Decision Report

Application for works approval

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Application number	APP-0030423
Works approval number	W3041/2025/1
Applicant	Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-Operative Ltd
Premises	WAMMCO International – Katanning Abattoir 27983 Great Southern Hwy PINWERNING WA 6317
Date of report	03/03/2026
Status of report	Final

Purpose and scope of assessment

The Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-Operative Ltd (WAMMCO, the applicant) proposes to expand their existing Katanning processing facility. An application for works approval was submitted under Division 3 Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) on 15 August 2025.

This report sets out the department's assessment of potential risk events arising from emissions and discharges during the commissioning and subsequent operation of a second slaughter floor at 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.

Application details

Overview

WAMMCO proposes to install, commission and operate a new, second slaughter floor at their existing sheep and lamb processing facility at Katanning, about 280 km south-east of Perth.

The new slaughter floor will be installed within an existing empty building envelope that was once a beef slaughter floor and pork processing area and has been unused for this purpose for at least 15 years.

Once commissioned, the new slaughter floor will increase the processing capacity of the facility from 1.2 million to 2.4 million head per year. This corresponds to an increase in annual liveweight throughput from 47,000 tonnes to 135,000 tonnes, driven by both higher processing throughput (head per annum) and an increase in average liveweight per animal over time due to genetic improvements.

The facility currently operates under licence L5177/1983/12. Table 1 describes the prescribed premises categories the licence is subject, as defined in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987, and includes the current design capacities and expected capacities following the expansion.

Table 1: Prescribed premises categories

Classification of premises	Existing production capacity	Proposed production capacity
Category 15: Abattoir: premises on which animals are slaughtered.	47,000 liveweight tonnes per year*	135,000 liveweight tonnes per year
Category 16: Rendering facility: premises on which substances from animal material are processed or extracted.	4,900 tonnes per year	9,800 tonnes per year

*The department recognises this figure is most likely based on historical production information provided by WAMMCO in the late 1990s for the original licence issued for the facility, and that it has not been reviewed or updated since this time.

Proposal details

The proposal involves the fitting out of a new sheep slaughter floor within an existing building envelope, which runs adjacent to the existing slaughter floor.

The main changes to infrastructure and waste management practices that will result from the increase in production include:

- new slaughter floor fit out in existing building;
- increase in animal waste production; and
- increase in water use and wastewater production.

Minimal changes to existing waste management practices are proposed; the new floor will link into existing drainage and waste handling infrastructure, with both floors running in parallel with common points for waste material collection and transfer:

- all animal wastes derived from the slaughter process will be diverted to rendering via screws into the existing solid waste handling system used within the existing floor; and
- all wastewaters will be diverted to the existing waste removal systems and directed through the existing gross solids screen and water clarification system, prior to discharge to the existing wastewater treatment pond system.

Animal wastes

Renderable material

All renderable material (e.g., heads, hooves, bones, offcuts, fat, offal, blood, etc.) from the new floor will be conveyed via two new augers into a covered auger system to the existing by-products main auger that is already in use.

The existing by-products conveyance system was upgraded in 2023 and consists of a heavy duty, sealed, galvanised screw conveyor system designed to minimise the risk of material loss and spills during operation. The system incorporates variable speed drives, which allow the conveyance rate to be adjusted to match processing demand and accommodate increased by-products throughput associated with the proposed expansion.

The augers are high-capacity units, with diameters ranging from 300 mm to 500 mm. WAMMCO advises the system has a design capacity of about 8 to 9 metric tonnes of raw material per hour, which it considers to be sufficient to manage the proposed increase in by-products without overloading the system, and will actively be monitored as production increases.

The existing rendering plant (cooker) is designed to process up to 11 tonnes of raw material per hour and currently processes 6 tonnes per hour with current slaughter volumes. In the event of maintenance or mechanical breakdown, WAMMCO has the capacity to store up to 50 tonnes of raw material within sealed storage bins (one for bone material and one for offal).

Rendered products are exported from the premises as meatmeal and tallow. Meatmeal is exported in sealed shipping containers to overseas markets, with smaller volumes sold in one-tonne bulk bags or 25 kg bags. Tallow is transported off-site on a weekly basis to GrainCorp or Nestle for further processing or distribution.

