



CEO-initiated amendment to licence

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Licence Number	L8031/2005/4
Licence Holder	Milne AgriGroup Pty Ltd
Application number	APP-0032521
Premises	Mount Barker Chicken abattoir Lake Matilda Road KENDENUP WA 6323
Date of report	30 March 2026
Status of report	Final

1. Amendment description

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend an existing licence issued for a prescribed premises as set out below.

This amendment is on the initiative of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the department and is limited to addressing existing compliance issues and complaints regarding the Mount Barker Chicken abattoir (the premises).

In completing the assessment documented in this 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. Premises background

Milne AgriGroup Pty Ltd (licence holder) holds licence L8031/2005/4 (licence), issued under Division 3, Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The licence relates to operation of a poultry abattoir in Kendenup, about 20 km north of Mount Barker. The main activities occurring on the premises include the slaughtering of poultry and the subsequent management of solid and liquid wastes from processing operations, which is currently restricted to 17,500 liveweight tonnes per year due to wastewater limitations.

Following a recently withdrawn application to increase processing throughput, the department determined to conduct a targeted review of the licence to ensure there is an appropriate level of regulatory control being applied commensurate to the risk of impacts from on-site waste management practices to public health and the environment. The licence holder also requested the inclusion of the replacement of the existing spin chillers at the premises.

Site history

The premises has a total area of 27.5 ha on the outskirts of the Kendenup townsite, with the closest residence less than 160 m from the abattoir buildings.

The facility was established in the late 1980s as a small poultry abattoir and a registration was issued to Timepath Holdings Pty Ltd in November 2000 under the now-repealed Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*. Dowford Investments Pty Ltd (parent of the Milne AgriGroup) then took possession of the premises in July 2001.

An inspection in 2005 identified a change in ownership and that the facility had increased production to over 3,000 t/year, exceeding the 1,000 t/year prescribed threshold. Due to this and complaints received, the department served an Environmental Protection Notice on Dowford, requiring an upgrade of the wastewater treatment system, submit a licence application, and prepare a nutrient and irrigation management plan (NIMP) as there was no works approval or licence regulating the emission and discharges of waste at the premises.

L8031/2005/1 was then granted in December 2005 to Dowford for a maximum production throughput of 36,000 birds per week, equating to about 5,500 liveweight tonnes per year. Since this time, the licence has been amended to allow a limited annual throughput of 17,500 liveweight tonnes, based on wastewater output.

Current operations

Animal waste material (feathers, manure, blood, deceased birds, offal etc) is stored in sealed waste bins and collected by waste removal trucks daily, whilst all wastewater is directed to the wastewater treatment system (WWTS) via sumps and pipes.

The WWTS comprises a six-pond system with a pre-treatment solid removal screen, two anaerobic treatment ponds (Pond 1 and 2), two aerobic treatment ponds (Pond, 3 and 4), a maturation pond (Pond 5) and a storage pond (Pond 6). Treated wastewater from Pond 6 is irrigated across two designated areas: the Northern Irrigation Area (10.3 ha) and the Southern

Irrigation Area (3.7 ha), referred to as L1 and L2.

Irrigation occurs all year round, with the licence limiting irrigation to a maximum of 51.2 ML/year into the WWTS or irrigated over L1 and L2. The nutrient loading limits specified on the current licence are 480 kg/ha/yr for nitrogen and 120 kg/ha/yr for phosphorous and were conditioned using a previous version of the department's Water Quality Protection Note 22 (WQPN 22). They were set for a risk category D which was characterised by fine grained soil with Phosphorus Buffering Index (PBI) >100 and a low eutrophication risk for surface waters within 500 m of the irrigation site. The cropping of ryegrass was suggested to occur on both wastewater irrigation areas to uptake and export the nutrients that are applied through hay or silage.

The irrigation of nutrient-rich wastewater has been identified as the primary emission from the premises with the potential to cause soil/groundwater contamination, with noise and odour having the potential to effect public health and amenity due to the closest residential receptors to be less than 150 m away from the abattoir process building.

