

Appendix 3 Stakeholder correspondence



Our ref: RF4750-04
Enquiries: Karis Tingey
Tel: 9166 4124

Dale Champion
Australian Standard Agriculture
PO Box 216
BRIGHTON SA 5048

Via email dale@agrify.com.au
Cc: cameron@aus-standard.com
glenn@innovativegroundwater.com.au

Dear Dale

Additional information required for a licence under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*: Shamrock Station, La Grange

Thank you for your time and that of your colleagues, when you met with Department of Water staff in Broome the week of 13 March 2017. The meetings were highly valuable for my staff and I appreciate your commitment to working together with the Department to progress the water requirements for your irrigation proposal on Shamrock Station.

In order to progress our assessment of your proposal to abstract 22GL/annum on Shamrock Station, the Department requires the following information in accordance with Schedule 1, Division 2, Clause 4(1c) & (2) of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.

1. Evidence of appropriate legal access,
2. Public advertising of your proposal,
3. Submission of a H3 Hydrogeological Assessment Report, and
4. Submission of a draft Detailed Operating Strategy.

Further information on these matters is outlined below.

1. Legal access

Under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, the Department is unable to issue a licence to take water until appropriate legal access to the land is demonstrated. I believe you are applying for a Diversification Permit for your development and as such, the Department will need a copy of this before a licence is able to be issued.

Should the Department complete its assessment and legal access is yet to be obtained, we will issue you with a Notice of Intent to issue the licence pending legal access. This Notice of Intent will confirm the department's decision which will provide you with confidence that you will be a water licence entitlement.

2. Public advertising

Under Regulation 23 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Regulations 2000*, this application requires public notification due to the application being for greater than 100,000 kilolitres.

You are required to arrange for the publication of the attached advertisement, at your expense, in 'both the 'West Australian' and the 'Broome Advertiser'. As you have applied for 22GL, your public adverts will need to state that. Please note that the advertising of a licence application does not imply that a licence will be issued.

Proof of advertising, *i.e.* the actual newspaper page including newspaper name, date and page number, must be supplied to us within 30 days of the date of this letter. If we do not receive proof of advertising within this timeframe, we may return your application as incomplete.

Interested members of the public may make a written submission to us within 15 days of the publication of the advertisement. We will take into account any submissions before we make our final decision.

Further information on the requirements for the advertisement are outlined in the attachment 'Advertising your application' attached to this letter.

3. H3 Hydrogeological Assessment Report

As you are aware, you are required to carry out a hydrogeological assessment to demonstrate the sustainability of your proposed water abstraction and water management regime, and to identify risks that must be managed. Given the scale of your proposal, you are required to complete a H3 detailed hydrogeological assessment in accordance with *Operational policy 5.12 Hydrogeological reporting associated with a groundwater well licence* (attached).

The Department has already provided you advice during our meetings about the suitability of the scope of H3 as proposed by Glenn Harrington during the meetings in Broome. The Department looks forward to receiving the report.

4. Draft Detailed Operating Strategy

Given the scale of your proposal, you will be required to provide a Detailed Operating Strategy developed in accordance with *Operational Policy 5.08 Use of operating strategies in the water licensing process*, attached for your reference. An operating strategy is attached to a licence as a condition and outlines the monitoring and management requirements you must comply with. I recommend that you submit a draft Detailed Operating Strategy as soon as you can so we can identify appropriate monitoring and operating requirements. It may take several iterations through meetings and discussions until a final version can be confirmed.

Timeframe for submission

This letter is notifying you that you have until **17 November 2017** to provide the above information to us at the Kununurra office.

If you believe there are extenuating circumstances to justify why you cannot provide this information, you should write to us with these reasons.

Should the information (or an explanation of the extenuating circumstances) not be received by the due date, we may return your application to you as it is incomplete and there is insufficient information to allow us to make an informed decision.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in this letter or any other relevant matters, please do not hesitate to contact Karis Tingey on 9166 4124.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Humphreys', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Humphreys

**Regional Manager
North West Region**

16 May 2017

ADVERTISING YOUR APPLICATION

The text below is the required text for advertising. It is not to be altered in any way other than where there is an error in details relating to your application. Please ensure these details are correct and amend them if required. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that the correct details are advertised.

The department will answer general enquiries about your application. If you wish to provide a contact to answer specific enquiries, e.g. yourself or a consultant, please append the following line to the end of the advertisement:

Specific enquiries to **<insert contact name>**
on **<insert phone number, or address if preferred>**.

All matters regarding the publication of the advertisement, including cost, must be negotiated between you and the publisher. The advertisement is required to be published only once in the nominated paper/papers and can be published on any day. The only formatting requirement is that "Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914" must be in bold on a separate line at the top of the advertisement. Where the advertisement is published in The West Australian it must be published under Public Notices. The same applies for local newspapers where a Public Notices section is available.

