

Environmental Assessment
Report

**Stowport Abattoir
Expansion**

Stowport

Footrot Flats Pty Ltd

December 2021



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Environmental Assessment Report

Proponent	Footrot Flats Pty Ltd
Proposal	Stowport Abattoir Expansion
Location	Stowport, northwest Tasmania
EPN no.	10131/1
Electronic Folder No.	EN-EM-EV-DE-256507
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Class of Assessment	2A

Assessment Process Milestones

11 February 2019	Notice of Intent lodged
25 March 2019	Guidelines Issued
28 November 2020	Start of public consultation period
12 December 2020	End of public consultation period
25 November 2021	Additional information (Supplement) accepted by the Board
3 December 2021	Date draft conditions issued to proponent
5 January 2022	Statutory period for assessment ends

Acronyms

Board	Board of the Environment Protection Authority
EER	Environmental Effects Report
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EMPC Act	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>
EMPCS	Environmental management and pollution control system
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)</i>
LUPA Act	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>
OU	Odour Units
RMPS	Resource management and planning system
SD	Sustainable development

Report Summary

This report provides an environmental assessment of a proposed expansion of Stowport Abattoir by Footrot Flats Pty Ltd.

The proposal involves a significant increase in production at the existing abattoir from 44 head a week (15-30 sheep, 4 cattle and 8-10 pigs) to 585 head a week (450 sheep, 80 cattle, 25 calves and 30 pigs), increasing throughput by 1000%. The existing abattoir is located in Stowport, approximately eight kilometres south of Burnie in northwest Tasmania.

It should be noted that the expansion of the Stowport Abattoir from 44 head per week (in 2018) to 511 head per week in October 2018 has already occurred due to the closure of the Devonport City Abattoir (DCA) operated by JBS, in October 2018. The State Government (Department of State Growth) has been supporting the Stowport Abattoir to ensure a northwest abattoir was able to “fill the gap” from the closure of DCA. An Environment Protection Notice (EPN) no. 10078/1 was issued by the EPA on 14 January 2019 to regulate potential environmental impacts as a result of an increase in throughput at the existing abattoir.

This report has been prepared based on information provided in the Environmental Effects Report (EER) and Supplement to the EER. Relevant government agencies and the public were consulted, and their submissions, representations and comments considered as part of the assessment.

On 16 December 2020, the Board requested that the proponent submit additional information to address relevant issues raised during the public inspection period and to meet other information requirements. The proponent submitted satisfactory additional information on 25 November 2021, in the form of a Supplement to the EER.

Further details of the assessment process are presented in section 1 of this report. Section 2 describes the statutory objectives and principles underpinning the assessment. Details of the proposal are provided in section 3. Section 4 reviews the need for the proposal and considers the alternatives. Section 5 summarises the public and agency consultation process and the key issues raised in that process. The detailed evaluation of environmental issues is contained in section 6. Other issues are discussed in section 7. The report conclusions are contained in section 8.

Appendix 1 details of matters raised by the public and referral agencies during the consultation process. Appendix 2 contains a list of commitments made by the proponent. Appendix 3 contains the environment protection notice for the proposal. The environmental conditions in Appendix 2 are a new set of operating conditions for the entire, intensified activity that will supersede the existing environment protection notice.

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I Approval Process

As required by section 27(1) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act), Footrot Flats Pty Ltd referred the proposal to the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board) on 11 February 2019. The proposal is defined as a 'level 2 activity' under clause 4(a), schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act), being an Abattoir and Slaughterhouse.

The Board required that an Environmental Effects Report (EER) be provided to support the proposal, prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Board on 25 March 2019.

One draft of the EER was submitted to EPA Tasmania for review against the guidelines before it was finalised. The EER was released for public inspection for 14 days commencing on 28 November 2020. An advertisement was placed in *the Advocate* and on the EPA website. Two representations were received.

On 17 December 2020, the Board requested that the proponent submit additional information to address matters raised during the public consultation period. The proponent submitted satisfactory additional information on 25 November 2021.

2 SD Objectives and EIA Principles

The proposal must be considered by the Board in the context of the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (RMPS), and in the context of the objectives of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control System (EMPCS) (both sets of objectives are specified in Schedule 1 the EMPC Act). The functions of the Board are to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act, and in particular to use its best endeavours to further the RMPS and EMPCS objectives.

The Board must assess the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Principles defined in Section 74 of the EMPC Act.

3 The Proposal

The proposal involves an increase in production at the existing Stowport Abattoir, located at 5 Warra Road, Stowport, approximately eight kilometres (km) south of Burnie in northwest Tasmania, refer to Figure 1. The existing abattoir commenced operations at the current site in the 1990s, in accordance with a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1994*, issued by the Burnie City Council (DA96/068A).

No additional buildings are required on the site to accommodate the increase in production.