2.1 Compliance history

The premises has a history of reported non-compliance with licence conditions, in addition to stakeholder complaints regarding the operation of the premises. The amendment and partial review of the licence recorded in this report addresses these issues through the implementation of additional regulatory controls.

Compliance inspections

The department has conducted several inspections of the premises since 2000, with the most recent taking place in 2018 and 2019.

The 2018 audit identified several breaches of licence conditions, including poor stormwater management, unauthorised discharges of wash water, incorrect storage of animal waste, pooling around wastewater pond embankments and irrigation onto waterlogged land. The licence was then amended by the department in January 2019 upon submission of an application by the licence holder to increase the production limit of the premises.

Due to the inspection history and risk assessment completed this amendment also included the requirement to complete an improvement program at the premises by June 2019. This improvement program included multiple obligations including a requirement to prepare and submit a NIMP. The NIMP was due by 31 March 2019 and has never been submitted.

The most recent inspection of the site in 2019 identified material issues relating to the premises' improvement program, in that a significant number of the required improvements had not been undertaken, including the submission of the NIMP, in addition to potential breaches of the Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004.

Annual audit compliance reports

The licence holder has reported a series of non-compliances associated with exceedances of the annual processing throughput limit, wastewater irrigation limits, sampling, and reporting in their Annual Audit Compliance Reports (AACR) since 2019. The same non-compliances have continued to be reported each year without resolution.

Total irrigation has continued to exceed the wastewater discharge limit of <51.2 ML/year since the 2019/2020 reporting period. The action taken each year has been recorded as "*Ensuring maximum holding capacity is available in the winter storage dam at the start of the winter period*".

There have been several issues with the monitoring requirements of the existing licence with monthly SW1 samples not being collected in accordance with the existing licence in the previous 4 AACRs submitted to the department. Additionally, soil and/or groundwater sampling has been reported as non-compliant with the existing licence in the 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2025 AACRs.

In both 2024 and 2025 AACRs the licence holder also reported that the production throughput limit of 17,500 liveweight tonnes was exceeded with the licence holder's mitigation strategy for

this non-compliance being “*an alternative site, or upgrades to the existing facility*”.

In 2025 AACR it was reported the piezometers conditioned in the exiting licence to inform timing of irrigation were not operational and it was later confirmed that the piezometers had become non-operational soon after installation and never replaced or repaired.

Complaints

The licence holder reported several complaints being received during 2023 and 2024 regarding noise from forklift operations and from the processing facility, in addition to odour complaints. As a result of these complaints, the licence holder has constructed a straw wall and ‘white noise’ forklift reversing indicators to mitigate noise emissions.

In the 2025 AER three complaints were reported as being received from noise from the processing facility and machinery, a complaint of a spill of waste material and a complaint of light pollution. The licence holder identified that the additional noise was the result of the removal of the previously implemented straw wall for Western Power access and suggested that noise emissions will be reduced upon its reinstallation.

In addition to the complaints received directly by the premises, the department has received five complaints over the last 10 years, primarily related to noise and odour. On 17 September 2016 and 6 September 2018, residents of Kendenup lodged noise complaints, citing nighttime vibrations and noise originating from the premises. Odour complaints were also received from a Kendenup resident on 30 March 2023 and 5 October 2024.

More recently on 2 July 2025 the department received a noise complaint from a nearby resident, associated with light pollution and noise including high pitched and low frequency hums that prevent sleep. An additional noise complain was received by the department on 8 March 2026 from a nearby residence regarding ongoing noise that has increased significantly since the start of 2026 and is preventing sleep. These more recent complaints are currently under review by the department.

On 27 January 2026 the Shire of Plantagenet contacted the department regarding concern with the maintenance and of-site transport of animal waste. It has been reported that on multiple occasions animal waste including both offal and liquid waste from animal waste bins has been discharge both on and off the premises during collection and transport. An investigation into the complaints also determined that the licence holder was not using a licensed controlled waste carrier to transport the animal waste.

3. Location and sitting

3.1 Residential receptors

The premises is zoned as special use light industrial, however, it is surrounded by land zoned as rural smallholding, and rural residential. Table 1 below lists the closest sensitive land uses to the prescribed premises which may be receptors relevant to the amendment.

