



Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Proponent: Dampier Salt Limited

Licence: L7183/1997/11

Registered office: 37 Belmont Avenue
BELMONT WA 6104

ACN: 008 706 590

Premises address: Port Hedland Operations
ML242SA, ML250SA and M269SA
PORT HEDLAND WA 6721

Issue date: Thursday, 12 September 2013

Commencement date: Sunday, 22 September 2013

Expiry date: Friday, 21 September 2018

Decision

Based on the assessment detailed in this document the Department of Environment Regulation (DER), has decided to issue an amended licence. DER considers that in reaching this decision, it has taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the Licence and its conditions will ensure that an appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Decision Document prepared by: Christine Pustkuchen
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: Danielle Eyre
Delegated Officer



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1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application and provides a record of DER's decision-making process and how relevant factors have been taken into account. Stakeholders should note that this document is limited to DER's assessment and decision making under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Other approvals may be required for the proposal, and it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they have all relevant approvals for their Premises.

2 Administrative summary

Administrative details		
Application type	Works Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
	New Licence <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Licence amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Works Approval amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	
Activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity
	14 – Solar salt manufacturing: premises on which salt is produced by solar evaporation.	3 200 000 tonnes per annual period.
Application verified	Date: N/A	
Application fee paid	Date: N/A	
Works Approval has been complied with	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Compliance Certificate received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial-in-confidence claim	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial-in-confidence claim outcome		
Is the proposal a Major Resource Project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Was the proposal referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal subject to Ministerial Conditions?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: 147 EPA Report No:



Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Water consulted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

3 Executive summary of proposal and assessment

Dampier Salt Limited (DSL) Port Hedland Operations produces halite salt (sodium chloride) by solar evaporation of seawater. The Port Hedland Operations are located in the north-west of Western Australia within the municipality of the Town of Port Hedland.

The process of producing salt begins at seawater pump stations. Seawater is pumped from adjacent tidal creeks during high tides into a series of concentrator ponds located approximately 40 kilometres (km) north of Port Hedland. The seawater is gravity fed from concentrator pond zero through the last concentrator pond eight. Solar energy and wind evaporate the seawater, which progressively concentrates the seawater into a hyper-saline brine solution. The brine is then pumped from the last concentration pond through a 21km ditch system to a flow equalisation pond where the brine is further evaporated.

Saturated brine is pumped, as required into crystallising ponds where further evaporation causes the salt to crystallise. Once the saturated brine in the crystallisers has reached a certain concentration the residual brine, now called bitterns is drained off. When the salt has grown to the required thickness it is removed by mechanical harvesters. Generally each crystalliser is harvested once per year. The harvester feeds a prime mover, which consists of 2 to 3 belly dumpers.

Following harvest the salt is transported directly to the wash plant for removal of gypsum and other impurities. The washed salt is left to drain and dry, to meet the required moisture content. Dry salt is then trucked to the Port Operations (licensed under L7179/1997/11) and stockpiled. The gypsum that is recovered during the washing process or removed from ponds and channels is utilised for repairs to roads and levees or used to backfill borrow pits to facilitate rehabilitation works.

The bitterns are released through either Six Mile Creek or Paradise Creek discharge points and are discharged to avoid significant environmental harm in accordance with the DSL internal Environmental Discharge Procedure (JA-PRO-760) and Ministerial Statement 147.

This decision document is a result of an amendment request made by the Licensee to amend the reporting date for the submission of the Annual Environmental Report (AER) from 28 February to 30 April. At the time of this amendment, minor changes were also made to align the Licence with version 2.9. DER has not re-assessed the acceptability of impacts of emissions and discharges from the Premises or re-visited any existing emission control levels.



4 Decision table

All applications are assessed in line with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and DER's Operational Procedure on Assessing Emissions and Discharges from Prescribed Premises. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision document.

DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
General conditions	L1.2.1 – 1.2.3	<p>Generic changes have been made to the General Conditions as part of DER reform and updates to licence templates. These changes include removing conditions referencing the Code of Practice for the Storage and handling of dangerous goods and referring to environmentally hazardous materials. No other changes have been applied to this section.</p> <p>Other general changes have been made to the licence to update it to the current template version. These changes include removing reference to targets and 'no specified conditions' statements and the term director.</p>	N/A.
Premises operation	L – no conditions	<p>Previous condition 1.3.1 for the soil bioremediation facility has been removed as this is a secondary activity, which does not contribute to the nature and type of emissions from the primary activity. This is in accordance with the DERs guidance statement <i>Licencing and works approvals process, September 2015</i>.</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i>.</p> <p>Department of Environment Regulation, Guidance statement <i>Licencing and works approvals process, September 2015</i></p>
Fugitive emissions	L – no conditions	<p><u>Emission Description</u> <i>Emission:</i> Dust generated by heavy vehicle movement on haul roads and stockpile area. The main source of dust is from heavy vehicles operating on haul roads, including the stockpile area which is managed by watering</p>	<p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p>



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		<p>with brine on a regular basis <i>Impact:</i> Dust coating vegetation causing vegetation death and health impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. <i>Controls:</i> Minimal dust is produced as a result of salt production. Spraying with brine solution creates a hard seal on the surface to enhance dust suppression. Salt stockpiles do not generate dust.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u> <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p> <p><u>Regulatory Controls</u> Condition 2.6.1 has been removed from the licence as the environmental/health risk of dust emissions associated with the premises is low. General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> and the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> apply.</p> <p><u>Residual Risk</u> <i>Consequence:</i> Insignificant <i>Likelihood:</i> Rare <i>Risk Rating:</i> Low</p>	<p><i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004.</i></p>
Information	4.2	<p>As part of this amendment the reporting date for the submission of the Annual Environmental Report has been changed from 28 February to 30 April. This will allow sufficient time for the incorporation of information from external consultant reports for the AER and will align this licence with Dampier Salts other DER licences.</p> <p>Generic changes have also been made to the Information conditions as part of DER reform and updates to licence templates. These changes include removing a condition requiring the licensee to notify DER in the</p>	Information



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		event of any failure or malfunction of pollution control equipment or any incident. This is already covered by s72 of the EP Act.	



5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
7/01/2016	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	No comments received	N/A



6 Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No. 07 - Operational Risk Management

Table 1: Emissions Risk Matrix

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Rare	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High