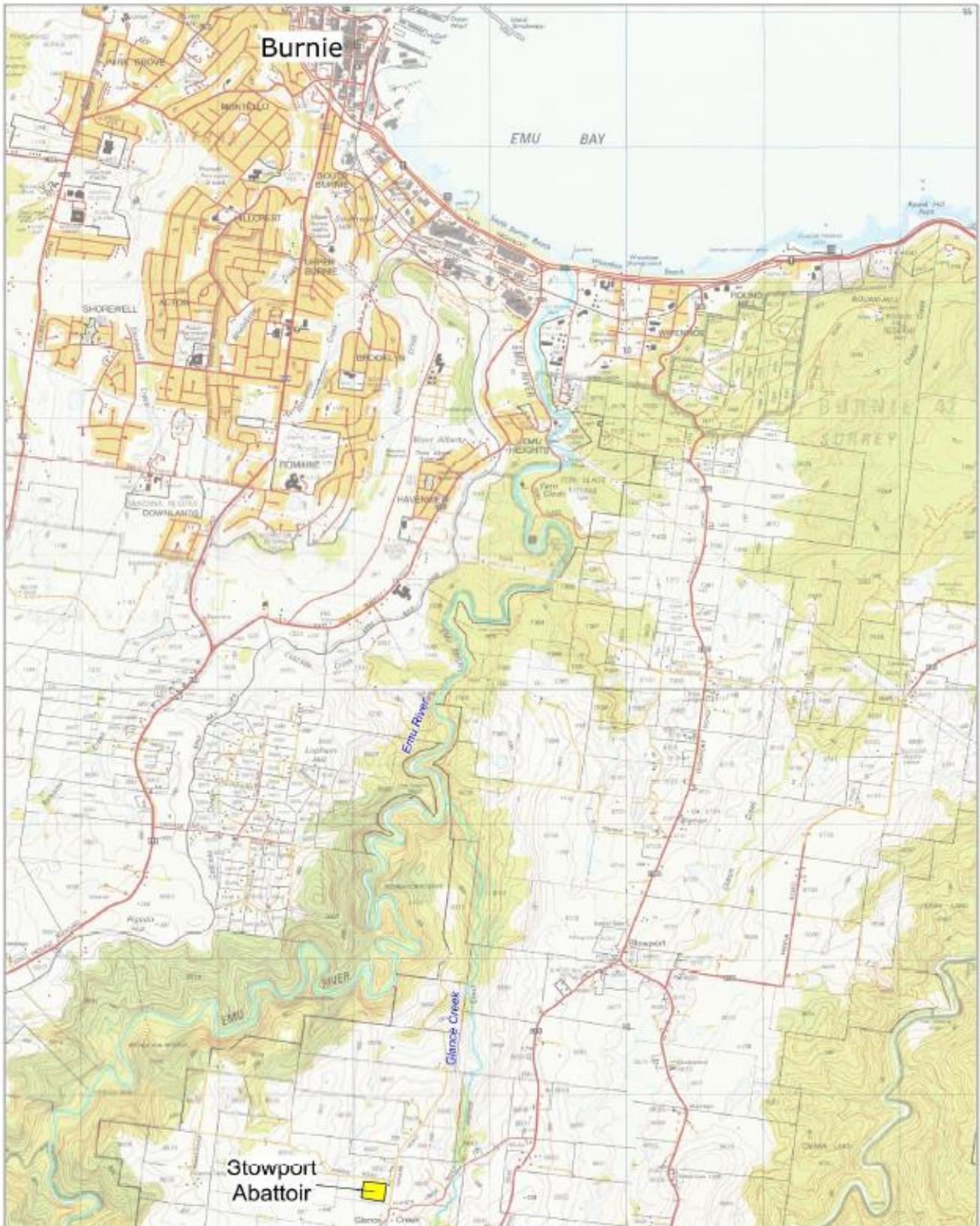
The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1. A detailed description of the proposal is provided in Section 2 of the EER.

Table 1: Summary of the proposal’s main characteristics

Activity	
Operation of an abattoir and slaughterhouse up to 1,625 tonnes per annum.	
Location and planning context	
Location	The abattoir is located at 5 Warra Road, Stowport, approximately 8 km south of Burnie. Refer Figure 1.
Land zoning	Agriculture under the <i>Tasmanian Planning Scheme 2020</i> and the <i>Burnie Local Provisions Schedule (BUR LPS)</i> .
Land tenure	Private freehold
Existing site	
Land Use	The 2.15 hectare (ha) site is an existing abattoir which commenced operations in the 1990s.
Topography	The site is located on a low hill (approximately 230 m above sea level) with a slight gradient down to the west and east.
Geology and Soils	Soils in the area are classified as Ferrosols and are developed on tertiary bedrock and colluvium on undulating to rolling (3-32%) hills between altitudes of 160 m and 300 m. There are no acid sulphate soils on site or in the vicinity of the property, according to the LIST map.
Hydrology	No watercourses are present on the site. Glance Creek is located approximately 500 m east of the site and flows from south to north. The Emu River is located 2 km west of the site.
Natural Values	The abattoir is located on existing agricultural farmland. There is no native vegetation on or adjacent to the property. Both the site and surrounding area are classified as Agricultural land (FAG) according to TASVEG 4.0.
Local region	
Climate	The region is characterised by a cool, wet climate, with a mean annual rainfall of 957.1 mm. Wind direction is predominantly easterly and westerly in the morning with westerly, south westerly, and easterly winds in the afternoons.
Surrounding land zoning, tenure and uses	The surrounding land use is predominantly farmland which is all private freehold and zoned Agriculture under the <i>Tasmanian Planning Scheme 2020</i> and the <i>BUR LPS</i> . There are a number of residents in close proximity to the abattoir (within 200 m) to the north, north-east and south-east. The closest reserve to the site is the Emu River Conservation Area which is over 1.4 km to the west.