Table 1: Receptors and distance from premises boundary

Sensitive land use	Distance from activity / prescribed premises
Residential premises (rural)	<p>The prescribed premises is located 100 m to the east of the residential area of the town of Kendenup. With the separation of Lake Matilda Road, Hassell Ave and the Great Southern railway on its western border.</p> <p>Most dwellings within the town are less than 1 km from the premises boundary. There are at least 12 dwellings within 200 m of the premises boundary, with the closest being 50 m west of the southern irrigation area.</p> <p>There are 5 dwellings within 200 m of the premises main process buildings with the closest being 158 m west.</p>

3.2 Groundwater and surface water sources

The distances to the groundwater and surface waters are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Receptors and distance to premise boundary

Environmental receptors	Distance from activity / prescribed premises
Surface water	<p>The premises is situated within the Albany Waterways Management Area under the <i>Waterways Conservation Act</i> and is not located within any proclaimed surface water areas under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RIWI Act).</p> <p>Minor tributaries to the Kalgan River are situated approximately 565 m south-east and 650 m west of premises boundary.</p>
Groundwater	<p>The premises is not located within a proclaimed groundwater area under the RIWI Act.</p> <p>The current groundwater depth is 0.6-8 mbgl beneath L1, 14-18 mbgl beneath L2 and 9-13 mbgl beneath the rest of the premises (as obtained from 2024 monitoring bore records).</p>

4. 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).

The replacement of the existing spin chillers with new spin chillers is not expected to alter the risk profile of the premises providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in the licence remain unchanged. Therefore, the risk assessment is limited to the assessment of noise, odour, leachate, and the irrigation of nutrient rich wastewater to land, as they have been identified as emissions of concern.

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.

The existing mitigation measures and controls have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the existing controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3. The conditions in the amended licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

4.1 Risk assessment summary

Table 3: Summary of the risks associated with the proposed increase in throughput capacity

