

Development Licence assessment summary

Environment Protection Act 2017



Application number	APP001686
Applicant name	Water Sustainability Farm Pty Ltd
ACN	648463003
ABN	74648463003
Registered address	1324 Blue Ribbon Road Kalkee Victoria 3401 Australia
Development activity, address and proposal	A04 Industrial Wastewater Treatment Lanes Avenue, Quantong Construct two solar drying evaporation basins for the processing of brine waste a food manufacturing by-product
Decision	Licence issued
Decision date	29/3/2021
Delegated decision maker	Quentin Cooke Team Leader - Permissioning

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Application overview

Water Sustainability Farm Pty Ltd is a Registered company. On 5 March 2021, Water Sustainability Farm Pty Ltd applied to Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for a development licence under section 50(1)(c)(i) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (the Act). The proposal is to build two clay lined evaporation ponds with road access from Lindners road, Quantong. An average of 57,600 L/day will be transported to the property and discharged into evaporation basins (approximately 21 ML/year).

Community consultation and submissions

In accordance with Section 19B(3)(b) of the Environment Protection Act 1970, a notice of application for a works approval was published on the EPA Vic website. The application (1004341) was advertised in the Herald Sun and Horsham Times on Friday 2 April 2021. The public comment period closed on 30 April 2021. A total of 28 submissions were received. All submissions have been published on Engage Victoria website .

During this period, 28 submissions were received from the public. All comments were considered during the assessment of the application. The key issues raised relate to:

- Concerns about pollution from leakages and emissions from the brine – their impact on biodiversity, groundwater.
- Nature of the waste – its toxicity and concerns of waste being brought onsite without permission.
- Impact on residents from Noise, dust & odour.

Due to the level of public interest, EPA convened a conference under Section 20B of the Environment Protection Act 1970, the conference was held at the Quantong Recreation Reserve on Wednesday 26 May 2021 from 7:00 to 8:50pm. Reiterating the concerns outlined above.

Assessment and decision

The EPA assessed the application against all requirements under section 69(3) of the Act. Focusing on potential leakages, their impact on groundwater, surface water, as well as potential noise and odour concerns.

It was estimated that the proposed activities of the ponds were subject to separation distances that would be consistent with guidelines for noise and odour impacts (EPA Publication 1826.4 & 1518).

Potential surface water issues were addressed through a turkey nest design which would contain 1 in 100 year rainfalls and insure no waste water will overflow affecting surroundings.

The EPA has set conditions that will ensure the design of the clay liner are consistent with best practice (Landfill BPEM, 2015; EPA Publication 788.3), the clay liner will be designed to a high permeability standard which will minimise seepage, minimising harm to groundwater and potential soil salinisation.

On 29 March 2022, the development licence was issued under section 69(1)(a) of the Act. The development licence is subject to conditions. The application is proposed to be undertaken in a way that meets environmental standards.

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