Species of conservation significance	<p>There are no threatened vegetation communities on site or adjacent to the site. The closest threatened vegetation community is a wetland (saltmarsh and wetland (AWU)) which is approximately 500 m north of the site. Glance Creek, over 500 m to the east has a record of the giant freshwater crayfish, <i>Astacopsis Gouldii</i>. There is also a singular record of the swift parrot and the Tasmanian devil within one km of the site.</p> <p>No threatened flora was identified within 5 km of the site.</p>
Proposed infrastructure	
Major equipment	<p>The new equipment installed at the site as a result of the expansion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 24,000 L below ground plastic storage tanks, receiving wastewater from the processing area; • One 18,000 L below ground plastic storage tank, receiving wastewater from the stockyard washdown; and • Wastewater delivery truck (8,000 L capacity).
Other infrastructure	No additional buildings are required on site to accommodate the increase in production.
Inputs	
Water	Water is sourced from a groundwater bore located approximately 150 m southeast of the facility.
Energy	Currently, diesel generator. Proposed to connect to three-phase power from the electricity network.
Other raw materials	585 head a week (450 sheep, 80 cattle, 25 calves and 30 pigs)
Wastes and emissions	
Liquid	<p>33,000 L of wastewater from the process and stockyard is currently transported off-site to TasWater's Ulverstone sewage treatment plant (STP). This is expected to increase to 35,000 L when the site is at maximum capacity.</p> <p>Refer to section 6 Issue 1 of this report for further details.</p>
Atmospheric	<p>Odour is emitted from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stockyards • Wastewater storage tanks • Paunch and offal discharge from the slaughter floor • Paunch, offal, and carcass storage. <p>Refer to section 6 Issue 3 for odour assessment.</p> <p>Potential dust emissions from internal roads.</p>
Solid	<p>Solid wastes streams include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paunch, viscera, and blood (2 tonnes per day/ 10 tonnes per week) • Offal (15 tonnes per week) • Animal skins • Solids collected from screening stockyard wastewater (2,000 – 3,000 L per week) • General waste such as plastic and site rubbish. <p>Refer to section 6 Issue 2 for further details.</p>
Controlled wastes	With the exception of animal waste and residues, there are no additional controlled wastes generated at the site.

Wastes and emissions	
Noise	<p>Noise is emitted from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diesel generator package unit • Refrigeration compressor • Diesel pump • Steam cleaning of transport trucks • Front end loader (movement of paunch material to waste bins) • Truck transport of paunch material, wastewater, and butchered meat • Forklift. <p>Refer to section 6 Issue 4 for further details.</p>
Greenhouse gases	Emissions from diesel generator and vehicle transport.
Operations	
Operating hours	<p>Monday to Friday between the hours of 6.00 am and 6.00 pm.</p> <p>Animals are delivered on Sunday afternoon, for processing on Monday.</p>
Other key characteristics	
<p>Currently all liquid and solid waste is transported off-site for disposal. The Land does not have the capacity to manage the liquid or solid waste generated by the abattoir on site.</p>	



<p>General Location Map Stowport Abattoir</p>	 <p>pinion ADVISORY</p> <p>Pinion Advisory Pty Ltd 112 Wilson Street Bass Devonport Tas 7530 Ph: 0429 671 080 www.pinionadvisory.com</p>	<p>0 375 750 metres</p> <p>1 : 26,000 @ A3</p> <p>Print Date: 20th April 2021 Reviewed: 03/04/21 (June 9) Compiled by: PHS/Lalmer Reference: Stow04</p> 	<p>LEGEND</p> <p> Stowport Abattoir</p> <p> Major Watercourse</p>	
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Figure 1 – site location



Figure 2 – Site plan

4 Need for the Proposal and Alternatives

According to the Environmental Effects Report (EER) the expansion of the Stowport abattoir is key to the long-term viability of the meat industry in Tasmania. An abattoir that can process meat in the north-west of Tasmania is beneficial for the local and state economy.

The expansion of the Stowport abattoir was a result of the closure of the Devonport City Abattoir (DCA) operated by JBS Australia, in October 2018. Stowport abattoir has significantly greater processing capacity than other small plants in the region and is unlikely to be replaced by mobile abattoirs. The State Government publicly indicated its support for the Stowport abattoir to fill the gap created by the closure of DCA and assisted with the required upgrades, including grants to expand refrigeration and lairage.

Seven staff made redundant from the DCA site have been employed at Stowport Abattoir. The abattoir expansion provides a positive contribution to the economic well-being of the butchers and retail facilities that the abattoir services.

The Stowport Abattoir currently employs eight to ten people. The expansion will mean an extra two to three people.

No alternative options or locations have been considered as the expansion is required to occur at the existing site.

5 Public and Agency Consultation

A summary of the public representations and government agency/body submissions is contained in Appendix I of this report.

Two public representations were received. The main issues raised in the representations included:

- Odour
- Waste management

The following areas also provided advice on the EER:

- Regulatory Officer, EPA
- Air Specialist, EPA
- Noise Specialist, EPA

The Supplement to the EER prepared by the proponent provides a response to relevant environmental issues raised during public consultation.

6 Evaluation of Environmental Issues

The EPA has evaluated environmental issues considered relevant to the proposal. Details of this evaluation, along with the conditions required by the Board, are discussed below:

The following issues are discussed:

1. Wastewater
2. Solid wastes
3. Odour emissions
4. Noise emissions
5. Natural values
6. Decommissioning and rehabilitation

General conditions

The following general conditions will be imposed on the activity:

- G1 Maximum quantities
- G2 Access to and awareness of conditions and associated documents
- G3 Incident response
- G4 No changes without approval
- G5 Change of responsibility
- G6 Change of ownership
- G7 Complaints register

Issue 1: Wastewater

Description of potential impacts

Weekly water meter readings for July 2021 show water usage of approximately 9,351 L/week, which is consistent with readings from February 2021. Daily and weekly water meter readings from February 2019, as required by EPN 10078/1¹ condition M3, did not occur.

Up until August 2019, wastewater from the processing area and stockyards was discharged by underground pipe to an unlined settling pond on the south-western boundary of the property. The pond, which has now been decommissioned, was pumped out by Veolia Waste Management every two to three days.

According to the EER, the current volume of wastewater generated is not expected to increase significantly, as a similar daily cleaning schedule is anticipated.

Wastewater from the abattoir is from three different streams:

1. Washdown water from the processing (slaughter) area.

Wastewater from the processing area consists of fats, oils and blood and is collected in two 24,000 L below ground plastic tanks. An estimated 24,000 L per week is transported off site, by truck, to TasWater's Ulverstone STP. An 8,000 L tank is used to transport the process water three times per week.

The future volume of process water is anticipated to be 25,000 L per week.

2. Washdown water from the stockyards area.

Wastewater from the stockyards consists of manure and urine from cattle, sheep and pigs and is collected in an 18,000 L below ground plastic tank. Solids from this waste stream are screened, collected, and transported to Dulverton Waste facility with other solid waste.