Currently, up to 5 tonnes per week of fines are generated from the rendering process; this is expected to increase to 6 – 10 tonnes per week at the proposed higher production rates. This material is currently disposed of weekly at the on-site burial pit. In the near future, WAMMCO intends to reincorporate the fines into the rendering process through the purchase of an upgraded milling system capable of processing finer material, with the potential to also process dried hides.

Paunch

About 30 – 40 tonnes per week of paunch material is generated from current operations, which is collected from under the drum screen and taken to an existing storage area, which comprises a concrete hardstand bay with 1 m high bund walls and capacity to store up to 100 million tonnes (Mt) of paunch material. Once dried, all paunch material is removed off-site for disposal at a licensed facility, which is currently an organics recycling facility near Mandurah or a putrescible landfill near Dardanup.

Runoff from the pad is diverted to two concrete-lined sumps, from where it is transferred to Pond 5 for evaporation using a float switch. Based on an average rainfall year, the estimated volume of runoff is around 82 kL/yr.

Paunch generation is expected to increase to 60 – 80 tonnes per week at the expanded capacity; WAMMCO currently clears the pad once a month (about 50 Mt), therefore this frequency will need to increase following the expansion.

Mortalities

The facility currently manages about 0.5 tonnes per week of downers, mortalities and condemned carcasses, which are buried daily at the on-site burial pit; this amount is expected to increase up to 1 tonne per week at the expanded capacity. The only proposed change as a result of the expansion is the burial pits will be filled at a faster rate.

Skins

Skins are salted and cured and stored on-site within a designated shed, prior to off-site sale and export. Waste trimmings and woollen “off-cuts” are disposed of daily at the on-site burial pit and saline purge from skins is diverted to a dedicated sump, pumped into plastic storage tanks and removed off-site by a licensed controlled waste carrier. The only proposed change as a result of the expansion is the increased frequency of off-site removal.

Water use and wastewater

Water supply

Scheme water is currently supplied to the facility by the Water Corporation from Pinwernying Dam. The current winter allocation is 270,000 kL/yr during the off-peak season; this is expected to increase to about 400,000 kL/yr at the expanded capacity. WAMMCO is currently in discussions with the Water Corporation about the required increase in water allocation.

WAMMCO is also investigating the use of reverse osmosis to produce a recycled water stream of suitable quality to partially replace scheme-sourced water.

Wastewater infrastructure

The drainage points for the new floor align with existing infrastructure that was previously used during historical beef and pork processing operations, when the plant operated at much higher capacity. WAMMCO has systematically replaced the old and damaged vitrified clay drainage system by installing HDPE pipework beneath the floor. Strategically located stainless steel bucket traps have also been installed to maximise solids removal from the wastewater stream.

Wastewater from the new floor will be directed to the existing main drainage line, which flows into the existing Contrashear unit and Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) system, prior to treatment by the existing wastewater pond system:

- the Contrashear, a purpose-built rotary screening device (trommel), is considered by WAMMCO as being capable of operating without volumetric limitations and increased influent flow rates are not expected to impact its ability to remove gross solids and particulate matter prior to treatment in the DAF unit;
- the DAF unit is designed to handle high hydraulic loading rates in the order of 100 kL/hour, with peak flows of up to 120 kL/hour. Current operations generate about 50 kL/hour, with projections indicating a potential increase to about 70 kL/hour post-commissioning of the new floor; and
- the three wastewater treatment ponds on the premises (one anaerobic, two aerobic) have been sized to manage the cumulative hydraulic loading from all processing operations, including historical operations when beef, pork and lamb processing occurred simultaneously. The ponds are designed to collect and equalise variable flow rates from upstream processing, allow for sedimentation and settling of finer solids, and provide sufficient residence time for partial nutrient and organic matter reduction.

  Three 10 ML ponds are used for storage of treated wastewater during the winter months when irrigation is not suitable. These ponds are predominantly empty by the end of each summer season.

Wastewater disposal

Wastewater from the final aerobic pond is disposed of via irrigation of pasture crops on the premises with standpipe and travelling irrigators. According to WAMMCO, 186 hectares of land is available on the premises for irrigation, with 122 ha currently being used.