Risk Event				Consequence rating ¹	Likelihood rating ¹	Risk ¹	Reasoning	Additional regulatory controls	
Source/Activities	Potential emissions	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Existing licence controls						
PROPOSED AMENDMENT									
Operation									
Operation of premises under Category 15: Abattoir	Irrigation of nutrient rich wastewater	Excess nutrient and hydraulic loading on L1 and L2	<p>Infiltration of wastewater and nutrients into the soil profile causing contamination of soil and groundwater that is 5 - 10 mbgl beneath L1 and 13 - 18 mbgl beneath L2.</p> <p>Overland runoff of wastewater causing nutrient contamination of tributaries to the Kalgan River approximately 565 m south-east and 650 m west of premises boundary.</p>	<p>A limit of no more than 51.2 ML/yr of wastewater irrigated</p> <p>Monitor wastewater volumes and nutrient concentrations being irrigated and record monthly irrigation and nutrient loading rates against licence limits.</p> <p>Irrigation is to occur evenly over L1 and L2 in a manner that prevents soil erosion, avoids irrigation on waterlogged land, prevents ponding of irrigation water, and prevents generated runoff, spray drift or discharge occurring beyond the boundary of the premises.</p> <p>Cut-off drains, vegetation buffer and collection dams used to prevent runoff from L1 and L2.</p> <p>Vegetation cover must be maintained over the irrigation area. Cropping of ryegrass.</p>	<p>High level on-site impacts</p> <p>Mid-level off-site impacts</p> <p>Major</p>	<p>The risk event could occur at some time.</p> <p>Possible</p>	<p>High</p> <p>May be acceptable subject to multiple regulatory controls</p>	<p>Based on the compliance history discussed in section 2.1, Milne has not complied with the irrigation limits of their existing licence for many years. Data from the 2023/2024 reporting period indicates that L2 has been underutilised in the past, which has resulted in uneven distribution across the total 14 ha irrigation area, and excessive irrigation on L1. Consequently, the delegated officer has chosen to add additional conditions for the installation of CropX Vertex soil moisture probes, a second wastewater irrigator, a second flow meter, and improvements to the WWTS.</p> <p>The delegated officer has also specified that the volume of wastewater irrigated to each irrigation area (L1 and L2) must be recorded by separate flow meters to ensure that event distribution and accurate recording is taking place. These controls are expected to reduce the risk of soil, groundwater and surface water contamination by decreasing nutrient levels, ensuring irrigation is evenly distributed and preventing irrigation on saturated soil.</p> <p>The delegated officer has also specified additional operational requirements for the slaughterhouse, animal waste storage area, live bird holding area, truck trailer cleaning area, WWTS and wastewater irrigation system that have the purpose of minimising emissions and discharges of wastewater, blood, solid waste, noise, and odour.</p> <p>The requirement to maintain soil moisture probes in good working condition has been added to the licence to ensure that continuous monitoring is available to inform irrigation and prevent irrigation on saturated soil. Similarly, specific requirements for the implementation of a FM1 logbook or digital record have been applied to ensure that the even distribution of wastewater occurs.</p> <p>The department has recently published an updated version of WQPN 22 (2008), discussed in section 2. Assessment indicated that the 2008 WQPN 22 overestimated nutrient limits, therefore, the updated WQPN 22 requires a site-specific assessment. For pasture species like ryegrass, a reasonable nitrogen uptake rate is 200 - 280 kg/ha/year as per a guidance document by Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Victoria, 2021). Additionally, the phosphorus uptake rate for pasture species such as ryegrass is approximately 60 - 80 kg/ha/year (EPA Victoria, 2021). As the nutrient removal capacity of the site must be adequate to account for the level of nutrients applied, this indicates that the loading limits currently on the licence are significantly higher than the crops nutrient uptake capacity. Consequently, a nitrogen loading limit of no more than 250 kg/ha/year and a phosphorus loading limit of no more than 80 kg/ha/year are more realistic for the premises.</p> <p>Due to these factors and the compliance history discussed in section 2.1 the delegated officer has determined that there is a risk of irrigated wastewater causing contamination of soil, groundwater and surface waters and has decided to decrease the existing nutrient loading limits of the licence and separate the loading limits of L1 and L2 to ensure event distribution of treated wastewater. The delegated officer has also updated the improvement condition requirements to include the submission of a detailed WIMP that includes the recording of cropping details for the premises, as the NIMP disguised in section 2.1.1 was never submitted.</p>	<p>Addition of works condition (Condition 2), for the installation of new CropX Vertex soil moisture probes, an additional wastewater irrigator and improvements to the wastewater treatment system</p> <p>Existing improvement conditions (condition 5 & 6), updated to reflect compliance submissions and to require the submission of a Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan (WIMP) that includes a detailed Pasture Management Plan</p> <p>Addition of premises operation condition (Condition 7), specifying infrastructure and equipment requirements</p> <p>Existing emission to land condition (Condition 11), updated to reflect new nitrogen and phosphorus loading limits, include SAR:EC ratio and separate loading limits of L1 and L2</p> <p>Existing monitoring of emissions to land condition (Condition 15), updated to include monitoring of sodium absorption ratio and separation of L1 and L2 irrigation volumes</p> <p>Addition of record keeping condition (Condition 20), specifying what records must be maintained</p> <p>Existing notification requirements conditions (Condition 22), updated to include WWTS malfunction and sludge disposal</p> <p>Existing environmental reporting condition (Condition 24), updated to reflect changes to Conditions 7, 15, and 22</p>

