



# Decision Report

## Application for Works Approval

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

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<b>Works Approval Number</b>	W2994/2025/1
<b>Applicant</b>	Ord River District Co-Operative Limited
<b>File number</b>	APP-0028963
<b>Premises</b>	<p>ORDCO Stockfeed Weaber Plain Rd KUNUNURRA WA 6743</p> <p>Legal description Lot 10 on Deposited Plan 69516</p> <p>As defined by the premises map attached to the issued works approval</p>
<b>Date of report</b>	28/08/2025
<b>Decision</b>	Works approval granted

## 1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, works approval W2994/2025/1 has been granted.

## 2. Purpose and scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this decision report, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (department; DWER) has considered and given due regard to its regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at [www.dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents).

### 2.2 Application summary

On 5 May 2025, Ord River District Co-operative Limited (applicant, ORDCO) submitted an application for a works approval to the department under section 54 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The application submitted seeks approval to undertake construction works to upgrade infrastructure and increase the production capacity of an existing unlicensed facility. Operational processes at the premises are not proposing to change. Changes will involve the construction of infrastructure on a new stockfeed area (to replace the existing area), relocation of some existing infrastructure to this new area, and decommissioning of other existing, old infrastructure.

The premises is located on land zoned as rural enterprise at Lot 10 Weaber Plain Road, which is located approximately 4 km north of Kununurra in the East Kimberley.

The premises relates to category 23: animal feed manufacturing under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations). The production capacity is expecting to increase from the existing 12 – 16,000 tonnes per annum (depending upon rainfall during the season<sup>1</sup>) to approximately 20,000 – 24,000 tonnes per annum with construction of the new infrastructure. The production increase is proposed to be gradual over approximately 4 years.

Note 1: In a low rainfall season the demand (and therefore production) is higher and in a higher rainfall season the demand (and therefore production) is lower.

Key infrastructure to be constructed on the premises within the new stockfeed area is as follows:

- Concrete pad and footings (including earthworks) – approximately 800 m<sup>2</sup> (40m x 20m)
- New 129 m<sup>3</sup> capacity garner bin
- Conveyor system that includes an elevated drag chain/bucket leg

This new stockfeed area is proposed to be on an existing cleared area within the existing premises boundary.

Existing equipment to be relocated to the new stockfeed area is as follows:

- Crusher
- 5 Moylan mobile storage silos (80 tonnes capacity each) with conveyors

Existing old equipment to be decommissioned is as follows:

- 11 silos (400 tonne capacity each) and associated drag chain conveyors.
- Old 60 m<sup>3</sup> capacity garner bin.

Other existing equipment on the premises with no changes proposed includes:

- 10 silos (1,000 tonnes capacity each)
- Mobile feed mixer (12 tonne Supreme 900T mixer)

- Vehicles (tractor and forklifts)

## 2.3 Exclusions

Upgrades to the existing power feed (within an existing trench) from the main switchboard to accommodate the new infrastructure is out of scope of this assessment and has not been considered within the risk assessment detailed in this report.

## 3. Overview of premises (from application)

The premises is located on a site that has been used for the last 60 years for the handling of agricultural products and farm supplies.

The existing animal feed manufacturing system is capable of handling approximately 110 tonnes of product per day, with approximately 12,000 to 16,000 tonnes of feed produced per year. With the new system, this will increase to approximately 300 tonnes of product per day, with an estimated 20,000 to 24,000 tonnes per year.

The stockfeed (operating) season changes each year depending on the timing of the wet season ending and starting; however, the premises typically operates from April to October with the peak period in April to May. A second peak can occur in September if cattle prices are strong. No stockfeed is generally produced from December to March (wet season).

Activities at the premises include:

- Supplying or packaging of whole corn and other whole grains<sup>1</sup>.  
Whole corn and other whole grains are moved from the existing 1,000 tonne silos via the conveyor unit either directly to trucks (if product is moved in bulk using tippers) or to the garner bin where it is bagged in 1-1.5 tonne bulka bags before being loaded onto flatbed trailers.  
Approximately 1,000 tonnes (existing) of this product is supplied per year.
- Crushing corn and other grains<sup>1</sup> for packaging.  
Whole corn and other whole grains are moved from the existing 1,000 tonne silos to the garner bin via the conveyors. They are then sent through the crusher and into one of the Moylan silos for direct loading to bulk tippers or bagging in bulka bags.  
Approximately 11,000 – 14,000 tonnes (existing) of this product is supplied per year.
- Making and packaging ration mixes (which can include blending crushed corn and other grains<sup>1</sup>, recycled cooking oil, supplements, soybean meal and milk powder).  
Whole corn and other whole grains are moved from the existing 1,000 tonne silos and crushed as above and stored in the Moylan silos. The grains (amount and types depending on the ration mix being made) are transferred from the Moylan silos by conveyor into the feed mixing unit which is attached to the tractor. Small volumes of other products (as above) are added to the mixer by hand. Approximately 12 tonnes can be mixed at a time. The mixed product is then transferred by a conveyor to the staging bin before being bagged in bulka bags and loaded onto flatbed trailers.  
Approximately 33 tonnes of cleaned recycled cooking oil is purchased annually from a range of suppliers for the stockfeed, which is assessed and compliant under the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points system (food safety management system).  
Approximately 3,000 – 4,000 tonnes (existing) of this product is supplied per year.