The volume of stockyard wastewater is not known. However, based on an 18,000 L tank being emptied up to every two weeks (9,000 L per week), it is estimated that between 1,500 L and 2,000 L per day is produced, according to the EER. Stockyard water is transported by truck to TasWater's Ulverstone STP.

The future volume of stockyard washdown water is estimated to be 10,000 L per week.

3. Domestic wastewater from toilets and showers.

Domestic wastewater from toilets and showers is collected separately from other wastewater streams and is treated on site in a standard septic tank system, located near the main abattoir building. The capacity of the septic system is unknown, although it has operated for 13 years with no issues noted.

Surface water

The closest water course to the site is Glance Creek, approximately 500 m east. The EER considers it unlikely that surface water runoff from the site will discharge to the creek due to the distance.

A representor identified an additional waterway to the west of the site, which leads to a threatened wetland community within 500 m to the north. This drainage line is shown on the topographic map but is not visible from aerial photos. It is considered unlikely that surface water runoff would discharge to this waterway given the distance from the site.

Description of potential impacts

Groundwater

Water for the abattoir is sourced from an existing bore located in the neighbouring property, approximately 150 m south-east of the main abattoir building.

At the time of submission of the EER (November 2020), monitoring of groundwater had not been undertaken in accordance with EPN 10078/1. Extraction rate information (required by EPN condition M3) was not provided and sampling had not been undertaken quarterly in accordance with Table 1 (EPN condition M2). One groundwater sample was collected in December 2019 and one in March 2020 by Stowport Abattoir personnel. The March 2020 results indicated elevated levels of thermotolerant coliforms (160 CFU/100 mL) in the groundwater, a key indicator of faecal contamination. The cause of the elevated result was unknown. According to the Supplement, the elevated result may have occurred through contamination of the pipe/tap during sampling or agricultural activities around the bore, i.e. livestock grazing or application of manure.

Quarterly groundwater monitoring commenced in January 2021. Table 1 of the Groundwater Monitoring Report², indicates that groundwater quality has remained relatively stable since January 2021, with some variability in nitrogen. Total nitrogen concentrations have decreased, with the latest result at 4.5 mg/L. The thermotolerant coliforms have been consistently low (<10CFU/100ml) since January 2021.

Management measures proposed in EER

Proposed management measure:

7 - Stowport Abattoir will conduct groundwater monitoring on a quarterly basis as outlined in EPN10078/1.

Measures implemented at the Stowport Abattoir to prevent wastewater spills and overflow events, as detailed in the Supplement to the EER include:

- Wastewater tank levels are checked daily by site personnel and pumped out immediately if required.
- The stockyard washdown wastewater screen (located at the inlet to the tank) is checked daily by site personnel and cleaned to prevent the build-up of solids, blockages, and overflow events.
- Wastewater tanks are of sufficient capacity to accommodate the volume of wastewater.
- Overflow from the first tank is directed into the second tank and allows site personnel enough time to empty the first tank. All wastewater tanks (and solids screened from the stockyard) are situated in concreted bunds to contain any potential spill or overflow events.

¹ Issued by Director, EPA, in January 2019.

² Pinion advisory, Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Report, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Stowport Abattoir, August 2021.

Proposed future management

Stowport Abattoir engaged Macquarie Franklin to prepare a draft Wastewater and Paunch Reuse Management Plan³ (the Plan) for reuse of wastewater and paunch produced at the Stowport Abattoir site. The Plan is required by EPN 10078/1 conditions WR1 and WM2 prior to the reuse of wastewater or paunch. The plan detailed the proposed use of a farm property, 38 ha in area, located at 51 Clarkes Road, Upper Stowport, approximately 4.5 km south of the abattoir site for both irrigation of wastewater and spreading of paunch. Since submission of the Plan, the site at 51 Clarkes Road is no longer available. The proponent will continue to search for an alternative site for reuse.

Irrigation of wastewater and spreading of paunch must not commence until the Plan has been approved in writing by the Director. This will be managed through the Environmental Operations North Environmental Officer and is not considered part of this assessment.

Public and agency comment

Two representations were received.

One representation was concerned the release of wastewater from wastewater tanks flowing off-site in the south-west corner could impact groundwater.

The second representation was concerned about elevated levels of thermotolerant coliform concentrations detected in the groundwater sample.

Evaluation

Abattoir wastewater storage has been improved on the site from the previously used unlined and undersized pond, to the use of below ground plastic tanks. However, at the time of submission of the EER (November 2020) wastewater tanks were not emptied regularly, contributing to odour emissions emanating from the site. As a result, condition **(E3)** is required to ensure wastewater is transported to Ulverstone STP a minimum of twice per week.

Conditions **E1**, **E2**, **E3**, **E4** and **E5** are required to ensure that all wastewater from the site is appropriately captured, held, and disposed of to reduce potential impact from odour emissions, spills and overflows.

Before January 2021, Stowport Abattoir was not measuring water usage at the site as required by EPN 10078/1 condition M3. It is noted that this has now been rectified and regular measurements have been undertaken since January 2021.

Groundwater monitoring was also not being undertaken at the site in accordance with EPN 10078/1 condition M2. This was of concern, particularly given the elevated thermotolerant coliform results from one sample. It is noted that since January 2021, Pinion Advisory has been commissioned to undertake quarterly groundwater monitoring in accordance with condition M2 and results since this time have shown groundwater quality to be relatively stable, with thermotolerant coliform levels <10CFU/100 ml.

Stowport Abattoir will be expected to comply with existing EPN 10078/1 conditions, M2 and M3, involving collection of water usage data at the site and quarterly monitoring to ensure

³ Macquarie Franklin, 2020, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Wastewater and Paunch Reuse Management Plan, Stowport Abattoir, June 2020, Draft.

groundwater quality in the vicinity of the site is not adversely affected. These conditions (**M2** and **M3**) are required below.

