



Application for Works Approval Amendment

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Works Approval Number W6309/2019/1

Applicant City of Greater Geraldton

ABN 55 907 677 173

File Number DER2018/000553-1

Premises Meru Waste Disposal Facility
Landfill Lane, Narngulu WA 6532
Legal description -
Lot 203 on Deposited Plan 403161;
Lot 204 on Deposited Plan 403161; and
Lot 2268 on Deposited Plan 250829

Date of Report 06/06/2020

Status of Report Final

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1. Definitions of terms and acronyms

In this Decision Report, the terms in Table 1 have the meanings defined.

Table 1: Definitions

Term	Definition
ABN	Australian Business Number
Category/ Categories/ Cat.	Categories of Prescribed Premises as set out in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations
CEO	means Chief Executive Officer. CEO for the purposes of notification means: Director General Department Administering the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> Locked Bag 10 JOONDALUP DC WA 6919 info@dwer.wa.gov.au
Decision Report	refers to this document.
Delegated Officer	an officer under section 20 of the EP Act.
Department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> and designated as responsible for the administration of Part V, Division 3 of the EP Act.
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
EP Regulations	<i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> (WA)
FOGO	refers to Food Organic and Garden Organic material
Occupier	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
Prescribed Premises	has the same meaning given to that term under the EP Act.
Premises	refers to the premises to which this Decision Report applies, as specified at the front of this Decision Report
Risk Event	As described in <i>Guidance Statement: Risk Assessment</i>

2. Amendment description

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) to amend Works Approval W6231/2019/1 (Works Approval) issued under the EP Act.

The decision made on this amendment has been informed by DWER's Regulatory Framework, which is available at <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/regulatory-framework>.

2.1 Purpose and scope of assessment

On 1 April 2020, an application for an amendment to Works Approval W6231/2019/1 (Application) was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) from the City of Greater Geraldton (Works Approval Holder) to modify monitoring processes relating to the composting of Food Organic and Garden Organic material (FOGO) located within Lot 204 on Plan 403161 and Lot 2268 on Plan 250829, Narngulu (Premises). This amendment is limited only to the aspects requested by the Works Approval Holder within the Application.

Table 2 summarises the classification and approved capacity for the Prescribed Premises in relation to the Application.

Table 2: Classification of premises and assessed design capacity

Classification of Premises	Description	Approved Premises production or design capacity or throughput
Category 67A	Compost manufacturing and soil blending	20,000 tonnes per year

The Works Approval was issued on 17 January 2020 for the construction of a concrete pad with bunker system to accept and process FOGO within the Premises for a trial period of twelve months, whereby 500 dwellings within the Geraldton City region would be introduced with FOGO mobile garbage bins (MGBs).

The Application requests the removal of the weekly monitoring requirements for moisture content and dissolved oxygen (DO) during the time limited operations due to the disproportionate cost involved with monitoring equipment for the scale of the trial activities.

3. Works approval and licence history

Table 3 summarises the works approval and licence history for the premises.

Table 3: Works approval and licence history

Instrument	Issued	Nature and extent of works approval, licence or amendment
L6462/1992/12	29/04/2016	Amendment Notice – extension of licence duration to 11 December 2034
L6462/1992/12	12/01/2017	Amendment Notice 1 – Inclusion of additional categories within the existing licence.
L6462/1992/12	16/03/2018	Amendment Notice 2 - construction of a HDPE geomembrane liner within the western septage pond of the liquid waste facility and the acceptance of waste paint for temporary storage at the premises.
L6462/1992/12	2/05/2018	Amendment Notice 3 – construction of a new lined cell (No. 5) with leachate sump, leachate pond and storm water containment pond.

L9127/2018/1	1/06/2018	Replacement to Licence L6462/1992/12 which ceased due to the late payment of the annual fee. Administrative changes were made, including consolidation of previous Amendment Notices.
L9127/2018/1	12/02/2019	Amendment Notice 1 - extension of operational hours during the construction of Cell 5 and Septage Pond.
W6231/2019/1	17/01/2020	Issue of Works Approval for the construction of a concrete pad with bunker system to accept and process FOGO within the Premises for a trial period of twelve months, whereby 500 dwellings within the Geraldton City region would be introduced with FOGO mobile garbage bins (MGBs).
W6231/2019/1	This amendment	Revised Works Approval to remove the monitoring requirements relating to moisture content and dissolved oxygen.

4. Consultation

The Works Approval Holder was provided with the draft amended Works Approval on 29 May 2020. Comments received from the Applicant have been considered by the Delegated Officer as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of consultation

Scope	Comments received	DWER response
Works Approval Holder referred draft documents (29/05/2020)	The Works Approval Holder waived the comment period.	N/A

5. Location and siting

5.1 Siting context

The Premises is located approximately 10 km to the south-east of the Geraldton Central Business District, located within Lots zoned as 'Public Purposes'. 'General industry' and 'Rural' zoned lots are adjacent to the Premises.