Note 1: Other grains can include sorghum, chickpeas, black eyes peas and lupins.

The applicant has stated that there are no waste products produced from the processes.

## 4. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

**Table 1: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the department's website on 24 June 2025.	None received.	N/A
Local government authority (Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberly (Shire)) advised of proposal on 24 June 2025.	<p>Comments were received from the Shire on 15 July 2025. Below is a summary of those comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of new infrastructure is generally supported by the Shire as it is anticipated that the proposed upgrades will assist in mitigating existing operational impacts.</li> <li>• No formal development application has been submitted to the Shire; however, it is considered likely approval would be supported once the application has been received.</li> <li>• The Shire is aware of nuisance dust from the handling of corn products during operation impacting on a neighbouring property. A number of mitigation measures were implemented by the applicant; however, these have not fully resolved the issue.</li> </ul> <p>A previous development application (2018) for the installation of new silos included a condition requiring the applicant to ensure that dust and sand is contained on-site with the use of suitable dust suppression techniques to the satisfaction of the Shire.</p> <p>Any future development application issued by Shire for this site would most likely include a similar condition.</p>	The delegated officer has taken Shire's comments into consideration for the risk assessment in section 5.
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 31 July 2025.	<p>Comments were received from the applicant on 20 August 2025. Below is a summary of those comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant confirmed numerous design and construction / installation requirements and operational aspects that were requested in the draft documents.</li> <li>• The applicant expressed concern with the requirement to decommission infrastructure within 90 days. The applicant stated that it may take up to 12 months to remove the infrastructure and will only be done during the dry season.</li> </ul>	<p>This information has been updated in the works approval and decision document.</p> <p>Relevant conditions in the works approval have been updated.</p>

## 5. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identified 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.

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.

Where the applicant has proposed mitigation measures/controls, 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

works approval 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 the below table.

Works Approval W2994/2025/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises construction and time-limited operations. The conditions in the works approval have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DWER 2015).

A licence is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the premises. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this decision report, however, licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

**Table 2: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during construction and operation**

Risk events				Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
Sources / activities	Potential emissions	Receptors, pathway and impact	Applicant controls			
Construction						
New concrete pad, new conveyor system with elevated drag chain/bucket leg and replacement garner bin (higher capacity). Relocation of existing equipment: crusher and 5 moylan storage silos with joining conveyors. Decommissioning of existing old equipment: 11 silos (400 T each) and 60 m³ garner bin. Machinery and vehicle movements during construction, relocation and decommissioning.	Fugitive dust  Noise	Air/windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity.  The closest seven residential premises (zoned rural residential) are located within 300 m S and W of the proposed construction.  Commercial premises 70 m W of proposed construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Earthworks will involve cracker dust being brought to site which will be watered and progressively compacted to meet specified geotechnical requirement. Minimum thickness of the compacted material will be 300 mm.</li><li>Earthworks are not expected to be extensive as it is an existing cleared site.</li><li>Reinforced concrete pad will be at least 200 mm thick.</li><li>Concrete pad will be sloped to allow drainage.</li><li>Proposed infrastructure is located further away from residential receptors than existing stockfeed area.</li></ul>	C = <b>Slight</b> : minimal impacts to amenity at a local scale L = <b>Possible</b> : could occur at some time <b>Low Risk</b>	The construction, relocation and decommissioning of infrastructure are expected to slightly increase noise and dust emissions above existing emissions; however, it is expected this will be of short duration. The delegated officer does not reasonably foresee offsite impacts from dust or noise above the existing activities on the premises and has assessed the risk as low.  The Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (EP Noise Regulations) apply to noise emissions.	Standard works construction, compliance and reporting conditions apply.  Relocation of crusher, moylan silos and associated joining conveyors.  Decommissioning of existing 11, 400 T silos and 60 m³ garner bin.
Operation						
Operation of new stockfeed area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10 existing 1,000 T silos</li><li>Conveyor system (that includes an elevated drag chain / bucket leg</li><li>New 129 m³ garner bin</li><li>Existing crusher</li><li>Existing 5 Moylan 80 T silos (with joining conveyors)</li><li>Existing mobile feed mixer</li></ul> General vehicle (tractor and forklifts) movements. For a production capacity of up to 24,000 tonnes per annum.	Fugitive dust  Noise   <					

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

## 6. Decision

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the delegated officer has determined that a works approval will be granted. Applicant commitments have been conditioned along with necessary administration and reporting requirements for the construction, relocation and decommissioning of the infrastructure.

The applicant has not requested time limited operations; therefore, no conditions relating to the operation of the premises have been included in the works approval. Following construction and decommissioning of the infrastructure, and submission of an environmental compliance report, the applicant can apply for a licence.

## References

1. Bureau of Meteorology website, *Monthly climate statistics – Kununurra Aero (site number 002056)*, available from [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Accessed July 2025.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), 2015. *Guidance Statement: Setting conditions*. Perth, Australia.
3. DWER, 2016. *Guideline: Environmental Siting*. Perth, Australia.
4. DWER, 2019. *Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*. Perth, Australia.
5. DWER, 2020. *Guideline: Risk Assessments*. Perth, Australia.