



Application for Licence

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

Licence Number	L5689/1993/8
Applicant	Shire of Koorda
Application number	APP-0032545
Internal number	INS-0001214
Premises	Koorda Sewage Treatment Plant Crown Reserve 36712 Legal description - Lot 28636 on Deposited Plan 183885 As defined by the premises map in Schedule 1 of the issued licence
Date of report	11 March 2026
Decision	Licence granted

Table of Contents

1. Decision summary	1
2. Scope of assessment	1
2.1 Regulatory framework	1
2.2 Application summary and overview of premises	1
2.3 Consolidation of licence	1
3. Risk assessment	2
3.1 Source-pathways and receptors	2
3.1.1 Emissions and controls	2
3.1.2 Receptors	3
3.2 Risk ratings	4
4. Consultation	7
5. Conclusion	7
5.1 Summary of amendments	7
References	9

Table 1: Licences consolidated in this amendment	2
Table 2: Proposed applicant controls	2
Table 3: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity	3
Table 4: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation	5
Table 5: Consultation	7
Table 6: Amendments to existing licence conditions in renewed licence L5689/1993/8	8

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 L5689/1993/8 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 premises

On 10 December 2025, the applicant applied for a licence to the department under section 57 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The application is to seek a licence renewal relating to a sewage facility at the premises. The premises is approximately 850 m west of Koorda. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is designed to treat wastewater to a secondary standard and serve an estimated population of 750 people, with a production and design capacity (P&DC) of 150 m³/day. Koorda township has a current population of circa 250 residents and the WWTP is currently operating at approximately 68 m³/day. The WWTP operates a gravity sewer reticulation with 188 connections. Treatment infrastructure consists of:

- one Imhoff tank,
- one treatment / stabilisation (oxidation) pond, and
- one evaporation / overflow pond for any excess liquids.

The overflow pond was originally intended to store treated wastewater (TWW) for re-use, but changes in rainfall and population have meant that there isn't enough water retained that can be re-used; it is evaporated. Settleable and floatable solids are removed from the Imhoff tank approximately twice per year, drained into a clay lined sludge drying bed before being taken offsite and disposed to landfill.

DWER removed the requirement to submit an Annual Environmental Report (EAR) in the Amendment Notice dated 6 May 2022. Accordingly, the Shire of Koorda has not been required to submit an AER post 2022. A review of the recent Annual Audit Compliance Reports (AACR) from 2018 onwards indicates no compliance issues with accepting sewage above the limit of 150 m³/day.

The premises relates to the category / categories and assessed production / design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in licence L5689/1993/8. The infrastructure and equipment relating to the premises category and any associated activities which the department has considered in line with *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) are outlined in licence L5689/1993/8.

2.3 Consolidation of licence

As part of this amendment package the department has consolidated the licence by incorporating changes made under previous Amendment Notices as summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Licences consolidated in this amendment

Instrument	Issued	Summary of approval
L5689/1993/7	06/05/2022	Amendment Notice and schedule of licences with amended reporting conditions

The obligations of the Shire of Koorda have not changed in consolidating the licence. The department has not undertaken any additional risk assessment of the Premises related to previous Amendment Notices.

In consolidating the licence, the CEO has:

- updated the format and appearance of the licence;
- deleted the redundant AACR form set out in schedule 1 of the previous licence and advise the Shire of Koorda to obtain the form from the department's website;
- revised licence condition's numbers, and removed any redundant conditions and realigned condition numbers for numerical consistency; and
- corrected clerical mistakes and unintentional errors.

The full consolidation of licence conditions as they relate to this revised licence are detailed in Section 5.1. Previously issued Amendment Notices will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

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 operation which have been considered in this decision report are detailed in Table 2 below. Table 2 also details the control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 2: Proposed applicant controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Operation			
Dust	Operation of the WWTP	Air / windborne pathway	Physical separation. Small premises size so limited area for dust. Vehicle speed is restricted due to size of premises.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Noise			Physical separation. Small premises size so limited area for dust. Vehicle speed is restricted due to size of premises.
Odour			Physical separation. Treatment process includes Imhoff Tank.
Discharge of TWW / sludge		Seepage to soil and groundwater	In-situ clay lined pond Sludge removed off-site to a licensed landfill facility. Separation from groundwater.
Contaminated Stormwater		Overland run-off and seepage to groundwater	Pond and sludge drying bed directs stormwater away.

