



## Industry Regulation fact sheet

# Abattoir

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

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 either a licence or registration to operate.

Abattoirs are described in Category 15 of the EP Regulations:

### Category 15: Abattoir

Description of category	Production or design capacity
<b>Category 15</b>	
Abattoir: premises on which animals are slaughtered.	1,000 tonnes or more per year.

### Application

#### Interpretation

Category 15 covers the slaughtering of any animal species for human or animal consumption in an abattoir facility including, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, and poultry.

#### Production/design capacity

The production or design capacity for abattoirs is based on the hot carcass weight of slaughtered animals.

Abattoirs with a production or design capacity between 100 and 1,000 tonnes per year do not fall into Category 15. However, Abattoirs with a production or design capacity between 100 and 1,000 tonnes per year are regulated under the [Environmental Protection \(Abattoirs\) Regulations 2001](#).



## Environmental risk

Abattoirs 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 abattoirs includes:

- odour;
- solid and liquid wastes (for example manure; blood; paunch and offal; washdown water);
- potentially contaminated stormwater;
- noise;
- biogas; and
- dust (from the movement of vehicles or animals and so on).

## 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 assessments](#), detail the approach taken by the Department in assessing applications for works approvals and licences under Part V of the EP Act.

In assessing applications for works approvals and licences for Category 15 premises, DWER will assess emissions and discharges from the primary abattoir activity and infrastructure, including any directly related activities that give rise to emissions and discharges, including:

- lairage yards;
- abattoir buildings;
- waste treatment and storage areas and their use (including activities producing wastes, such as rendering or fellmongery; and wastewater treatment systems); and
- wastewater irrigation and solid waste application areas.

DWER will 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.



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## More Information

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

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

Additional publications about Industry Regulation are available online at [www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/licences-and-works-approvals/publications](http://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/licences-and-works-approvals/publications) 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](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au).

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