Advertisement text:

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Consolidated Australian Pastoral Holdings Pty Ltd has made application for a licence under s5C to take 22 gigalitres per annum to irrigate pasture grasses on Shamrock Station, La Grange. People who are interested in the application, may make a written submission within 15 days of this publication to the Department of Water, PO Box 625 Kununurra WA 6743, quoting ref. RF4750. If you object to the proposal, you must in your submission specify what actions, if any, would overcome your objections. General enquiries to Karis Tingey at the Department on 9166 4124.

Memorandum

Date: 16 March 2017

To: Duncan Palmer (Operations Manager, Kimberley DOW)
Karis Tingey (Program Manager, Kimberley Licensing DOW)
Josephine Searle (Senior Hydrogeologist DOW)

From: Glenn Harrington (Director & Principal Hydrogeologist)

Cc: Cameron McDonald (Australian Standard Agriculture)
David Yu (Archstone Investment)

Subject: DOW Endorsement of H3 Hydrogeological Assessment approach for
Shamrock Station Stage 1 Irrigation Development

This memorandum provides a record of the key discussion points and agreed outcomes of meetings held between Australian Standard Agriculture, Innovative Groundwater Solutions and Department of Water in Broome on Monday 13th March 2017, and subsequently at Shamrock Station on Tuesday 14th March 2017.

1. Shamrock Station plans for staged development

ASA and IGS proposed a staged approach to water resources development for irrigation at Shamrock Station, acknowledging the complexities of numerous other permit and approvals processes that have the potential to undermine our water availability assessment. Stage 1 will focus on the northern boundary of the station, immediately east of the Great Northern Highway. It will comprise between 10-12 centre pivots of 40 Ha each and require 18 ML/Ha/yr. The crop irrigation requirement has been estimated in consultation with Chris Ham of DAFWA Broome utilizing local climate data. Accordingly, ASA will require an Annual Water Entitlement (AWE) of 8.64 GL for Stage 1, subject to satisfactory H3 assessment.

DOW endorsed the proposed staged approach and welcomed ASA's commitment to provide new knowledge and information as it comes to hand in order to facilitate ongoing publication of Evaluation Statements, as well as the imminent review of the 2010 La Grange Groundwater Allocation Plan.

2. Departmental approach for processing water licence applications

IGS and ASA sought further information on how DOW is planning to process and assess the unprecedented number of recent water licence applications in La Grange. All parties understood and appreciated that this was one of the key reasons for DOW staff to visit La Grange proponents at this time.

DOW advised that at present the current combined volume of all applications is in excess of 50 GL for the La Grange north and south sub-areas (i.e., exceeding the current allocation limit). However they also cautioned that applications were not going to be assessed on a first-in-first-served basis; instead each proponent's proposed development will be assessed on its individual merits with regards to predicted cumulative impacts on existing users of the resource (including groundwater dependent ecosystems) and the salt water interface.

3. IGS approach for Stage 1 H3 Hydrogeological Assessment

The attached Table from IGS' presentation is provided to summarise our approach to address each element of the H3 assessment, as detailed in the report DOW (2009) *Operational policy no. 5.12 – Hydrogeological reporting associated with a groundwater well licence*.

- a. IGS proposed and DOW agreed that recent findings of the DAFWA Royalties for Regions project in La Grange provide sufficient regional hydrogeological information and the best possible local-scale information on which to base the H3 assessment for Stage 1. Specific examples include the following:
 - i. baseline hydrochemistry analysis on both historical stock bores and new monitoring bores – two of which are located immediately up-gradient and down-gradient of the Stage 1 area;
 - ii. exploratory drilling of nested monitoring bores;
 - iii. AEM survey that has provided additional confidence in aquifer saturated thickness and position of the saltwater interface;
 - iv. IGS's recharge and flow investigation for DAFWA, the results of which form the key input data for the groundwater model; and
 - v. 48-hour constant rate aquifer pumping test performed by GCS on existing production bore PB1, which is within the Stage 1 development area.

IGS and ASA acknowledged that the same level of high-quality, local-scale hydrogeological information is not currently available in the areas proposed for Stages 2 and 3, and thus further investigation including drilling and aquifer pumping tests will be required in those areas over the next 1-3 years.

- b. IGS proposed – on basis of recent discussions with Drs. Richard George and Paul Raper – that the numerical groundwater flow model currently being

built by DAFWA would not be appropriate for the purpose of the H3 assessment for Shamrock. Accordingly, IGS will construct and calibrate a new numerical groundwater flow model for Shamrock and surrounds that utilises the same input data as being used for the DAFWA model, and that is consistent with industry best practice as outlined in the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines.