Current irrigation volumes are assumed to be in the order of 290 kL/d, with a total of 87,600 kL irrigated in 2024. Average treated water quality from recent sampling indicates concentrations in the order of 61.75 mg/L P, 187.5 mg/L N and 250 mg/L K, however it is unclear how representative this is of the wastewater being irrigated (nutrients may be accumulating within the ponds and not being reflected in the sampling results). Based on these values however, a minimum of 88 ha is required for irrigation of excess volumes at current throughput (based on a forage sorghum crop yielding 15 t/ha and K being the limiting nutrient).

Soils of the irrigation areas indicate acceptable levels of nutrients (average 110 kg/ha Colwell P, 10 kg/ha Nitrate-N, 30 kg/ha N), however it is unclear how representative this is of the full soil profile.

With an expected doubling of irrigation volumes with the proposed increase in throughput, there is uncertainty around the capacity of the site to manage the additional volumes of wastewater based on all available data. WAMMCO has therefore engaged a suitably qualified soil scientist to conduct a detailed site and soil evaluation (SSE), in order to determine the capacity of the site and related environmental risks.

Other

Lairage

The existing lairage comprises two floors – a lower lairage (dome shelters) and a raised lairage (shed with raised roof) – and has capacity to hold around 8,000 animals at once and is considered by WAMMCO to be adequate for servicing both floors and will not be extended.

Work will be done to link the existing raised lairage to the new floor, whilst the lower lairage will continue to service the existing floor.

Both floors comprise concrete floors and central draining points. The floors are regularly cleaned of manure and washed down on a weekly basis, with washwater diverted to a concrete drain and into a sump, prior to being conveyed to the manure settling ponds. Currently, about 18.5 tonnes per week of manure is generated; this is expected to increase to about 37 tonnes per week at the expanded capacity. Collected manure is removed off-site for disposal at a licensed facility, which is currently an organics recycling facility near Mandurah or a putrescible landfill near Dardanup.

Washdown volumes are currently in the order of 234 kL/week, or 11.2 ML/yr, and are not expected to change as a result of the expansion, as the area being washed down and the frequency will not change. The manure settling pond (Pond 5) has a holding capacity of 12 ML – this pond is empty by the end of each summer season and is not used for any purpose other than evaporation.

Reverse Osmosis plant

WAMMCO proposes to use the existing reverse osmosis plant at the premises to reuse a portion of the water from the final aerobic pond for non-potable uses in non-food handling areas, such as lairage washdown and in the wet scrubbers and cooling towers.

Construction schedule

WAMMCO propose to stage the expansion, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Project staging

Stage and timing	Components	Production capacity
Stage 1 – early 2026	Fit out of the new slaughter floor Undertake required technical assessments over a 12 months period	1,500,000 animals per year for first 12 months (+300,000 animals from current)
Stage 2 – early 2027	Submit a licence amendment application to increase production capacity	Production capacity to be consistent with capacity of assessed land application areas

Stage 3 – if required	Further assessment if stage 1 assessment indicates that suitable land application areas are not available to support the full production capacity	2,400,000 animals per year

Exclusions to this assessment

The following matters are out of the scope of this assessment and have not been considered within the risk assessment detailed in this report:

- other general farming activities being conducted on the premises, outside of the abattoir complex and irrigation areas;
- vehicle (i.e., livestock truck) movements on private and public roads; and
- land use zoning and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

The works approval is related to category 15 and 16 activities only and does not offer the defence to offence provisions in the EP Act (see sections 74, 74A and 74B) relating to emissions or environmental impacts arising from prescribed and non-prescribed activities, including those listed above.

Location and siting

Siting context

The facility is situated on a 250 ha property on the outskirts of Katanning and comprises the abattoir complex, including the wastewater ponds, and cropping land in which wastewater is irrigated onto pasture that is then harvested. Some paddocks are also used for the short-term holding of animals, pending their slaughter.

Land use and sensitive receptors

The premises is zoned ‘Special Use’ under the Shire of Katanning’s local town planning scheme, to reflect the current abattoir and associated uses. It is surrounded by a mix of land uses, including farming land to the west, rural residential to the east, public purposes to the north (Pinwernying Dam), public open space to the north-east, an undeveloped industrial block to the south-east, and a rail reserve along the eastern boundary. The Katanning townsite is about 2.5 km south-east of the abattoir complex.