There is a risk of spills from wastewater in the vicinity of the three underground storage tanks (during the pumping out of wastewater for transportation off-site). The original wastewater tanks installed in August 2019 were decommissioned and replaced with new tanks in August 2021. New concrete bunding was constructed around all three tanks at this time. There have been no spills or overflow events since the new tanks and bunding were installed, according to the EER Supplement. A condition (**E5**) will be required to ensure all three underground tanks are bunded effectively to contain any spills of wastewater to the land.

With the appropriate bunding of wastewater tanks and the implementation of management measures outlined above to prevent wastewater spills and overflow events, it is considered the likelihood of wastewater spills at the site will be reduced. Compliance with the effluent disposal conditions (E1 to E5) will reduce the potential impacts from poor wastewater management practices.

Should Stowport Abattoir wish to irrigate wastewater from the site, a Wastewater Management Plan must be submitted to the Director for approval, prior to any wastewater irrigation. This is required by the existing EPN 10078/1 WRI and is also required by condition **WRI** below to ensure best practice environmental management is applied to wastewater storage treatment and re-use.

Conclusion

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

- M2** Groundwater monitoring
- M3** Abattoir water usage
- E1** Solid matter in wastewater
- E2** Wastewater management
- E3** Wastewater disposal
- E4** Design and maintenance of wastewater holding system
- E5** Bunding of wastewater holding system
- WRI** Wastewater Management Plan

Issue 2: Solid waste
Description of potential impacts
<p>Inappropriate management of slaughter waste can give rise to ground or surface water contamination, nuisance odour, biosecurity, animal health and vermin risks.</p> <p>Solid wastes produced at the Stowport Abattoir include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paunch, viscera, and blood, approximately 10 tonnes per week, which is transported to the Dulverton Waste Facility for disposal. Paunch and small volumes of manure are transported approximately once per week. • Offal, approximately 15-20 tonnes per week, transported to Western Tiers Proteins, Cressy, 3-4 times per week. • Animal skins, 450 sheep, 80 cattle and 25 calf skins per week. Animal skins are currently transported daily to Cuthbertson Bros Pty Ltd in Launceston for processing, according to the EER Supplement. They were previously disposed of at the Dulverton Waste Facility. Any skins not removed from the site daily are stored in the abattoir refrigerator prior to transportation. • Animal manure and urine, 2,000-3,000 L per week, transported to Dulverton Waste Facility. The solid fraction is screened out from the animal manure and urine hosed down from the stockyard. • General waste, unknown quantity, collected in Veolia bin and disposed of to landfill. <p>Between 2006 and 2018, solid waste from the abattoir was buried in a deep pit on the abattoir site. Burying onsite ceased in 2019 and the burial area has been covered with soil and has been rehabilitated back to farmland.</p>
Management measures proposed in EER
<p>6 - Stowport Abattoir will develop and implement a paunch management plan prior to any land spreading in accordance with WM2 EPN 1007/1.</p> <p>Additional management measures implemented, as reported in the EER Supplement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste material is monitored daily by the site manager and site personnel. • An updated reporting template for the transport of solid waste has been developed and site personnel have been briefed on the reporting requirements for the transport of solid waste.
Proposed future management
<p>In the future, the proponent proposes to spread paunch to land. A paunch management plan has been prepared by Macquarie Franklin, September 2020 (the Plan). The proponent estimates 18.1 wet tonnes of paunch per week (940.7 wet tonnes per year) with 85% moisture content will require spreading. The Plan states that 5.37 ha of land will be required to spread this volume of material from the abattoir.</p>

Public and agency comment
<p>Two representations were received.</p> <p>One representation was concerned in relation to odour and visual amenity of dead animals left in paddocks and waste products left on the ground and not appropriately stored.</p> <p>The second representation was concerned about poor waste management practices from decaying skins and overflowing paunch.</p>
Evaluation
<p>The change in disposal of solid waste from onsite burial to the removal of all solid wastes from the site has decreased the risk of leaching of nutrients and pathogens from on-site pits to groundwater. Nevertheless, the impact on groundwater from the existing pit is unknown.</p> <p>With the removal of all solid waste from the site, the potential impacts from inadequate management of solid wastes generated at the site is considered to be low, provided that solid wastes are removed from site daily, as required by condition WMI in EPN I0078/I. However, at the time of submission of the EER, it is evident that solid waste management was not undertaken in accordance with WMI.</p> <p>Since submission of the EER, solid waste management practices at the site have been improved, with mixed abattoir waste now disposed of almost daily, refer Table 4, EER Supplement. Additional management measures have been implemented at the site in relation to solid waste inspections and reporting to ensure compliance with WMI.</p> <p>Prior to any spreading of paunch from the site, a Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Director, as required by the existing EPN I0078/I condition WM2 and condition WM2 below.</p> <p>The proponent should be made aware of the general waste management hierarchy principles OII.</p>
Conclusion
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <p>WMI Management of mixed abattoir material</p> <p>WM2 Land spreading of paunch contents</p> <p>Other information is also included in the EPN:</p> <p>OII Waste management hierarchy</p>

Issue 3: Air emissions (Odour)

Description of potential impacts

Five major sources of odour were identified by Tarkarri Engineering⁴, refer Appendix B of the EER:

- Stockyards, sealed ground surface and without sealed floor surface.
- Wastewater storage tanks, including slaughterhouse floor (process) washdown water and stockyard washdown water (with pre-screening of solids).
- Paunch and offal discharge from the slaughter floor.
- Paunch, offal, and carcass storage (direct into truck tray and storage bins).
- Livestock delivery via truck.