3.1.2 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 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted because 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
Residential properties	450 m east
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Groundwater	5-6 mbgl
Minor non-perennial watercourse	1.6 km north
Wetland	1.5 km south

3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for each identified emission source and considers potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the applicant 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 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 L5689/1993/8 that accompanies this decision report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the premises.

The conditions in the issued licence, as outlined in Table 4 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 events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
Operation								
WWTP and storage of materials and Vehicle movements	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences 450 m east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	N/A	The Delegated Officer has considered the separation distance between the source and receptors and considers that impacts from dust emissions are not foreseeable. Dust can be adequately regulated by section 49 of the EP Act.
	Noise	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences 450 m east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	N/A	The Delegated Officer has considered the separation distance between the source and receptors and considers that impacts from noise emissions are not foreseeable. Noise emissions are adequately regulated under the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> .

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
	Odour	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences 450 m east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	N/A	The Delegated Officer has considered the separation distance between the source and receptors and considers that impacts from odour emissions are not foreseeable. Odour can be adequately regulated by section 49 of the EP Act.
	TWW discharges to land	Discharge to land and subsurface seepage causing contamination of soil, degradation of groundwater quality and impacts to downgradient receptors	Groundwater 5-6 mbgl	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10.	N/A
	Contaminated stormwater	Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	Seasonal minor creek 1600m north	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10.	N/A

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 underlined text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

4. Consultation

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

Table 5: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the department's website on 18 February 2026	No submissions received.	n/a
Department of Health (DoH) advised of proposal on 18 February 2026	<p>Comment due 3 March 2026.</p> <p>DoH provided a response on 6 March 2026:</p> <p><i>Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2026 requesting comments from the Department of Health (DOH) on the above proposal.</i></p> <p><i>The Department of Health has not received an Application to Construct or Install an Apparatus for the Treatment of Sewage in accordance with the Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974. The Department also has no record of having issued a construction approval for the existing system. Therefore, the applicant is requested to submit a new application to construct to enable assessment of this proposal.</i></p>	Noted.
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 6 March 2026	The Applicant did not provide comment.	Noted.

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the delegated officer has determined that the application to renew licence L5689/1993/8 will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 6 provides a summary of the proposed amendments to the conditions of the previous version of the licence and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the renewed licence.

Table 6: Amendments to existing licence conditions in renewed licence L5689/1993/8

Existing condition	Condition summary	Revised licence condition	Conversion notes
1.1.1 1.1.2	Interpretation and definitions	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.
1.1.3	Australian or other standard	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.
1.1.4	Reference to code of practice	N/A Interpretation section, Definitions and Table 1	Redundant condition. Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.1	Record and investigate exceedances of limits or targets	N/A	Redundant condition. Deleted from licence.
1.3.1 Table 1.3.1	Waste acceptance	Condition 1 Table 1	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.3	Waste processing	Condition 2 Table 2	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.4	Containment infrastructure	Condition 3 Table 3	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.5	Wastewater pond management	Condition 4	Revised to current licensing format.
1.3.6	Security	Condition 5	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.1	Records	Condition 7 and 8	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.2	Annual Audit Compliance Report	Condition 9	Revised to current licensing format.
2.1.3	Complaints	Condition 6	Revised to current licensing format.
2.2.2	Annual Environmental Report	-	Removed in May 2022.
2.3.2	Notification of any exceedances of limits or targets Sludge removal	Condition 10	Revised to current licensing format.
Schedule 1: Maps	Premises and Premises layout map	Schedule 1: Maps	Updated maps
Schedule 2 Reporting & notifications	Annual Audit Compliance Report Form N1 Notification	N/A	Redundant attachment. Deleted from Licence Forms accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au

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.