Climate

The long-term average annual rainfall for Katanning is about 441.8 mm/year, with most falling between May and September in association with winter cold fronts at an average of 326 mm, compared to 123 mm in the summer. Annual evaporation is higher than average rainfall, at an average of about 1,512 mm/year (423 mm in winter and 1,089 mm in summer).

Winds are predominantly light to moderate easterlies in the mornings, shifting to moderate-to-strong afternoon west/north-westerlies in the summer and winter months, respectively.

Physiography

The topography is gently sloping and undulating, with elevation levels ranging from a low of 320 m AHD at the south-eastern extent of the premises, to 350 m AHD along the northern boundary adjacent to the Pinwernying dam.

Soils and landscape

Broadly, the premises lies within the Carrolup soil-landscape zone, which is characterised as “Undulating rises and low hills, in the southern zone of rejuvenated drainage. Grey sandy duplex (deep and shallow) and shallow loamy duplex. Wandoo-sheoak-jam woodland”.

Soil subsystems present are largely represented by the Carrolup 2 subsystem, with small pockets of the Carrolup 1 and Carrolup 4 subsystems intersecting the edges of the site.

Surface water

The premises sits within the Upper Blackwood sub catchment, which is a section of the larger Blackwood River catchment. The Katanning Creek, which is classified as a 'significant stream', originates at Pinwernying dam on the northern boundary of the premises and flows along the eastern flank of the premises, about 200 m from the wastewater ponds. A smaller tributary of this system arises in the north-western corner of the premises, where it flows across the centre of the premises, about 50 m from the ponds. These tributaries are also mapped within the extent of the 1:100 (1%) AEP flooding zone.

The premises lies immediately south and downgradient of the Katanning Water Supply Catchment Area, which is classified as a Priority 1 public drinking water source area.

Groundwater

The premises falls within the Karri groundwater subarea. Due to low hydraulic conductivity of the deeper subsoil (sand over clay), most of the Katanning town experiences groundwater within 2 m of the surface; groundwater is observed to naturally collect in the valley areas of the local landscape, but these areas become waterlogged as the groundwater is unable to flow away due to the low permeability of the clay/soil conditions.

There are no permanent groundwater bores on the premises and groundwater monitoring has not been required to date, as it is assumed and expected that groundwater is perched on the lower permeability soils.

A geotechnical investigation conducted in 2023 for the solar farm site included the drilling of 8 bore holes to refusal (4.5 mbgl); groundwater was not encountered; however, it is noted the bores only represent a small area on the site and at a moment in time, and the investigation was conducted in mid-November.

Separation distances

In the absence of industry-specific separation distances for abattoirs, draft EPA Guidance Statement No. 3 recommends a separation distance of 500 – 1,000 metres between abattoirs and sensitive land uses, depending on the size of the facility. This separation increases to 1,500 metres if rendering is also conducted on the same premises.

The closest residential receptors are 600 m east of the wastewater ponds and 800 m west of the lairage area, which is within the recommended separation distance. However, it is noted the facility has largely operated in this location for decades with minimal incident (3 complaints received in the past 10 years).

Consultation

The application was referred to relevant public authorities and advertised for public comment on the department's website during August 2025. No public submissions were received in the timeframe specified.

<u>Public authorities</u>

The Shire of Katanning advised the proposed development is consistent with its local town planning scheme, and that it issued development approval in December 2024 for an extension to the freezer and palletising building.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is aware an SSE and detailed nutrient management plan is being prepared for the expansion proposal and expects the plan to demonstrate how the current practice of holding stock within irrigation areas is acceptable. Additionally, the burial pits should be appropriately lined to protect groundwater resources.

The Western Australian Meat Industry Authority advised it is aware of the proposed development and is generally supportive of initiatives that improve efficiency and strengthen the operational performance of WA abattoirs. The facility is an existing export accredited abattoir under the *Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Act 1976*.

Risk assessment

Determination of emission, pathway and receptor

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.

Risk ratings

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

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.