The new model will be calibrated in steady state to historical head measurements across the model domain, as well as the inferred position of the toe of the SWI. However, IGS noted that DAFWA now consider the mapped position of the SWI to be incorrect due to the presence of a fine-grained, conductive lithology at the base of the Broome Sandstone. Hence the position of the actual toe is believed to be several kilometers further west towards the coast.

IGS will simulate the impacts of proposed Stage 1 abstraction on water levels at existing licensed and unlicensed users, potential GDEs as mapped using NDVI, and the movement of the SWI.

- c. IGS and ASA committed to the drilling of additional production bores and monitoring bores for each stage of development, with Stage 1 drilling to commence after the AWE has been granted, and Stage 2/3 drilling to commence prior to application for additional water.

4. Data Requirements

a. Existing groundwater users – licensed

DOW requested that IGS include the simulation of current or potential future impacts caused by licensed abstraction at Shamrock Gardens, and agreed to provide the production bore locations and either metered or estimated monthly abstraction volumes.

b. Existing groundwater users – unlicensed

DOW requested that IGS also report predicted water level drawdown and, if relevant, impacts on the position of the SWI at Aboriginal community water supply bores to the west of Stage 1 near the coast. DOW agreed to provide the specific locations and any available details of groundwater abstraction for these communities.

Table 1. IGS approach to address H3 Hydrogeological Assessment

		Stage 1 (2017)	Stage 2 (2018)	Stage 3 (2019)
1	Introduction	Overview		
2	Climate/rainfall	Synthesis of BOM data		
3	Hydrogeology	Synthesis of previous works		
4	Existing groundwater use	Refer to LaGrange Evaluation Statements		
5	Groundwater investigations	DAFWA RfR Project Shamrock PB1	Install new Prod. & Mon. bores	Install new Prod. & Mon. bores
6	Drilling		Test New	Test New
7	Test pumping		Sample New	Sample New
8	Groundwater chemistry		Update Model	Update Model
9	Groundwater modelling	New Model	Update Model	Update Model
10	Assessment of potential impacts	Model Predictions at Agreed Receptors		
11	Groundwater monitoring	Install New	Install New	Install New
12	Management approach/conclusions	Staged development & knowledge generation		



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Parks and Wildlife**
Science and Conservation Division

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries: Fran Stanley

Phone: 9219 9977

Email: fran.stanley@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Mrs Karen Crews
General Manager
Phoenix Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd
1/511 Wanneroo Road
BALCATTA WA 6021

Dear Mrs Crews

RE: METHODOLOGY FOR BILBY SURVEY AT SHAMROCK STATION

I refer to your email dated 30 March 2017 to Bruce Greatwich in the Department of Parks and Wildlife's West Kimberley District regarding proposed greater bilby survey methodology to inform a native vegetation clearing application for a proposed irrigation project on Shamrock Station.

Parks and Wildlife is satisfied with the proposed greater bilby survey methodology that you have supplied.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Byrne
DIRECTOR SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

13 April 2017

From: Cameron McDonald <cameron@aus-standard.com>
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2017 2:09 PM
To: karen.crews
Subject: FW: Shamrock s120 permit

Fyi div permit

Regards

Cameron McDonald
Project Manager

M: 0455 477 655
E: cameron@aus-standard.com
W: <http://www.aus-standard.com/>

P.O. Box 216
BRIGHTON SA 5048



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From: Bailey, Helena [mailto:Helena.Bailey@lands.wa.gov.au]
Sent: Saturday, 16 September 2017 12:37 PM
To: Cameron McDonald <cameron@aus-standard.com>
Cc: Sidhu, Sundave <Sundave.Sidhu@lands.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Shamrock s120 permit

Hi Cameron,

Minutes from 31 August meeting have been signed off. The permit application for Shamrock was considered and I can confirm that the s120 permit was approved in principle pending the grant of the clearing permit under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

So the Board has no objection to the proposed permit however the diversification permit can't be issued until the clearing approval has been granted. Please let Sunny know once the clearing approval has come through and he can process accordingly.

Kind Regards and all the best!

Helena Bailey | Development Officer | Pastoral Lands
Level 11, 140 William Street, Perth, WA 6000
6552 4523
helena.bailey@lands.wa.gov.au | www.dplh.wa.gov.au



**Department of Planning,
Lands and Heritage**

*The departments of Planning, Lands, State Heritage Office
and the Aboriginal heritage and land functions of the
Department of Aboriginal Affairs have been amalgamated
to form the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.*

The department acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia as the traditional custodians of this land and we pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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