Results from the air dispersion modelling show predicted ground level concentrations (glcs) exceed the Tasmanian *Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004* criterion level of two Odour Units (OU) at the nearest boundary by a considerable amount. When the buffer distance between the Land boundary for the project and closest sensitive land use (196 Glance Creek Road and/or 4 Warra Road) is considered, all glcs are below 2 odour units, with the highest of 0.95 glcs, which is from livestock delivery. Refer table 1 for predicted glcs. Refer to Figure 4-3 of Appendix B of the EER for the closest sensitive land uses.

Table 1 – Predicted ground level concentrations (glcs) of odour

Source	Nearest boundary		Nearest sensitive receptor	
	glcs (OU)	Distance (m)	glc (OU)	Distance (m)
Stockyards	2.87	21	0.27	178
Wastewater storage				
• Slaughterhouse floor	1.72	4	< 0.01	204
• Stockyard washdown water	28.15	10	0.37	208
Paunch, viscera and blood discharge from killing floor	1.6	37	0.14	165
Paunch, stockyards solid waste, viscera, blood offal and carcass storage	4.73	16	0.12	188
Livestock delivery	4.2	17	0.95	190
Hide storage area ⁵	20.44	4	0.14	162

The approximate extent of the two OU contour for livestock delivery (the highest predicted glc at the nearest sensitive receptor) is provided in the figure below. Odour level contour figures for other sources identified in Table 1 are provided in Appendix B.

Potential dust emissions may result from internal traffic movements.

⁴ Tarkarri Engineering, Stowport Abattoir air emission and environmental noise assessment, February 2020.

⁵ Following the submission of the EER, the hide storage area has since been removed from the site.



Figure 3 - Livestock delivery 2 odour unit (OU) contour

Management measures proposed in EER

Proposed management measures

- 1 Stowport Abattoir will install a larger screen to handle the volumes of washdown water from the stockyard area, to avoid overspill of solid material.
- 2 Stowport Abattoir will wash down the area where paunch, blood, viscera, and solid waste exits the building, on a daily basis.
- 3 Stowport Abattoir will ensure that bins and truck trays used for the storage of solid waste will be coverable (while still allowing air circulation).
- 4 Stowport Abattoir will assess (and if required) the use of a recirculation pump to mix the wastewater to prevent stratification and anaerobic conditions at the base of the wastewater column. If wastewater is to be stored for extended periods.
- 5 Stowport Abattoir will install a fixed pump connected to mains power or a spare retained on-site to minimise downtime should the existing unit breakdown. Pumping of wastewater to trucks for removal from site is conducted using a mobile diesel pump.

Additional management measures

Measures implemented at the Stowport Abattoir to manage odour from wastewater, as detailed in the Supplement to the EER⁶ include:

- The processing area floor and stockyards are washed down at the end of each day. A thorough steam clean of the process area is conducted every Friday.
- Regular inspection and cleaning of the stockyard washdown wastewater inlet screen. This is currently conducted every day. If required, a larger screen will be installed, sized to handle the volumes of washdown water delivered such that overspill of solid materials does not occur.
- The wastewater holding tank pump system has been modified to reduce the potential for stratification and anaerobic conditions (and therefore odour) developing within the tank. Wastewater is now pumped from the base of the tanks to encourage mixing within the water column. Separate pumps have been installed on each holding tank.
- Wastewater holding tanks are closed to manage odour emissions.
- If required, the proponent will increase the frequency of truck movements to remove waste during the summer, if odour emissions are found to be significantly worse in the warmer months.

⁶ Pinion advisory, Environmental Effects Report – Additional Information Supplement, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Stowport Abattoir, October 2021.

Public and agency comment

Two representations were received.

One representation was concerned with the odour levels from the site likely due to infrequent removal of wastewater and poor waste management practice.

The second representation was concerned about odour emissions from the site.

The EPA Air Specialists had a number of comments on the EER and Appendix B, including:

- It is expected that the potential cumulative impact from all emission sources would be more significant than that of each source separately and could impact on nearby residences, particularly given their close proximity to the activity.
- The photos of odour sources presented in Figure 4-1 (Appendix B) indicate that these sources are inadequately managed and have high potential for fugitive emissions.
- Waste removal from the site should be as frequent as practicable to prevent elevated odour emissions from stored material, in particular paunch, viscera and blood should be removed from the site more often than every 5 days, especially during warm weather.
- All potential sources of odour should be covered where possible.
- Wastewater storage on site for up to 2 weeks is not considered acceptable practice.
- The site should have an action plan for dealing with emergency situations like waste collection arrangement breakdown and spillages on site.
- The suggested mitigation measures provided appear sound, but further actions may be required to adequately reduce odour emissions from the site.
- An odour management plan should be required as part of the conditions of the site.

Evaluation

Modelled odour emissions at the boundary of the site are extremely high, particularly storage of wastewater from washdown of the stockyard area, which is within 10 m of the closest boundary. Other odour emissions which are over the EPP (Air) criterion of 2 OU at the closest boundary include: paunch, stockyards solid waste, viscera, blood offal and carcass storage; and stockyards (refer Table 1 above). The south-western corner of the site includes the highest concentrations of odour emissions which are all located within 20 m of the site boundary.

The southern and western boundary of the site borders agricultural land, with the closest sensitive receptors (residents) located to the north-east of the site. The closest sensitive receptors are 162 -208 m from an odour emission source. The washdown water from the stockyard, although 28.15 OU within 10 m of the southern boundary is modelled at 0.37 OU at a distance of 208 m which is the boundary of closest sensitive receptor.

Since the initial modelling was undertaken, the hide storage area, a source of high odour emission, has been removed from the site.

As outlined above (Issue 2), animal skins are now removed from site daily, and where this does not occur, are stored in a refrigerator prior to transportation.

Comments from the air specialists in relation to the conservative nature of the air emissions model are accepted. It is noted that no odour complaints were made in relation to the site (personal communications EPA Regulatory Officer, 22 June 2020). However, representations made as part of the public consultation complained about ongoing odour issues from the site.