Source/Activities		Risk Event			Consequence rating ¹	Likelihood rating ¹	Risk ¹	Reasoning	Additional regulatory controls
		Potential emissions	Potential receptors, pathway and impact	Existing licence controls					
Production line operation	Noise	Exposure to elevated noise emissions affecting daily activities, reducing quality of life, and contributing to stress and sleep disturbances for residents in proximity to the premises (<200 m) in the town of Kendenup.	Straw wall noise barrier in place at the western boundary of the premises. Construction of 2.4 m noise barrier at the south-west corner of main process building.	Mid-level impact to amenity on a local scale. Moderate	The risk event could occur at some time. Possible	Medium Acceptable, generally subject to regulatory controls.	Based on the complaints history discussed in section 2.1.2 and the proximity of the premises to residential receptors in the town of Kendenup, the delegated officer has determined that there is a significant risk of noise from the premise affecting the amenity of residential receptors. Additionally, noise modelling completed by the premises has identified that the current noise level exceeds the assigned noise level for night (36 dB LA10) under the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulation 1997 for five of the closest residential premises. Due to these factors the delegated officer has decided to condition operational requirements for the straw wall (noise barrier) on the premises. Compliance with the noise regulations is expected to be marginal with this control and delegated officer determined that it is feasible and practicable to further reduce the noise emissions from the premises. Therefore, the delegated officer has conditioned the construction of an additional noise barrier as proposed by the licence holder, to decrease noise emissions. These controls are expected to allow the premises to comply with the nighttime assigned noise levels. The delegated officer has determined that the replacement of the existing spin chillers with two new spin chillers is not expected to increase the existing noise level at the premises, as they will be installed in the same location as the existing spin chillers, inside the main process building.	Addition of works condition (Condition 2), for the installation of noise mitigation infrastructure (Noise barrier) and replacement of existing spin chillers Addition of premises operation condition (Condition 7), specifying requirements for the straw wall	
	Storage of animal waste material and pond sludge	Odour	Unreasonable interference with the health and amenity of nearby sensitive receptors (<200 m) in the town of Kendenup.	Storage of animal waste in sealed, covered animal waste bins on a hardstand. Animal waste collected daily for disposal offsite.	Mid-level impact to amenity on a local scale. Moderate	The risk event could occur at some time. Possible	Medium Acceptable, generally subject to regulatory controls.	Due to complaints received and subsequent assessment by the department the delegated officer has decided to add operational requirements regarding the storage, emptying, and transport of the animal waste bins and controlled waste on the premises. The delegated officer has specified that the animal waste storage bins must be impermeable and covered and stored on and impervious concrete hardstand and only collected by a truck that is fit for purpose, meaning fully covered and leak free.	Addition of premises operation condition (Condition 7), specifying requirements for the storage and transport of animal waste material Addition of pond sludge management conditions (Condition 9 & 10), requiring records to be maintained for the removal of pond sludge
		Leachate	Spill and leaks of nutrient rich leachate causing contamination of soil and groundwater 9-13 mbgl.		Mid-level on-site impacts Low-level off-site impacts Moderate	The risk event could occur at some time. Possible	Medium Acceptable, generally subject to regulatory controls.	The removal of sludge from the wastewater treatment ponds has the potential to produce both odour and leachate, however, this process is required to ensure that the maximum holding capacity of the WWTS is maintained unlike in previous years (Section 2.1). The removal of sludge already occurs at the premises, therefore, the delegated officer has clarified the disposal and reporting requirements of this process.	

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments (DER 2017)

5. Decision

The delegated officer has initiated amendments to licence L8031/2005/4 following a targeted review of the licence, which identified there is currently not an appropriate level of regulatory control being applied, particularly with respect to current wastewater management practices. These findings are based on the following:

- a review of available monitoring data and records for the premises indicates existing wastewater management practices have likely resulted in on-site impacts, and possibly off-site impacts, to groundwater and surface water;
- the land available to the licence holder appears to be inadequate for irrigation of current volumes of treated wastewater, and the hydraulic loading of the soils is presenting significant challenges due to the high clay content, particularly during the wetter months; and
- existing nutrient loading limits for irrigation do not appear to be suitable or sustainable.

Based on the above, and the findings of a review into noise emissions and odour at the premises, the following regulatory controls have been added to the licence, which are also documented in Table 3:

- the construction of a noise barrier;
- the replacement of broken soil moisture probes;
- upgrades to the wastewater treatment and irrigation systems;
- the submission of an updated Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan;
- reduced nutrient irrigation loading limits and addition of SAR:EC ratio;
- additional operational controls for animal waste bins; and
- the addition of pond sludge management conditions.

