

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

Ministerial Statement:	1207
Proposal Title	Alkimos Seawater Desalination Plant
Approved Proposal:	<p>The construction and operation of a 100 GL per annum seawater desalination plant (SDP) and a 4.9 GL per annum groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) at the Alkimos water precinct.</p> <p>The source water for the desalination process will be delivered through the construction of a pipeline directly west of the proposed SDP. By-products of the desalination process will be returned further offshore to the marine environment through a separate pipeline.</p> <p>In order to distribute the drinking water into Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS), the project includes a 32.93 km pipeline from the Alkimos site to the Wanneroo Reservoir, and other significant distribution points along the pipe route (Figure 1A).</p>
Proponent:	Water Corporation
Environment Online Reference Number:	APP-0025132
Date Ministerial Statement first issued	10 August 2023
Date of proponent's request to amend	23 February 2024
Date additional information received	9 March 2024
Date application made public	NA
Description of requested amendment(s) to approved proposal	<p>Amend the proposal development envelope from 141.6 ha to 142.73 ha.</p> <p>Decrease the marine development envelope from 11.45 ha to 11.42 ha.</p> <p>Increase the terrestrial development envelope from 130.15 ha to 131.31 ha.</p> <p>Increase the extent of native vegetation that can be disturbed within the water treatment facility development envelope by 0.89 ha.</p> <p>Decrease the authorised extent of native vegetation that can be disturbed within the 16 metre wide integration pipeline disturbance footprint by 0.89 ha.</p>

Description of requested amendment(s) to implementation conditions	Amend conditions to reflect authorised extent of impacts.
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 the amendments:

- Flora and vegetation
- Landforms

Summary of review of whether an amendment should be approved under section 45C(1) Amendment 1

Environmental Factor review	<p>Flora and vegetation: The proposed amendment will result in a net increase in the extent of clearing of Acacia shrublands on taller dunes, southern Swan Coastal Plain ('floristic community type (FCT) 29b') of 0.89 ha. The proposed additional clearing is considered a small incremental increase, and the impact of the proposed change can be managed under the existing approval and conditions for the proposal. The additional impact to the Acacia shrubland PEC is included in the change to condition B1-1 to reflect the change in the authorised extent of impact as a result of the amendment. There is no change in impacts to any other ecological communities for which impact is authorised in the implementation conditions and no new or additional ecological communities will be impacted as a result of the proposed amendment. The proponent is not proposing an increase in the authorised extent of clearing of native vegetation within the terrestrial development envelope and will minimise impacts through the detailed design process to ensure currently authorised extents are not exceeded. Considering the above, the EPA's objective for flora and vegetation is likely to be met.</p> <p>Landforms: The proposed amendment will result in a net increase in disturbance of the Alkimos Dune Complex as a result of the proposal of 0.94 ha. The additional disturbance includes an increase in disturbance of 0.24 ha of the Quindalup South third dune phase, increasing the extent of impact to this dune phase as a result of the proposal from 16.58 ha to 16.82 ha. The additional impact to the Alkimos Dune Complex is in an area that was considered by the EPA in Report 1739 in its cumulative impact in the immediate area of the proposal. When considered cumulatively, the proposed amendment to the proposal would not result in an increase in the cumulative impact to the Alkimos Dune Complex. The proposed additional disturbance as a result of the proposal is considered to be a small incremental increase and the impact of the proposed change can be managed under the existing approvals and conditions for the proposal. The additional disturbance to the Alkimos Dune Complex is included in the change to condition B3-1 to reflect the change to the authorised extent of this landform that can be disturbed as a result of implementation of the proposal. Considering the above, the EPA's objective for landforms is likely to be met.</p>
Controls on implementation, including relevant DMA processes	Existing Statement 1207 includes conditions to minimise and manage impacts to flora and vegetation and landforms (conditions B1 and B3) and ensure consistency with the EPA's objectives by requiring:

(where relevant), for amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limits to the extent of authorised impact to flora and vegetation and landforms (conditions B1-1 and B3-1) • rehabilitation and stabilisation of the westerly-facing berm (condition B3-2) • preparation of an environmental management plan that demonstrates how the environmental objective for landforms will be achieved (condition B3-4).
Significance of requested amendment	<p>In view of the small extent and nature of the clearing and disturbance in an area identified for urban development, the proposed increase in the development envelope is not likely to have a significant effect, on its own or in the context of the existing Approved Proposal, on the environment.</p> <p>When the proposed increase is considered cumulatively with the Approved Proposal, it does not represent a material increase in effects on the environment. There is not likely to be any change to environmental outcomes, and the EPA’s objective is still likely to be met for all relevant factors.</p> <p>The changes to the implementation conditions are not considered to be significant amendments.</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 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.

Attachments:

- Amended Proposal content document
- Figures showing changes

Appeals: Decision not appealable.



Professor Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 17 April 2024