Amendment Report

Application for a works approval amendment

Division 3, Part V *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Works approval number	W6791/2023/1
Works approval holder	Cavan (WA) Pty Ltd
Application number	APP-0032393
Premises	'Denninup Vale Cattle Feedlot' 4029 Boyup Brook-Kojonup Road SCOTTS BROOK WA 6244
Date of report	12 May 2026
Status of report	Final

Amendment description

This amendment is made pursuant to section 59 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to amend the existing licence issued for a prescribed premises as set out below. This notice of amendment is hereby given under section 59B(9) of the EP Act.

This amendment primarily relates to an improvement in the design of the cattle feedlot that is under construction, subject to works approval W6791/2022/1.

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.

Purpose and scope of assessment

Cavan (WA) Pty Ltd (works approval holder) is seeking to upgrade from partially covered to fully covered pens at its proposed cattle feedlot and subsequently change the layour of site infrastructure and the stocking density already approved. An application was submitted on 11 November 2025 requesting these changes.

Background

'Denninup Vale' is an existing cattle feedlot that has been operating since 2008 in the rural locality of Scotts Brook, about 280 km southeast of Perth.

A new set of 9 pens have been constructed at the premises, with works approval W6791 issued in 2023 for the construction of an additional 13 pens (22 pens total) and increase in the design capacity of the premises to 1,772 head (1,434 standard cattle units, SCU). All 22 pens were to be partially covered via installation of a solid tin roof where the concrete apron in front of the feed bunk ends.

Proposed amendments

Change to fully covered pens

The works approval holder has now decided to move away from partially covered pens, which is currently a requirement of W6791, and instead move towards fully covered pens by establishing a large, shed structure over the existing, and proposed new pens. The pens to be constructed will be decreased from 22 down to 19 because of this action. The construction will take place in 2 stages:

"Stage 1 to take place over the next 1-2 years:

- *Pens 9-18 to be constructed, including a shed to fully cover the entire pen area.*
  - *Pens will be 20m x 30m each, shed will measure 200m x 30m.*
- *Pen 8 to be constructed next to existing Pen 7.*
  - *Pen 8 will be 12m x 36m.*
- *Shed to be constructed over Pens 19 and 20, and most of the cattle yards.*
  - *Pens are 23m x 30m each, shed over pens will measure 46m x 30m.*
  - *Shed over cattle yards will measure 20m x 20m.*
- *Sedimentation drain/basin to be constructed on the downslope of Pens 1-8.*
- *Evaporation pond constructed to contain runoff from Pens 1-8.*

Stage 2 to be completed in 3-5 years:

- *Shed to be constructed over Pens 1-8.*
  - *Pens 1-7 are 24m x 36m, Pen 8 will be 12m x 36m. Shed over pens will measure 180m x 36m."*

Increase in stocking density

The works approval holder seeks to increase the stocking density to 2,246 SCUs due to the increased coverage over the pens that allow for a greater stocking density than that of a partially covered pen. The works approval holder also provided updated "S Factor

calculations' for the minimum distance required to the nearest receptors.

Infrastructure changes

The works approval holder is no longer proposing to construct 'effluent holding pond 2' and also will decrease the size of effluent pond 1 and the manure stockpile, due mainly to a significant decrease in expected run-off due to the pens now being fully covered.

Decision

Proposed amendments

Change to fully covered pens

The delegated officer supports the proposal to transition from partially covered to fully covered pens at the premises, which is considered an improvement to the feedlot design by minimising rain falling within pen surfaces and interacting with manure, which is the primary source of effluent generated by feedlots.

By preventing rainfall from contacting pen surfaces, the volume of effluent is substantially reduced, resulting in lower volumes requiring management. Roof runoff will be diverted away for reuse, further reducing the load on wastewater infrastructure. The proposed design is therefore expected to result in improved environmental performance compared to the partially covered pen configuration currently authorised under the works approval.

Increase in stocking density

The delegated officer considers the proposed increase in stocking density to a maximum of 2,246 SCUs is acceptable, subject to the pens being fully covered. The increase in stocking density is directly linked to the fully covered pen design, which enables higher stocking rates while maintaining effective control of waste generation. A staged construction approach provides an appropriate mechanism to manage environmental risk, and conditions will be imposed on the amended works approval to limit stocking density at each stage and to require notification to the department prior to any increase.

The delegated officer has also considered whether the increased design capacity remains acceptable with respect to separation distances to sensitive receptors. Using the S-factor methodology and a maximum capacity of 2,246 SCUs, the minimum required separation distance is about 890 m to the nearest rural dwelling. The nearest sensitive receptors are located more than 3 km from the premises. Accordingly, the proposed increase in stocking density is not expected to result in any unacceptable emissions impacts, as appropriate separation distances are maintained.

Infrastructure changes

The delegated officer does not object to the proposed reductions to wastewater and manure management infrastructure, including the removal of the second effluent holding pond and the reduction in the size of effluent pond 1 and the manure stockpile area. These changes are a direct consequence of the fully covered pen design described above, which reduces liquid waste generation at the source.

Updated runoff and water balance calculations indicate the revised infrastructure configuration is sufficiently sized to manage runoff from the controlled drainage areas during the staged construction period. The amended layout is considered sufficient to prevent uncontrolled discharge and does not increase environmental risk relative to the originally approved design. Accordingly, the infrastructure layout changes are acceptable and represent an improved, lower-risk outcome.

Consultation

The works approval holder was provided with drafts of the amended works approval and this report for comment on 15 April 2026. The applicant advised by phone on 5 May 2026 that they had no objections to the amendment.

Conclusion

The delegated officer has determined to amend the existing works approval, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

Summary of amendments

The below table provides a summary of the updates and will act as a record of implemented changes. All changes have been incorporated on the works approval.

Condition / table	Description
Table 1: Item 1 (c)	New condition ensuring manure/compost leachate cannot escape from pens 18 and 19.
Table 1: Item 1 (d)	Condition stating roof construction requirements.
Table 1: Item 3 (a)	Holding capacity of effluent pond decreased to 2,103m^3
Table 1: Item 4,5,6	Deleted as related to controlled drainage area 2 (effluent pond 2)
Table 1: Item 5 (a)	Size of manure storage pad decreased to 255m^2
Condition 8, Table 2	Stocking density requirements do not exceed 5m^2/head until construction of pen roofs have occurred.
Schedule 1: Maps	New infrastructure layout map added.