Wastewater management

The delegated officer considers the disposal of wastewater to be a significant constraint to operations at the premises, and therefore before the department would consider any future proposals to increase processing throughput at the premises, the licence holder must:

- demonstrate (through submission of an appropriate wastewater irrigation management plan that includes a site and soil evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with the updated [Water Quality Protection Note No. 22](#)) that current wastewater management practices at the site, in addition to any proposed increase, are acceptable and sustainable;
- demonstrate there is sufficient and suitable land available for managing the concentration of nutrients in wastewater generated from operations; and
- demonstrate an appropriate water balance for the site, which includes management of wastewater during the wetter months.

Update of licence format

As part of this amendment the delegated officer has also updated the format and appearance of the licence, consisted with the current DWER template. This includes the introduction of an infrastructure and equipment table, which is incorporated into all licences.

The controls listed in this table are based on the department's understanding of the existing infrastructure and operational practices currently in place, to ensure the licence accurately reflects the activities being undertaken on the premises; that all emissions and discharges have been properly identified; and there is an appropriate level of regulatory control being applied, commensurate with the risk of impacts from ongoing operations to public health and the environment.

In amending the licence, the delegated officer has also:

- added works conditions for the replacement of the existing spin chillers with newer, higher efficiency spin chillers;
- updated table formatting;
- revised condition numbers, and removed any redundant conditions and realigned condition numbers for numerical consistency; and
- corrected clerical mistakes and unintentional errors;

It should be noted that although the replacement of the old spin chillers for newer chillers will increase processing efficiency at the site, the current licence limit of 17,500 t/yr remains unchanged. Therefore, the addition of the new chillers onto the licence does not change the assessed risk profile of the premises.

Consultation

The licence holder was provided with drafts of a revised licence and this report on 11 February 2026. A meeting was held on 3 March 2026 to discuss the drafts, followed by a written response with several comments on 5 March 2026; the response is summarised in Appendix 1.

Revised drafts were then provided on 24 March 2026, in which the licence holder only sought minor corrections and clarifications.

6. Conclusion

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

References

1. Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) 2004, *Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation*, Victoria, New South Wales. **(DEC 2004)**
2. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2020, *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia. **(DER 2020)**
3. Department of Agriculture and Food 2013, *Soil groups of Western Australia: a simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia (4th edn)*, Perth, Western Australia. **(DAF 2013)**
4. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guideline: Decision Making*, Perth, Western Australia. **(DWER 2019)**
5. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2017, *Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia. **(DER 2017)**
6. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2017, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia. **(DER 2015)**
7. Department of Water (DoW) 2025, *Water Quality Protection Note 22: Irrigation with nutrient-rich wastewater*, Perth, Western Australia. Updated 2025 **(WQPN 22)**
8. Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) 2021, *Technical Information for the Victorian Guideline for Water Recycling - Publication No 1911.2*, Melbourne, Victoria. **(EPA Victoria 2021)**
9. MBC 2023, *Annual Environmental Report 2022/2023*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2023 AER)**
10. MBC 2024, *Annual Environmental Report 2023/2024*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2024 AER)**
11. MBC 2025, *Annual Environmental Report 2024/2025*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2025 AER)**
12. MBC 2020, *Annual Audit Compliance Report Form 2019/2020*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2020 AACR)**
13. MBC 2022, *Annual Audit Compliance Report Form 2021/2022*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2022 AACR)**
14. MBC 2023, *Annual Audit Compliance Report Form 2022/2023*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2023 AACR)**
15. MBC 2024, *Annual Audit Compliance Report Form 2023/2024*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2024 AACR)**
16. MBC 2025, *Annual Audit Compliance Report Form 2024/2025*, Perth, Western Australia. **(2025 AACR)**
17. New South Wales (NSW) EPA 1998, *Environment & Health Protection Guidelines: On-site Sewage Management for Single Households*, Sydney, NSW. **(NSW EPA 1998)**
18. Soil Dynamics 2019, *Mt Barker Chicken Processing Facility: Wastewater Irrigation – Annual Soil Test Evaluation*, Cowaramup, Western Australia. **(Soil Dynamics 2019)**
19. Tessele Consultants Pty Ltd 2025, *Immediate Improvement Recommendations*, Perth, Western Australia. **(Tessele Consultants 2025)**