Following submission of the EER, a number of odour complaints were made to the EPA. Since this time, there has been ongoing improvement to the management of odour emissions from the site, through better management of wastewater and solid waste, refer Issue 1 and 2 above, and the implementation of additional management measures. The EPA Regulatory Officer has been undertaking on-going compliance checks at the site, particularly in relation to ongoing odour issues, and is now satisfied that the management measures implemented are appropriate.

Over the past 12 months, with the assistance of the EPA Regulatory Officer, the site has resolved the outstanding issues relating to odour. It is therefore considered that an odour management plan is not required as part of the conditions as recommended by the air specialist. Instead, condition **A2** is required to ensure that odour management measures will continue to be implemented to prevent odours causing a nuisance beyond the boundary of the site.

This will be closely monitored through ongoing compliance audits by the EPA Regulatory Officer.

Condition **A1** is also considered necessary to ensure that vehicles carrying materials that may spill when leaving the land or travelling on public roads, must be equipped with effective control measures to prevent the escape of materials.

Conclusion

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

- A1** Covering of vehicles
- A2** Odour management

Issue 4: Noise emissions

Description of potential impacts

A noise emission assessment was conducted by Tarkarri Engineering (2020), refer Appendix B of the EER.

Nine potential noise sources were identified from the site:

- Diesel generator package unit
- Breakout noise from refrigeration compressor through roof envelope venting
- Diesel pump (for pumping out wastewater tanks)
- Breakout noise of steam cleaning of transport trucks
- Front end loader (for movement of paunch material to waste bins)
- Truck to transport paunch material
- Truck for transport of wastewater
- Diesel forklift
- Truck for transport of carcasses.

Three environmental noise measurement locations were selected to quantify existing noise conditions surrounding the site. Noise measurement locations P1, P2 and P3 are shown in Figure 5-1 (Appendix B) and are 125 m, 244 m, and 670 m respectively from the site. P1 is the closest sensitive receptor, opposite the abattoir's entry gate at 4 Warra Road.

According to the EER, noise levels at P1 were dominated by the abattoir's diesel generator package unit. Local traffic and leaf rustle from wind were significant noise levels at P2, although the hydraulic drive of the mixer for salting hides was audible along with the diesel generator. Noise levels at P3 were dominated by wind moving through nearby foliage, however, during lulls in wind action, the hydraulic drive from the mixer was clearly audible at this location. The hide mixer for mixing salted hides is no longer used at the site and hence this source of noise has been subsequently removed.

Predicted sound pressure levels (dBA) at the closest sensitive receivers exceeded criteria (45 dB(A)) proposed in Appendix B, with predicted sound pressure levels of 53, 46 and 42 dB(A) at the closest sensitive receivers, P1, P2 and P3 respectively (refer to Table 5-6 of Appendix B). The dominant noise source at all locations, according to the EER is the diesel generator.

The delivery of livestock was not observed as part of the noise assessment, although the noise assessment determined livestock noise would not be expected to exceed noise levels of 20 to 30 dBA at receiver locations, with short duration noise levels between 40 to 50 dBA.

Following acceptance of the EER supplement, EPA was advised⁷ that the diesel generator included in the initial noise measurements had been replaced by a new generator, which is located in a soundproof box.

⁷ Personal communications, pinion advisory, 3 December 2021.

Management measures proposed in EER
<p>Proposed mitigation measure 8 -</p> <p>Stowport Abattoir will construct a two-sided noise attenuation barrier around the existing diesel generator. The barrier should be a minimum height of 0.75 m above the top of the generator muffler and approximately 1 m from the side of the generator on the south and east sides. (From Appendix B, the barrier should be constructed such that it provides a minimum of 25 dBA transmission loss at 500 Hz with an acoustically absorptive lining on the internal face.)</p> <p>In addition to proposed mitigation measure 8, Stowport Abattoir plans to connect three-phase power to the site from the electricity network, with the diesel generator used only in situations where power connection to the grid is lost (section 3.3 of the EER).</p> <p>As outlined above, the former diesel generator has been replaced with a new generator that is located within a soundproof box, reducing noise emissions from this source. Proposed mitigation measure 8 is no longer required and will not be implemented.</p>
Public and agency comment
<p>There were no public representations in relation to noise.</p>
Evaluation
<p>Operations of the abattoir must not be undertaken outside the hours of 0700 hours to 1800 hours on weekdays. This is required by condition N1 and is considered necessary due to the distances of sensitive receptors in close proximity to the abattoir site and the potential for noise nuisance to occur. It is noted that livestock deliveries do occur on Sunday afternoon, for processing first thing on Monday. N1 therefore includes an allowance for this activity.</p> <p>Noise emission limits are required by condition N2 to ensure that noise emissions from the activity do not exceed 50 dB(A) during the day, 45 dB(A) during the evening and 40 dB(A) during the night when measured at any noise sensitive premises in other ownership.</p> <p>With the replacement of the former diesel generator and the removal of the hide mixer, it is anticipated that the noise emission levels from the abattoir site will be below 45 dBA at the closest sensitive receptor during the day. Condition N3 is nevertheless required to ensure noise levels at the site are in accordance with N2.</p> <p>It is noted that connection to three-phase power will further reduce noise nuisance from the diesel generator, when this occurs.</p> <p>Condition N3 and N4 are required to ensure that a noise survey is undertaken (N3) in accordance with the Director's requirements (N4) within six months of the issue of the EPN, to ensure compliance with the noise emission limits (N2).</p>

Conclusion
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N1 Operating hours N2 Noise emission limits N3 Noise survey requirements N4 Noise survey method and reporting