Risk assessment table

The table below describes the risk events associated with the proposal consistent with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020). The table identifies whether the risk events are acceptable and tolerated, or unacceptable and not tolerated, and the appropriate treatment and degree of regulatory control, where required.

Risk Event				Consequence rating[1]	Likelihood rating[1]	Risk[1]	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
Source/ Activities	**Potential emissions**	**Potential receptors, pathway and impact**	**Applicant controls**					
Construction works								
Fit out of new processing chain within existing building, connection to existing waste management infrastructure	Noise and fugitive dust associated with construction works, etc.	Unreasonable interference with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of nearby sensitive receptors (~600 m)	Adequate separation to nearby receptors (~600 m)	Minimal impacts to amenity on local scale **Slight**	May only occur in exceptional circumstances **Rare**	**Low** Acceptable, not subject to controls	The delegated officer considers there is sufficient separation in place (~600 m to nearest dwelling, ~2.5 km to nearest town) and therefore does not reasonably foresee that noise and dust from construction works will impact on the amenity or health of off-site human receptors.	Works approval controls: None specified.
Time limited operations and full operations								
Category 15: Abattoir operations								
Lairage operations	Nutrient-laden leachate from manure, urine, mobilised by surface water runoff	Overland flow into Katanning Creek causing surface water contamination Seepage/infiltration causing groundwater contamination and land degradation	Concrete bunded floors Effluent and washdown water will be directed to the existing sump and to the existing pond	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Not likely to occur in most circumstances **Unlikely**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	The existing lairage comprises concrete bunded floors with drainage to a central sump, which flows to an evaporation pond via a concrete drain. The capacity of the existing lairage is considered by WAMMCO to be sufficient for managing the additional numbers of animals, with the only change involving linking the existing raised lairage to the new floor.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include lairage infrastructure requirements
	Odour, from accumulated manure	Unreasonable interference with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of nearby sensitive receptors (~600 m)	Ensuring floors are cleaned and manure is removed on a frequent (weekly) basis Manure removed directly off-site (no on-site storage)	Low level impacts to amenity on local scale **Minor**	Likely to occur only in exceptional circumstances **Rare**	**Low** Acceptable, based on applicant controls being implemented	The existing lairages are currently scraped clean of manure and washed down on a weekly basis; this is not expected to change as a result of the increased numbers. The only change will be the amount of manure needing to be removed off-site.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Lairage cleaning frequency to be specified - Clarify that manure must be removed to a licensed facility
Processing / slaughtering animals, including rendering operations	Liquid waste, including blood, urine and wash water from cleaning processes – high concentrations of organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorus and other pollutants	Overland flow into Katanning Creek causing surface water contamination Seepage/infiltration causing groundwater contamination and land degradation	Wastewater from the new floor will be directed to existing WTS and infrastructure, including the Contrashear and DAF, and treated in the existing pond system Blood from the new floor will be rendered using the existing cooker	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Not likely to occur in most circumstances **Unlikely**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	Based on design information provided by WAMMCO, the delegated officer is satisfied that the existing WTS infrastructure has the capacity to manage the additional volumes of wastewater that will be generated at the expanded throughput, including the Contrashear and DAF. The rendering plant (cooker) also has sufficient capacity to manage the additional volumes of blood. The existing wastewater ponds are holding ponds and do not have sufficient capacity to manage the volumes of wastewater being generated at current throughput, without on-site disposal. A detailed site and soil evaluation is required to determine the most appropriate strategy for managing the volumes of wastewater generated. Additionally, due to the type and age of the existing ponds (clay-lined), and it being noted there appears to be some erosion on the walls/embankments, the delegated officer considers it appropriate to require an independent review of the integrity of the ponds, to ensure they all remain fit for purpose and can support an increase in wastewater volumes.	Works approval controls: - Nutrient irrigation management plan must be prepared and submitted, prior to putting the new floor into service - Assessment of integrity of existing ponds Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include WTS infrastructure requirements - Updated to include the outcomes of a detailed SSE, including a review of existing nutrient loading limits
	Solid waste, including by-products and condemned materials not fit for human consumption	Seepage/infiltration causing groundwater contamination and land degradation	Renderable materials from the new floor will be rendered using the existing cooker Paunch will be temporarily stored on-site using existing infrastructure, prior to off-site removal Dead animals and condemned carcasses will be buried on-site at	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Not likely to occur in most circumstances **Unlikely**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	Based on design information provided by WAMMCO, the delegated officer is satisfied that the existing infrastructure has the capacity to manage the additional volumes of solid wastes that will be generated at the expanded throughput, including the rendering plant and paunch storage area.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include rendering plant, paunch storage area and operational requirements - Operational requirements added for