Appendix 1: Summary of Licence Holder's comments on draft conditions

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
Condition 2	<p>The licence holder provided additional clarification on the proposed works at the premises and requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) additional wording to be included for the design requirements of the noise barrier; (b) correction of the number of new spin chillers; and (c) rewording of the flow meter (FM) requirements. 	<p>The Delegated Officer decided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) update the design requirements for the noise barrier, as the change is not expected to alter the level of noise mitigation; and (b) updated the number of chillers. <p>The Delegated Officer has determined not to change the wording of the flow meter/irrigation requirements. The irrigation of nutrient rich wastewater is a main emission of concern for this licence, therefore, the department must be able to verify that the even distribution of wastewater to each irrigation area is occurring through the use of separate flow meters.</p>
Condition 7	<p>The licence holder requested the infrastructure and equipment requirements be updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to allow temporary reductions below 500 mm pond freeboard; (b) by removing the 2.18 ha per run specification for the travelling irrigator; (c) to specify that no 'bulk' blood is to be discharged to the WWTS instead of just blood; (d) to remove the requirement for animal waste bins to be stored on a bunded area; (e) to clarify that specially only the 'wet' cleaning of trucks must occur on the hardstand of the live bird holding area (not just cleaning); and (f) to include digital recording of flowmeter 	<p>The Delegated Officer has decided not to change the freeboard condition as the condition wording of "<i>a minimum embankment freeboard of 500 mm must be maintained on all ponds</i>" refers to the maintenance of freeboard, which would include irrigating to restore freeboard after excess rainfall or inflow.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer has determined to update the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) infrastructure and equipment requirements for the traveling irrigator as per the licence holders request; (b) operational requirements of the slaughterhouse and has conditioned that "<i>all measures must be taken to avoid blood entering the WWTS</i>". The Delegated Officer has not specified "<i>bulk blood</i>" in this condition, as requested, as the term could be open to multiple interpretations; (c) bunding requirement for the hardstand in which the animals waste bins are stored; (d) condition for truck cleaning to accurately represent the operation of the premises (as the licence holder has specified in their comments that no water is used during the cleaning of trucks, an additional operational requirement for the

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
	readings as an option for reporting;	<p>"Truck trailer cleaning and empty create loading area" has been added that specifies the truck cleaning requirements); and</p> <p>(e) requirements for the flowmeter reading and record keeping as requested.</p>
Condition 8	The licence holder provided alternative operating hours to those specified in condition 8 and additional information regarding noise mitigation infrastructure.	The Delegated Officer has determined to remove the operational hours specified on the draft licence. The licence holder will still be required to operate in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> , and the Delegated Officer has also added infrastructure requirements to the licence for the straw wall (noise mitigation infrastructure).
Condition 11	<p>The licence holder has advised of concern with the required precise proportional split of irrigation water, total nitrogen and total phosphorus to each irrigation area in the annual period.</p> <p>The licence holder has, proposed alternative conditions that outline a 3-year rolling period where irrigation must occur within specified percentages to each irrigation area and the combination of nitrogen, phosphorus and BOD limits for L1 and L2 in the annual period.</p>	The Delegated Officer has decided to retain the existing conditions on the licence. This amendment was initiated by the department to address compliance issues at the premises including the uneven distribution of irrigation. Although the licence holder has provided rationale for the required changes, these changes are dependent on the premises Pasture Management Plan which will need to be assessed by the department, which is not in the scope of this department-initiated amendment. Therefore, these changes to the licence can be re-assessed upon the request of the licence holder, once the Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan and associated Pasture Management Plan are submitted and assessed.
Definitions	The licence holder proposes that the licence refer to controlled waste as defined in the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i> , without incorporating premises-specific characterisation.	<p>The definition of controlled waste specified the controlled waste type associated with the premises, Animal Effluent and residues (K100) and referred to the definition in the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i>.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer has decided to change the definition of controlled waste to only that defined in the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i>, as this does not change the meaning of the term.</p>