



Industry Regulation fact sheet

Intensive piggery

This fact sheet provides guidance on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) administration of licences and works approvals for intensive piggeries.

Any premises where an activity listed in Schedule 1 of the [Environmental Protection Regulations 1987](#) (EP Regulations) is carried out at, or above, the specified production or design capacity are prescribed premises and regulated by DWER under Part V of the [Environmental Protection Act 1986](#) (EP Act).

Prescribed premises require a works approval for construction and a licence (Category 2) or registration (Category 69) to operate.

Intensive piggeries are described in Categories 2 and 69 of the EP Regulations:

Categories 2 and Category 69: Intensive piggery

Description of category	Production or design capacity
Category 2	
Intensive piggery: premises on which pigs are fed, watered, and housed in pens.	1,000 animals or more
Category 69	
Intensive piggery: premises on which pigs are fed, watered, and housed in pens.	More than 500 but less than 1,000 animals

Application

Interpretation

Intensive piggeries are operations where pigs are fed, watered, and housed for the purposes of production, relying primarily on prepared or manufactured feed or rations to meet their nutritional requirements.

DWER considers the following types of indoor and outdoor piggeries to be intensive piggeries, as defined in the [National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries](#) (NEGIP), issued by Australian Pork Limited:

- 'conventional' piggeries;
- 'deep litter' piggeries (eco-shelter); and
- 'feedlot outdoor' piggeries.



Production/design capacity

In determining the production or design capacity of intensive piggeries, DWER considers the maximum number of pigs within the premises at any one time. The total number of pigs is determined using Standard Pig Units (SPU), as defined in the NEGIP.

Environmental risk

Intensive piggeries involve a risk of causing pollution or environmental harm unless the prescribed premises are appropriately regulated and managed. The EP Act sets out a range of offences that specifically relate to occupiers of prescribed premises, in addition to general offences relating to pollution and environmental harm. For further information on these offences, refer to DWER's *Industry Regulation Guide to Licensing* and the EP Act.

Emissions and discharges from intensive piggeries typically include:

- odour;
- solid and liquid wastes (for example manure, carcasses, spent bedding, effluent);
- potentially contaminated stormwater;
- noise;
- biogas; and
- dust (for example from the movement of vehicles or animals).

Assessment

DWER applies a risk-based approach to its regulatory functions under the EP Act. DWER publications, [Guidance statement: Decision-making](#) and [Guidance statement: Risk assessment](#), detail the approach taken by the Department in assessing applications for works approvals and licences under Part V of the EP Act.

DWER considers that the NEGIP represents the most appropriate industry guideline to inform its assessment of works approval and licence applications for intensive piggeries.

In assessing applications for works approvals and licences, DWER will assess emissions and discharges from the primary intensive piggery activity, including any directly related activities that give rise to emissions and discharges:

- buildings or yards where pigs are housed;
- feed mill and feed storage facilities;
- waste treatment and storage areas;
- wastewater irrigation and solid waste application areas;
- biogas recovery and use; and
- carcass management areas.

DWER may consult with Local Government Authorities and the Department of Health about approvals for the treatment and disposal/irrigation of liquid waste.

Where a prescribed premises has been assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority as a 'significant proposal' and is subject to a Ministerial Statement granted under Part IV of the EP Act, the conditions of a works approval or licence granted under Part V must not be contrary to the conditions of the Ministerial Statement.



More information

For further information, please contact DWER Regulatory Services (Environment) on 6364 7000.

This document is available in alternative formats and other languages on request.

Applicants can seek more specific guidance on environmental guidelines for piggeries from publications such as the National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries (Australian Pork Limited).

Additional publications regarding DWER's assessment of licence and works approval applications are available online at www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/licences-and-works-approvals, or can be requested by phone on the above number.

Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. Please refer to the State Law Publisher (SLP) for copies of the relevant legislation, available electronically from the SLP website at www.slp.wa.gov.au.

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