Risk Event				Consequence rating[1]	Likelihood rating[1]	Risk[1]	Reasoning	Regulatory controls
Source/ Activities	**Potential emissions**	**Potential receptors, pathway and impact**	**Applicant controls**					
			the existing burial pit Skins and hides will be salted and sold					rendering plant, paunch removal - Review conditions related to burial pit
	Gaseous waste, predominantly odours from decomposing organic matter and waste treatment processes	Unreasonable interference with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of nearby sensitive receptors (~600 m)	Ensuring existing waste treatment infrastructure has sufficient capacity to manage the additional volumes of wastes, in addition to ensuring adequate maintenance and monitoring of existing waste treatment infrastructure and processes	Mid-level off-site impacts to amenity on local scale **Moderate**	Could occur at some time **Possible**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	Given the existing waste treatment infrastructure has the capacity to manage the additional volumes of waste, the delegated officer considers the risk of off-site odour impacts will not significantly change with an increase in throughput, providing the infrastructure is well maintained and there remains a high level of oversight in terms of the existing processes and management practices.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: None specified.
Disposal of treated wastewater over 158 ha of cropping land	Leaching or runoff of nutrients from irrigated wastewater	Contamination of soil, particularly in sand-filled valleys, causing contamination of shallow groundwater Soil acidification Excessive build-up of soil N, P and K	Wastewater to be applied to crops – crop types and irrigation rates to be informed following an SSE and preparation of detailed NIMP	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Could occur at some time **Possible**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	There is some uncertainty over the capacity of the site to manage the additional volumes of wastewater that will be generated at the increased throughput based on available data. WAMMCO has engaged a qualified soil scientist to conduct a proper SSE, to determine the capacity of the site and environmental risks. The delegated officer is relatively confident the site will be capable of managing the additional volumes at the increased throughput, subject to a detailed nutrient management plan. Should it be determined that the site is not capable of managing the additional volumes at the maximum increased throughput, the delegated officer has the option of limiting throughput on the licence, consistent with the site's capacity to deal with nutrients. A condition of the works approval will be for WAMMCO to conduct the SSE and prepare a detailed nutrient management plan, which must be submitted prior to the second floor being put into service.	Works approval controls: - Nutrient irrigation management plan must be prepared and submitted, prior to putting the new floor into service Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include WTS infrastructure requirements
Paunch storage area	Leaching or runoff of nutrients from stockpiled paunch	Overland flow into Katanning Creek causing surface water contamination Seepage/infiltration causing groundwater contamination and land degradation	Ensuring existing storage area has sufficient capacity to manage the additional volumes of paunch, in addition to ensuring adequate maintenance and monitoring of existing waste treatment infrastructure and processes	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Not likely to occur in most circumstances **Unlikely**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	The existing paunch storage area is sufficiently sized to cater for the increased volumes of paunch at increased throughput; paunch will continue to be regularly removed off-site, with the only change being an increase in the frequency of removal. Leachate from the pad will continue to be managed with existing infrastructure, including a sump and transfer to the existing pond 5. The licence will be updated to include the storage area in the infrastructure table and include specifications and management requirements.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include paunch storage area infrastructure requirements
Burial pit	Odour, from condemned carcasses, deceased animals, etc.	Unreasonable interference with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of nearby sensitive receptors (~600 m)	Ensuring sufficient separation to nearby receptors Regular covering of buried material	Low level impact to amenity at local scale **Minor**	Could occur at some time **Possible**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	The existing burial pit is currently covered with earth on a weekly basis; this is not expected to change as a result of the increased numbers. The only change will be an increase in the number of carcasses and deceased animals being buried, with the pit to fill up quicker.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include burial pit requirements
	Nutrient-laden leachate from decomposing wastes	Seepage/infiltration causing groundwater contamination and land degradation	Ensuring burial pit is located in low permeability soils, wastes not buried within top 1 m of profile	Mid-level on-site impacts **Moderate**	Could occur at some time **Possible**	**Medium** Acceptable, subject to regulatory controls	The existing burial pit is located in an area with clayey sandy soils with an assumed low permeability layer at around 2 mbgl and no permanent known groundwater table.	Works approval controls: None specified. Licence controls: - Infrastructure table to be added and include burial pit requirements

