



Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Meekatharra
PO Box 129
MEEKATHARRA WA 6642

Your Ref:
Our Ref: CMS15133
Enquiries: Stephen Pavey, 6145 0800
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Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION UNDER SECTION 48A(1)(a)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

SCHEME: Shire of Meekatharra - Local Planning Scheme 4
LOCATION: Meekatharra Planning Scheme
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Shire of Meekatharra
DECISION: Scheme Not Assessed: Advice Given (no appeals)

Thank you for referring the above proposed scheme to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

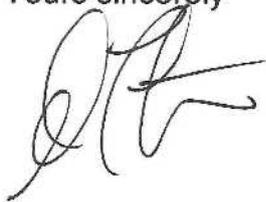
After consideration of the information provided by you, the EPA considers that the proposed scheme should not be assessed under Part IV Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) but nevertheless provides the attached advice and recommendations.

Please note the following:

- For the purposes of Part IV of the EP Act, the scheme is defined as an assessed scheme. In relation to the implementation of the scheme, please note the requirements of Part IV Division 4 of the EP Act.
- There is no appeal right in respect of the EPA's decision to not assess the scheme.

A copy of this letter and the attached advice and recommendations will be made available to the public via the EPA website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DF', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Darren Foster
Director
Strategic Policy and Planning Division

Delegate of the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority
Under Notice of Delegation No. 33 published 17 December 2013

22 June 2015

Encl. Scheme Advice and Recommendations

**ADVICE UNDER SECTION 48A(1)(a)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986**

Shire of Meekatharra Local Planning Scheme 4

Location: Shire of Meekatharra

Determination: Scheme Not Assessed – Advice Given (no appeals)

Determination Published: 22 June 2015

Summary

The Shire of Meekatharra has reviewed its existing Town Planning Scheme 3, which covers the Meekatharra town site only, and proposes to replace it with a new local planning scheme which will apply to the whole Shire.

The new scheme proposes to:

- Introduce Special Control Areas around various sites that produce emissions including waste water treatment plants, power generators, rubbish tips, chlorine store and a rifle range;
- Introduce a Conservation reserve and apply this to the Collier Range National Park and Aboriginal Lands Trust land in the north-eastern part of the Shire;
- Introduce a Recreation reserve and apply this to stock routes that traverse the Shire; and
- Introduce a Rural/Mining zone and apply this to the majority of the land outside of the Meekatharra town site which is currently not zoned.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has considered the scheme in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). In making its decision on whether to assess the scheme, the EPA has applied its 'Significance Framework' which relates to the extent to which the scheme meets the EPA's environmental objectives for the environmental factors.

The EPA considers that the scheme is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and does not warrant formal assessment under Part IV of the EP Act. The potential impacts from the scheme can be adequately managed to meet the EPA's objectives through the implementation of the responsible authority's scheme provisions, management plans and regulated through other statutory processes.

Advice and Recommendations regarding Environmental Factors

A very large land area, not included in the current Shire Town Planning Scheme 3, is proposed to be zoned Rural/Mining. There is very little information concerning the environmental values of most of this land. Notwithstanding the permitted land uses, any proposal that may have a significant impact on the environment will need to be referred to the EPA under section 38 of the EP Act.

The EPA also notes that proposals within the scheme area may require referral to the Department of the Environment (DotE) under the EPBC Act.