5.2 Residential and sensitive Premises

Table 5 below lists the relevant sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the Prescribed Premises which may be receptors relevant to the proposed amendment.

Table 5: Receptors and distance from activity boundary

Sensitive Land Uses	Distance from Prescribed Activity
Residential receptor (rural)	Approximately 1.1 km north-east from the proposed composting activity
Industrial receptors	Adjacent and east of premises boundary (within 'general industry' zoned area)

6. Risk assessment

Table 6 below describes the Risk Events associated with the amendment consistent with the Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments. The table identifies whether the emissions present a material risk to public health or the environment, requiring regulatory controls.

Table 62: Identification of emissions, pathway and receptors during time limited operation

Risk Event						Consequence rating	Likelihood rating	Risk	Reasoning
Source/Activities		Potential emissions	Potential receptors	Potential pathway	Potential adverse impacts				
Category 67A: Composting activity Time limited operations for the composting of 500 tonnes of FOGO material	Composting-Pasteurisation of compost material and the application of liquid wastes, animal manure and other raw materials	Odour	Nearest resident is approximately 1.1 km north-east from the proposed composting activity	Air / wind dispersion	Amenity impacts	Minor	Possible	Medium	<p>Feedstock accepted and processed at the Premises has the potential to produce odour emissions through the deposition of odorous loads and inadequate composting processes causing amenity impacts outside the Premises.</p> <p>Factors that influence the emission rate of odour from the premises include the degree of pasteurisation and application of leachate to composting stockpiles.</p> <p>Works Approval Holder controls have been previously assessed for the issue of the original Works Approval. These controls remain in place, with the exception of the proposal to remove the weekly monitoring of moisture content and dissolved oxygen of the compost piles.</p> <p>While monitoring of moisture content and dissolved oxygen will not be undertaken, the compost piles will still be required to be maintained in a sufficiently moist state. Temperature monitoring will also be maintained.</p>

									<p>These requirements will reduce the likelihood of odour impacts occurring, and the exclusion of moisture content and dissolved oxygen monitoring will not adversely affect the risk potential.</p> <p>Technical advice of the original Application specified that odour emissions generated during the time limited operations are likely to represent low risk due to the low volumes of FOGO waste handled.</p>
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7. Conclusion

While monitoring of moisture content and dissolved oxygen will not be undertaken, the compost piles will still be required to be maintained in a sufficiently moist state. Temperature monitoring will also be maintained. These requirements will reduce the likelihood of odour impacts occurring, and the exclusion of moisture content and dissolved oxygen monitoring will not adversely affect the risk potential.

The Works Approval requires that the compost product is tested in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4454 Compost, soil conditioners and mulches, with results submitted to DWER following the time limited operations. The composting activities, including the odour risk profile, will be reassessed at this stage should the Works Approval Holder seek a licence for the activity.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the risk assessment for odour does not change, with the removal of moisture content and dissolved oxygen monitoring, from the original decision, due to the presence of other regulatory and Works Approval Holder controls. Based on this decision, the Delegated Officer has determined that the Revised Works Approval will be granted.

Amendments to licence conditions are described in Table 7Table.

Table 7: Summary of Works Approval amendments

Existing condition	Condition summary	Amendment notes
Condition 12, Table 3	Waste processing	Removal of the requirement to maintain dissolved oxygen level in the composting piles above 0.5 ppm. Other regulatory controls, such as temperature monitoring, aeration and restricting compost pile size can adequately manage odour risk in lieu of dissolved oxygen control.
Condition 13, Table 4	Monitoring	Removal of the requirement to monitor moisture content and dissolved oxygen within the compost piles. Other regulatory controls, such as temperature monitoring, aeration and restricting compost pile size can adequately manage odour risk in lieu of these monitoring requirements.

Steve Checker

MANAGER WASTE INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY REGULATION

Appendix 1: Key documents

	Document title	In text ref	Availability
1.	Works Approval W6309/2019/1 - Meru Waste Disposal Facility	W6309/2019/1	accessed at www.dwer.wa.gov.au
2.	Works Approval Amendment Application, City of Greater Geraldton, received on 1 April 2020	Amendment Application	DWER records (DWERDT268721)
3.	DER, July 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Regulatory principles</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015a	accessed at: www.dwer.wa.gov.au
4.	DER, October 2015. <i>Guidance Statement: Setting conditions</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2015b	
5.	DER, November 2016. <i>Guidance Statement: Environmental Siting</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2016d	
6.	DER, February 2017. <i>Guidance Statement: Risk Assessments</i> . Department of Environment Regulation, Perth.	DER 2017b	
7.	DWER, June 2019. <i>Guideline: Decision Making</i> . Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth.	DWER 2019a	
8.	DWER, June 2019. <i>Guideline: Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing</i> . Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth.	DWER 2019b	