Geraldton Port, which was approved in December 1989. The original proponent was authorised to expand the port under Ministerial Statement (MS) 0087, and a subsequent MS 0364 in 1994. The applicant later submitted a proposal to the EPA to implement the Port Enhancement Project and undertake preparatory works for the Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment Project. Ministerial Statement for the proposal MS 0600 was published on June 2022. The conditions specified under the ministerial statements cover:

- Protection of water quality
- Monitoring and management of marine environment
- Management of dredging activities
- Stormwater drainage and discharge
- Shoreline stability
- Hydrocarbon management
- Sediment plumes

The Licence Holder is now proposing marine infrastructure upgrades at the Port, with a proposed disturbance footprint of up to 38 hectares (ha), of which 17 ha is a new footprint and 21 ha the existing port. The Proposal is a significant amendment to the Geraldton Port Enhancement Project and Preparatory Works for the Town Beach Foreshore Redevelopment (Original Proposal) (Ministerial statement 600). Implementation of this proposal will not result in a throughput increase. This proposal is currently under consideration by the EPA: <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/geraldton-port-maximisation-project>.

3. 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.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises construction and operation which have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in

Table 1 below.

Table 1 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 1: Licence Holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Construction			
Dust	Construction of SWDSF	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust Management Plan.
Noise	Vehicle and equipment movements	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities are short-term and intermittent. Construction site is located within the operational port area, which is buffered from nearby sensitive receptors. All works will be undertaken during standard daytime hours and in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i>.
Operation			
Dust	Operation of SWDSF	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material placed in concrete containment bunkers. Dust Management Plan.
Stormwater Runoff		Direct discharge Overland runoff during rainfall events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater management directed into dredge pond. Material placed in concrete sloped containment bunkers.
Leachates			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material placed in concrete sloped containment bunkers. Non-hazardous waste products only, all metal concentrate product waste is managed separately. Facility located within lined land reclamation. Infiltration into in lined land reclamation facility via sand-lined sump Soil leachate testing prior to disposal via approved landfill site offsite.

3.1.2 Receptors

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

Table 2 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 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Residential Premises	<p>There are several residential premises located in the vicinity of the premises boundary. The distance from the prescribed activity to the receptors is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closest Resident – 1 km south-east • Caravan Park – 1.45 km south-west • Short-term overnight caravan park – 1km south-east
Sensitive Premises	<p>The following premises are considered sensitive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement village – 1.1 km south-east • Primary school (Primary School/Public Purpose) – 1.5 km south-east.
Commercial and Industrial Premises	The premises is surrounded by various industrial and commercial premises.
Recreational Premises	The premises is surrounded and is adjacent to numerous public spaces located, most notably the Geraldton Foreshore and Beach approximately 100m east of the premises boundary.
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Surrounding Surface Water / Marine Environment	The prescribed premises is bordered by the marine environment (Indian Ocean).
Marine Fauna	<p>Licence Holder has stated that there are Sea Lions (<i>Neophoca cinerea</i>) within and adjacent to the prescribed premises.</p> <p>The Sea Lions have been sighted using the rock walls beneath and adjacent to berths at the port as haul-out areas.</p>



Figure 4: Distance to sensitive receptors

3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Licence Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the Licence Holder'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 Licence Holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

The Revised Licence L4275/1982/15 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises.

The conditions in the Revised Licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises during construction and operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
Construction								
Construction of the solid waste drying and storage facility, including use of earth moving equipment and vehicle movements	Dust	Pathway: Air / windborne pathway Impact: Impact to amenity	Commercial and industrial premises	Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 2, and 3	Standard construction and related reporting provisions.
	Noise		Residential premises Sensitive premises (refer to Section 3.1.2)	Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	N/A	Conditions 1, 2, and 3	Standard construction and related reporting provisions. The <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> also apply.
Operation								
Operation of the solid waste drying and storage facility, including use of earth moving equipment and vehicle movements	Dust	Pathway: Air / windborne pathway Impact: Impact to amenity	Commercial and industrial premises Residential premises Sensitive premises (refer to Section 3.1.2)	Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	Conditions 13, 25	The applicant's proposed controls have already been conditioned in the existing licence and the Delegated Officer finds the conditions in the licence for managing dust sufficient. Note – additional applicant proposed controls included in condition 13 (dust suppression measures).
	Stormwater runoff	Pathway: Overland runoff during rainfall events, resulting in direct discharge to marine environment Impact: Impact to	Marine Fauna Marine Environment (refer to	Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 2, 5, 13, 24, 38, 39	The applicant's proposed controls have already been conditioned in the existing licence and the Delegated Officer finds the conditions in the licence for managing stormwater runoff as sufficient. Note – additional applicant proposed

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
		marine environment and ecological health	Section 3.1.2)					controls included in condition 13 (dust suppression measures and maintenance to ensure optimal material containment in concrete bunkers).
	Solid waste leachate	Pathway: Overland runoff during rainfall events, resulting in direct discharge to marine environment Impact: Impact to marine environment and ecological health		Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 2, 5, 13, 24, 38, 39	The applicant's proposed controls have already been conditioned in the existing licence and the Delegated Officer finds the conditions in the licence for the solid waste drying and storage facility to be adequate. Note – additional applicant proposed controls included in condition 13 (dust suppression measures and maintenance to ensure optimal material containment in concrete bunkers).
Handling of bulk material at port facility – new handling method for heavy mineral concentrate; loading via Rotainers over Berth 6.	Bulk Material	Pathway: Loss of containment during loading and/or unloading, resulting in direct discharge to marine environment Impact: Impact to marine environment and ecological health	Marine Fauna Marine Environment (refer to Section 3.1.2)	Refer to Section 3.1.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	N/A	Conditions 8 to 16, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 to 41	The applicant's proposed controls have been conditioned in the licence and the Delegated Officer finds the conditions in the licence for managing heavy mineral concentrate loading/unloading via Rotainers over Berth 6 to be sufficient.

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

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

4. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Works Approval/Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on 14 July 2025	Waived comment period on 17 July 2025	N/A

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised Licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 5 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 5: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
1 and 2	Standard construction and related reporting requirements conditioned for proposed relocation of the solid waste drying and storage facility.
3	Requires the licence holder to operate the new infrastructure in accordance with licence conditions post compliance with condition 1 and 2
4-44	Renumbered due to inclusion of new conditions (as above)
12	Amended to allow the use of rotainers for the handling of heavy mineral concentrate
13	Amendment to the location and operational requirement of the SWDSF
Schedule 1: Maps	Update figures 2 and 3 to reflect amendment to SWDSF and associated infrastructure locations Figure 7 and 8 added to the licence as referenced in condition 13,

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. Mid West Ports Authority 2025, *Port of Geraldton Licence Amendment Application: Supporting Information*, Perth, Western Australia