

**Summary of reasons for decision – Amendment of an approved proposal
and/or implementation conditions under section 45C of the *Environmental
Protection Act 1986***

Ministerial Statement:	645
Proposal Title	Kemerton Power Station, Kemerton
Approved Proposal:	The proposal includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a nominal 260-gigawatt hour per annum open cycle peaking power plant at Kemerton, using natural gas and liquid fuel backup.
Proponent:	RATCH – Australia Kemerton Pty Limited
Environment Online Reference Number:	AP-000433
Date Ministerial Statement first issued	09 February 2004
Dates of any approved changes to Approved Proposal	Six previous approved changes under section 45C of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> were approved on 10 October 2005, 20 April 2006, 19 December 2006, 06 December 2007, 05 September 2008, and 09 December 2008.
Date of proponent’s request to amend	The proponent applied to amend the proposal under section 45C of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> on 17 July 2023
Date additional information received	27 July 2023
Description of requested amendment(s) to approved proposal	<p>The proponent requests to amend the proposal subject of Ministerial Statement (MS) 645 for a period of 12 months to allow for an increase in annual power generation to meet the current market demands for peak electricity due to the reduced generation power from primary suppliers.</p> <p>The proposed changes include: increased annual generation limit of 2,139 GWh, change of plant operating modes such that Mode 1 Peaking operation can occur 30% of the time and Mode 2 Spinning Reserve to operate 50% of the time, overall increase to operating hours to 13,800 (6900 hours each for two generation turbines) from 2,000 hours (an</p>

	11,800 hour increase), increase in capacity factor from approximately 21% to approximately 80%, and natural gas consumption from six PJ to 46 PJ per annum.
Decision	The requested amendments to the Approved Proposal are not considered to be significant amendments. The amendments to the Approved Proposal are approved.

Environmental factors relevant to amendment(s):

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Air Quality
- Social Surroundings

Summary of review of whether an amendment should be approved under section 45c(1) Amendment xx	
Environmental Factor review	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions: A temporary increase in greenhouse gas emissions at Kemerton Power Station is expected over the 12 month period. Cumulatively, the total emissions associated with power generation to support the South West Interconnected System is expected to decrease, due to the reduction of supply from primary power stations which operate on coal. Kemerton power station operates on natural gas which emits approximately 39% lower greenhouse gas emissions per megawatt hour than the primary power stations.</p> <p>Air Quality: The intensity of air emissions will not increase per megawatt of energy generated at Kemerton Power Station. The increased operation time will likely temporarily reduce the ambient air quality, however it is considered that impacts can be managed by the air emissions management plan required by Condition 2 of MS 645.</p> <p>Social Surroundings: The operation of Kemerton Power Plant will utilise the same generation technology assessed and approved by MS 645 and peak noise emissions will not increase compared to the current operations. Noise impacts are controlled by the Noise Management Plan and regulated by Condition 2 of MS 925.</p>
Significance of requested amendment	<p>The short term increase (12 months) in operation hours at Kemerton Power Station is not considered significant under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p>The proposed changes will not alter the air emission rate or the greenhouse intensity of the approved proposal, but the total air emissions and greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase over the 12 months of implementation.</p>

Summary of consideration of amendment

The decision-maker has considered whether the proposed amendment would be a significant amendment in addition to the potential impacts of the amendments.

The EPA has considered:

- the cumulative environmental impacts
- the holistic impacts

- whether the environmental effects of the implementation of the proposal as amended will be consistent with the EPA's environmental factor objectives
- whether the proposal as amended would still be substantially the same character as the approved proposal.

Summary of decision

The decision-maker has considered the request to amend approved proposal and/or implementation conditions under section 45C(1) of the EP Act. The decision-maker considers the requested amendments to the Approved Proposal are not considered to be significant amendments.

Appeals: Decision not appealable.



Professor Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 11 August 2023