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

Decision

The delegated officer has determined the proposal to install, commission and operate a new, second slaughter floor, with an assessed design capacity of 135,000 liveweight tonnes per year for the premises, does not pose an unacceptable risk of impacts to on- and off-site receptors. This determination is based on the following:

- the proposal requires minimal changes to existing waste handling infrastructure, which was originally sized for two slaughter floors, and therefore has the capacity to manage the expected increase in wastes, including the lairage, Contrashear, DAF, wastewater ponds, and rendering plant (cooker); and
- the risk of off-site impacts such as noise and odour is not expected to significantly change with an increase in throughput, providing there remains a high level of upkeep of existing waste management practices.

One key aspect of the proposal which has not been assessed in detail and has instead been deferred until the future application to amend the existing licence (following the completion of works) is the management of treated wastewater, i.e., on-site disposal via irrigation. This aspect has been deferred due to the timeframes of the project and there being insufficient time for WAMMCO to commission a proper site and soil evaluation that will support a detailed wastewater management plan.

Based on discussions between WAMMCO and the department on how it proposes to manage the additional volumes of wastewater at the increased throughput, i.e., irrigation of high-nutrient uptake crops, the delegated officer considers it is likely the site can accommodate an increase in production; however, this needs to be evaluated through additional information to guide appropriate management options that facilitate the uptake of nutrients.

Works approval and licence amendment(s)

Works Approval W3041/2025/1 that accompanies this report authorises the works to fit out the new slaughter floor and following the submission of construction completion reports, the provision for a time-limited increase in production up to 1.5 million head (85,000 liveweight tonnes) for a period of 12 months.

The conditions in the issued works approval, as outlined in the above risk table have been determined in accordance with the *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Conditions have also been included to require an assessment of the sustainable production capacity of the facility, through a review of the expanded operation following completion of the construction works. The review should include soil saturation monitoring within the land application areas over at least one wet season, to inform an updated wastewater management plan prepared in accordance with DWER's *Water Quality Protection Note 22: Irrigation with nutrient-rich wastewater (December 2025).*

A licence amendment is required to authorise ongoing operation at the increased throughput beyond 85,000 liveweight tonnes per annum (stage 1). A risk assessment for the planned full production capacity (135,000 liveweight tonnes per annum) has been included in this report – excluding wastewater management – however, licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

Wastewater management for the planned full production capacity will be assessed as part of the licence application. Should the outcomes of the site and soil evaluation indicate there is insufficient land application areas available to support the full proposal, the production capacity on the licence will be limited to the capacity of the assessed land application areas.

Further assessments would then be required to demonstrate that sufficient land application areas are available to support the proposed full production capacity, to be assessed as part of a subsequent licence amendment.

Conditions on the works approval will be imposed to ensure day-to-day operations do not pose an unacceptable risk of impacts to on- and off-site receptors.

Applicant comments on draft decision

The applicant was provided with preliminary drafts of the works approval and this report on 9 December 2025 and provided further clarification on certain operational aspects. The applicant also agreed to undertake additional technical assessment prior to submitting an application to increase the production capacity of the facility beyond the time-limited period under the works approval.

The applicant was provided with final drafts on 24 February 2026 and waived the remainder of the consultation period with no further comment.

Conclusion

Based on this assessment, it has been determined the issued works approval will be granted subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

References

1. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) 2021, Soil Landscape Mapping (DPIRD-027). Accessed from www.data.wa.gov.au.
2. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2019, *Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
5. DWER 2025, *Water Quality Protection Note 22, WQPN 22 - Irrigation with nutrient-rich wastewater*, Perth, Western Australia.