



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L9254/2020/1
Licence Holder	Westpork Pty Ltd
ACN	009 148 789
File Number	DER2020/000272
Premises	Westpork Kojonup Corner of Albany Highway and Crapella Road BOSCABEL WA, 6394 Lot 10 on Deposited Plan 23562 Certificate of Title Volume 2173 Folio 889
Date of Report	12 September 2022
Proposed Decision	Revised licence granted

Table of Contents

1. Decision summary	3
2. Scope of assessment	3
2.1 Regulatory framework	3
2.2 Background	3
2.3 Application summary	3
3. Consultation	4
4. Decision	4
5. Conclusion	4
5.1 Summary of amendments	4
References	5
Table 1: Summary of licence amendments	5

1. Decision summary

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to licence L9254/2020/1, held by Westpork Pty Ltd (the licence holder) for Westpork Kojonup (the premises), located at 30 Crapella Road, Boscabel.

This report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). As a result of this assessment, amended licence L9254/2020/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the licence, 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 Background

DWER conducted a compliance inspection on 13 April 2021 to assess the adequacy of odour management controls and practices at the premises. This inspection identified that weaner and finisher sheds were not being cleaned weekly (in breach of licence condition 1 of the licence) and that there was a build-up of manure and bedding material with a mud-like consistency up to 15 cm thick on the floor of the eco shelters. Further, manure wastes and leachate from the eco-shelters was observed discharging from the open drainage lines and contaminating nearby soils.

DWER issued correspondence to the licence holder dated 28 March 2022 detailing these non-compliances and recommending a licence amendment be submitted to the department to capture the current conventional shed cleaning process and address concerns relating to the risk of odour emissions.

2.3 Application summary

On 20 April 2022, the licence holder submitted an application to the department to amend licence L9254/2020/1 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The licence holder sought the following amendment:

- Condition 1 (Table 7, Schedule 2): revise the operational requirement to clean the weaner and finisher sheds from “weekly” to “weekly in rotation, with a minimum of one weaner shed and one finisher shed cleaned each week”.

The licence holder advised in the application that they do not have the capacity to re-house the pigs and clean all the conventional sheds on a weekly basis, in accordance with the existing condition, given it takes three days to properly clean a shed and a further day for the shed to dry out. Instead, the licence holder cleans one weaner shed and one finisher shed each week. Given there are six weaner sheds and eight finisher sheds, each weaner shed is currently cleaned once in six weeks and each finisher shed is cleaned once every eight weeks.

In response to a request for further information dated 6 July 2022 (Westpork 2022), the licence holder advised that the cleaning of the sheds involved removing the pigs and using a high-pressure washer to remove all accumulated manure, urine and uneaten feed from the pens and slatted floor. Disinfectant is then applied to the area prior to introducing next batch of pigs.

The underfloor pull-plug effluent pits are emptied every 10 to 14 days. After draining, the pits are partially refilled with water from the pen cleaning process to ensure that solid manures do not adhere to the walls of the pit and to suppress odours.

As part of this amendment the delegated officer has incorporated administrative changes to the licence, including:

- consolidating infrastructure operational and process requirements into Table 1, Condition 1
- integration of waste processing table (Table 2) into infrastructure table (Table 1)
- addition of cleaning schedule reporting to Condition 11, Table 5
- realigning condition numbers for numerical consistency; and
- addition to definitions table

3. Consultation

The licence holder was provided with the draft Amendment Report on 16 August 2022 however no comments were received from the licence holder.

4. Decision

The Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed changes to the cleaning regime of the conventional sheds is unlikely to increase the risk of unreasonable odour emissions impacting sensitive receptors. Further, the Delegated Officer recognises that the existing description in Condition 1 is too broad to be enforceable and could be interpreted as a requirement to clean all conventional sheds weekly, which is not feasible and would overload the wastewater treatment system. Therefore, Condition 1 now clearly articulates that each weaner shed shall be cleaned at least every six weeks and each finisher shed shall be cleaned at least every eight weeks.

To address the risk of odour from the conventional sheds, the Delegated Officer has specified that the underfloor pull-plug effluent pits are to be drained weekly in all conventional sheds, which is practical and aligns with industry standards in the APL Guidelines 2018. The licence holder must also record the date that bedding is replaced in the eco-shelters (which must occur at least every eight weeks) and report this data in their Annual Environmental Report. This will support the department in verifying the shelters are cleaned regularly, preventing the build-up of sodden material sighted in the 2021 compliance inspection.

5. Conclusion

Based on this assessment, it has been determined to amend the existing licence, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 1: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
<i>Schedule 1</i>	<i>Schedule 1 – Infrastructure table moved to Condition 1.</i>
<i>1 – Table 1</i>	<i>Changes to more accurately reflect the premises infrastructure and its operational requirements without changing the intent of the condition.</i>
<i>1 – Table 1, item 1</i>	<i>Amendment to cleaning schedule, including pull plug systems, of conventional sheds.</i>
<i>1 – Table 1, item 2</i>	<i>Addition of requirement to record when bedding is changed.</i>
<i>3 – Table 2</i>	<i>Integration of Table 2 into Table 1 – infrastructure table.</i>
<i>11 – Table 5</i>	<i>Addition of reporting of cleaning requirements to AER report.</i>
<i>N/A – Definitions – Table 6</i>	<i>Addition of cleaned/cleaning to definitions table.</i>

References

1. Aurora Environmental 2022, *Application to amend licence 9254/2020/1*, submitted 20 April 2022.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
5. Westpork Pty Ltd 2022, *Response to Request for Further Information*, email to DWER dated 6 July 2022.