

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO CHANGE TO PROPOSAL DURING
ASSESSMENT**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

(a) Kalium Lakes Potash Pty Ltd (ABN: 92 601 436 060)
Unit 1, 152 Balcatta Rd
SUBURB WA POSTCODE

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project
Assessment No. 2138

Pursuant to section 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Environmental Protection Authority consents to the proponent making the following changes to the proposal during assessment without a revised proposal being referred:

The changes are detailed in Table 1 of Attachment 1 of this notice.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proponent may change the proposal as provided for in this notice.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.



Dr Tom Hatton
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIRMAN

12 March 2019

Attachment 1

Table 1: Proposed Changes since Referral of the Proposal

Proposal Element	Original Referral	Current Proposal (as per the submitted ERD).
Production outputs	Production of approximately 150 kilotonne per annum (ktpa) of SOP product and by-products.	Production of approximately 100 ktpa of SOP product and the potential to produce salt by-products.
Development Envelopes	2,153 hectares (ha) Brine and Access Development Envelope	1,898 ha Brine and Access Development Envelope
	2,050 ha Processing Development Envelope	1,974 ha Processing Development Envelope
	3,187 ha Salt Lake Development Envelope	3,184 ha Salt Lake Development Envelope
	20,980 ha Fresh Water Development Envelope	5,216 ha Fresh Water Development Envelope
Proposed Disturbance within the Fresh Water Development Envelope	Disturbance of no more than 40 ha within the 20,980 ha Fresh Water Development Envelope.	No additional disturbance within the 5,216 ha Fresh Water Development Envelope.
Excess Salt Disposal	Disposal of no more than 2,800 ktpa [a total of 64.4 million tonnes (Mt)] of excess salt into the Excess Salt Area.	Disposal of up to 50 Mt of excess salt into the excess salt stockpile.
<i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation limits	No limit proposed for <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation.	Direct disturbance of no more than 200 ha of <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation.
	No limit proposed for drawdown within <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation.	Less than 211 ha of <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation at Ten Mile Lake is to experience surficial aquifer drawdown of more than 0.5 m.
		Less than 142 ha of <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland vegetation at Lake Sunshine is to experience surficial aquifer drawdown of more than 0.5 m.
Fresh water abstraction	Abstraction of no more than 1.5 Gigalitre per annum (GLpa) of fresh groundwater.	Abstraction of no more than 1.5 GLpa of fresh groundwater within the Fresh Water Development Envelope, of which no more than 0.25 GLpa is to be abstracted from the Kumarina Fresh Water Source Area (FWSA).
		Drawdown of no more than 5 m within any bore at the calcrete portion of the Ten Mile South FWSA.
Additional infrastructure	-	The Proposal includes a RFDS airstrip

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STATEMENT OF REASONS

CONSENT TO CHANGE PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT

Proposal: Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project

Proponent: Kalium Lakes Potash Pty Ltd

Decision

For the reasons outlined below, the EPA has determined to consent to the Proponent changing the Proposal outlined in Schedule 1 attached to this Statement of Reasons.

Background

On 31 October 2017, Kalium Lakes Potash Pty Ltd referred the Proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Proposal included the development a sub-surface brine deposit to produce 100 kilotonne per annum (ktpa) of Sulphate of Potash product and the potential to produce salt by-products, approximately 160 kilometres south-southeast of Newman.

The EPA determined to assess the Proposal at the level of Environmental Review – no public review on 27 November 2017.

In advance of the EPA preparing a report on the outcome of its assessment of the Proposal, the Proponent has sought the EPA's consent to the proponent changing the Proposal.

Relevant Statutory and Administrative Provisions

Section 3.8 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Procedures Manual 2016 guides what information the EPA requires from a person wanting to change its proposal during assessment.

In considering the request for consent, the EPA considered the:

- details of the proposed change
- statement of the significance of the change and
- rationale for the change.

