



# Development Licence assessment summary

Environment Protection Act 2017

<b>Application number</b>	APP002180
<b>Applicant name</b>	SONAC AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
<b>ACN</b>	155858601
<b>ABN</b>	52155858601
<b>Registered address</b>	281 Maryborough - Dunolly Rd Maryborough VIC 3465 Australia
<b>Development activity, address and proposal</b>	D02 (Rendering) 281 Maryborough-dunolly Road, Havelock, Victoria, 3465, Australia  Production expansion of blood rendering facilities. Construction of new wastewater treatment plant, box drying system, warehouse and associated buildings, stormwater management system, enclosed truck loading bay and maintenance facility.
<b>Decision</b>	Licence issued
<b>Decision date</b>	19 December 2022
<b>Delegated decision maker</b>	<b>Name</b> Richard Hook <b>Position</b> Team Leader, Approvals

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## Application overview

SONAC AUSTRALIA PTY LTD is a Registered company based in Maryborough. On 10/11/2021, SONAC AUSTRALIA 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 for the expansion of the existing blood rendering facilities in a two-staged process from 30,000 to 55,000 tonnes per annum. The scope of this development licence application is limited to stage one only, which includes: installation of a new wastewater treatment plant, box drying and dewatering systems, enclosed truck loading shed and maintenance building, new access road and associated ancillary buildings.

## Community consultation, submissions and referrals

Under section 52 of the Act, a notice of application for the development licence was published on the EPA Victoria website and advertised in the Maryborough Advertiser from 25 March 2022 to 15 April 2022. No responses or submissions were received from the public consultation period.

In accordance with section 69(2) of the Act and section 22 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) and Central Highlands Water (CHW) were conferred for comment on the applicant's application for a development licence. Neither agency objected to the applicant's proposal. Their comments are included in the full assessment report.

## Assessment and decision

EPA assessed the application against all requirements under section 69(3) of the Act, and other relevant acts including the Climate Change Act 2017.

The proposal to increase production capacity also increases the risk to human health and the environment, with the potential to affect emissions to air, emissions of odour, noise, pollution to land, groundwater, and surface water. In assessing the applicant's proposal, EPA's Science Division was consulted to assist in the understanding of the risks to human health and the environment associated with animal blood rendering. The proposed design and operational controls have been assessed as suitable in managing these risks and protecting the environmental values for air, ambient sound, land, and water.

The applicant has demonstrated compliance with the General Environmental Duty through operational and design controls. The chosen design of the proposed equipment incorporates the operational controls to manage risks of harm in line with its likelihood and consequence. The operation of the activity is representative of established methods at the commercial scale. The proposal has also adopted measures that can be considered as the best available techniques and technologies.

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Sonac is considered a Fit and Proper Person in accordance with Section 66 of the Act.

A condition of the permission requires the development of a Health and Environment Management Plan (HEMP) to provide an overall risk assessment and the related communication, management, monitoring, auditing, and reporting required for the activity. The measures that will be undertaken to meet the performance objectives of the system will also be documented in the HEMP. Verification and commissioning of the activity will occur at the completion of works. Ongoing operation of the activity will require an amendment to the current EPA operating licence (OL0000244735).

On 19/12/2022, the development licence was issued under section 69(1)(a) of the Act. The development licence is subject to conditions.

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