Materials considered in making this decision

In determining whether to consent to the proponent changing the proposal the EPA has considered the following:

1. Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project (Assessment No. 2138) – Section 43a Request (Kalium Lakes, 2019),
2. Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project -Environmental Review Document (Kalium Lakes, 2019),
3. consultation between the proponent and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Consideration

1. Nature of the proposed change

The changes are considered significant in terms of reduction of impacts of the proposal. The changes have been made as a result of issues raised during the environmental impact assessment process

The proposed changes are to:

- Reduce the area of the development envelopes from 28,370 hectares (ha) to 12, 272 ha.
- Reduce the total area of clearing from 1,473 ha to 1,433 ha.
- Reduce production of sulphate of potash from 150 ktpa to 100 ktpa.
- Reduce excess salt disposal from 64.4 million tonnes to 50 million tonnes.
- Inclusion of a RFDS airstrip
- Inclusion of additional limits in the key characteristics table to control the extent of environmental impacts, including the amount of groundwater drawdown and the area of direct impact on *Tecticornia* habitat.

2. Stage of the assessment process

Environmental review document was finalised in February 2019 – no public review is required

3. Currency, relevance and reliability of the information, including submissions

The information relating to the change is considered reliable and relevant. The change has been made a result of ongoing investigations into the proposal and so reflect recently available information.

4. Community engagement

Community engagement has not been undertaken in relation to the change. The proponent has consulted with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the changes, and the changes have been made to reduce the environmental impacts.

5. Level of public concern

There has been limited public concern in regards to the Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project. Two comments were received when the referral information for the proposal was advertised for comment.

Consideration of Whether the Change is Unlikely to Significantly Increase Any Impact that the Proposal May Have on the Environment

The following were considered:

- a) Values, sensitivity and the quality of the environment which is likely to be impacted

The proposal is in an area with limited historical disturbance. There are a number of significant environmental values in the development envelopes, including the lake systems proposed to be impacted. Additional studies on the environmental values have driven some of the proposed changes so as to reduce the environmental impact of the proposal.

- b) Extent (intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic footprint) of the likely impacts

The change would result in a reduction in intensity, magnitude and geographic footprint of the proposal and with no change to the duration of the proposal.

The changes are already reflected in the environmental review document for the Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project.

- c) Consequence of the likely impacts (or change)

The reduction on impacts has partly been a result of consultation between the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the proponent during the environmental impact assessment of the proposal. The proponent has amended the proposal to address issues raised, particularly to impacts on *Tecticornia* species, and provide further confidence on the extent of the impacts.

- d) Resilience of the environment to cope with the impacts or change

The proposed changes will reduce the impacts on conservation significant *Tecticornia* shrublands and stygofauna communities found within freshwater aquifers that would form the water source for the proposal.

- e) Cumulative impacts with other projects

The proposal is a greenfields project on a pastoral lease. There are no other foreseeable proposals nearby, including on the Beyondie Lakes. Therefore, the cumulative impacts are considered low

- f) Connections and interactions between parts of the environment to inform holistic view of impacts of the whole environment

The groundwater and surface water regimes of the Beyondie Lakes and surrounds drive many of the environmental values of the area, particularly flora and vegetation and subterranean fauna. The proposed change to the

proposal represent include a reduction in the impacts on the water regimes based on a better understanding of these regimes and as a result a reduction in the impact on the environmental values the water regimes support.

g) Level of confidence in the prediction of impacts and the success of proposed mitigation

The changes are a result ongoing investigation and studies. Therefore, there is a higher level of confidence in the prediction of the impacts related to the change to the proposal, and the impacts of the whole proposal in general. Mitigation of impacts is a key driver in making the changes.

h) Public interest about the likely effect of the proposal, if implemented, on the environment, and public information that informs the EPA's assessment

The proposal is being assessed as an Environmental review – no public review, which reflected limited public interest in the proposal.

Schedule 1

Change to Proposal

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