Issue 5: Natural Values
<p>Description of potential impacts</p> <p>According to the EER, the Stowport area has a long history of agricultural production, with no native vegetation on or adjacent to the site as a result of clearing for agriculture. Both the site and surrounding area are classified as agricultural land (FAG) according to TASVEG 4.0.</p> <p>According to the EER, the closest threatened vegetation community is a wetland (saltmarsh and wetland (AWU)) which is over 500 m north of the site. No threatened flora species were identified within 5 km of the site.</p> <p>Glance Creek, over 500 m to the east has a record of the giant freshwater crayfish, <i>Astacopsis Gouldii</i>. There is also a single record each of the swift parrot and the Tasmanian devil within 1 km of the site.</p> <p>According to the EER, although the NVA report identified that the Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>) may occur in the area, there were no verified records and no suitable denning habitat identified within a 1 km radius search of the site. However, it is likely the Tasmanian devil may occasionally move through the area and could be susceptible to roadkill.</p> <p>There is a risk of vehicle collisions from the small increase in traffic movements.</p>
<p>Management measures proposed in EER</p> <p>Proposed measure 10 - Stowport Abattoir will implement the following management measures to reduce mortality from roadkill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing awareness to site personnel and contractors during inductions and toolbox meetings. • Driving at reduced speeds during dawn and dusk. • Identify high-risk roadkill areas and provide signage where relevant. • Move roadkill away from the road corridor, where practical. • Report injured animals and roadkill.
<p>Public and agency comment</p> <p>There were no public representations or comment from agencies.</p>

Evaluation
<p>The site and surrounding area have been heavily impacted through clearing for agricultural purposes with the impact on natural values from the proposed increase in production considered to be very low.</p> <p>The increase in traffic to and from the site will increase the risk of roadkill through vehicle collisions, although this is not considered significant as the majority of traffic movements will be during daylight hours.</p>
Conclusion
No additional conditions are required for management of natural values.

Issue 6: Decommissioning and rehabilitation
Description of potential impacts
<p>The operation of the abattoir is mostly above ground, with the exception of the three below ground wastewater storage tanks and the former burial pit. According to the EER there are no known historical contamination issues from dangerous goods, environmentally hazardous materials or chemicals (i.e. hydrocarbons and pesticides).</p> <p>From 2006 to 2018 solid waste such as offal, paunch and skins from the abattoir were buried in an unlined pit located just north of the main building. The area was covered in soil and has been rehabilitated back to pasture.</p> <p>Prior to installation of the wastewater storage tanks in August 2019, wastewater was discharged into a pond located in the south-west corner of the property for approximately 13 years. The pond has since been decommissioned and covered with clean fill.</p> <p>The pond and solid waste burial site were both unlined and there is potential for groundwater contamination.</p>
Management measures proposed in EER
<p>No management measures were proposed.</p> <p>Although no management measures for decommissioning and rehabilitation were proposed, the EER states that the proponent will be responsible for the safe and effective decommissioning of the site.</p>
Public and agency comment
There were no public representations or comment from agencies.
Evaluation
The appropriate management of decommissioning and rehabilitation upon permanent closure of the facility is considered necessary and will be required by conditions DC1 and DC2 . Condition DC1 is required to ensure a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) is submitted to the Director within 30 days of the Director being notified of the planned cessation of the

activity. Condition **DC2** is required to ensure the rehabilitation of the site following permanent cessation.

Conditions **DC3** is required to ensure the proponent notifies the Director of the permanent cessation of the activity and condition **DC4** requires notification where a temporary suspension of the activity is likely to occur.

Conclusion

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

DC1 DRP requirements

DC2 Rehabilitation following cessation

DC3 Notification of cessation

DC4 Temporary suspension of activity

7 Other Issues

There are no additional issues which are not the Board's responsibility under the EMPC Act, or issues which are more appropriately addressed by another regulatory agency.

8 Report Conclusions

This assessment has been based on the information provided by the proponent, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, in the case for assessment (the EER) and Additional Information (the Supplement to the EER).

This report incorporates specialist advice provided by EPA Tasmania scientific specialists and regulatory staff and other government agencies and has considered issues raised in public submissions.

It is concluded that:

- 1 the RMPS and EMPCS objectives have been duly and properly pursued in the assessment of the proposal;
- 2 the assessment of the proposed activity has been undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Principles; and
- 3 the proposed activity is capable of being managed in an environmentally acceptable manner such that it is unlikely that the objectives of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (the RMPS and EMPCS objectives) would be compromised, provided that the environment protection notice appended to this report is issued and served and its requirements are duly complied with.

9 Report Approval

Environmental Assessment Report and conclusions, including environmental conditions, adopted:



Wes Ford
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Meeting date: 14th of December 2021

10 References

Macquarie Franklin, September 2020, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Stowport Abattoir Expansion, Environmental Effects Report.

Macquarie Franklin, September 2020, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Wastewater and Paunch Reuse Management Plan, Stowport Abattoir.

Pinion advisory (formerly Macquarie Franklin), October 2021, Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Environmental Effects Report – Additional Information Supplement.

II Appendices

- Appendix 1 Summary of public and agency submissions
- Appendix 2 Table of proponent commitments
- Appendix 3 Environment Protection Notice No. 10131/1

Appendix I – Summary of public representations and agency submissions

In the following tables, EER means the Footrot Flats Pty Ltd, Stowport Abattoir Expansion Environmental Effects Report, Macquarie Franklin, September 2020.

TABLE I: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE EPA BOARD

Representation No./ Agency	Comments and issues	Additional information required
EPA	The availability of the property at 51 Clarkes Road for paunch and wastewater re-use as described throughout the EER.	Confirm whether the property at 51 Clarkes Road is available for paunch and wastewater re-use from the Stowport Abattoir site. If not, is there an alternative site being considered?
1	Putrid odour levels are emanating from the site, likely due to infrequent removal of wastewater from the site and poor waste management practices.	Clarify why wastewater is not being removed from the site in a timely manner to minimise odour emissions from the site. Clarify whether this will be able to be undertaken from now on. What management measures can be implemented to reduce odour emissions from wastewater?
	Abattoir waste not stored or disposed of appropriately.	Clarify why mixed abattoir material is not being stored in accordance with Table 10 of the EER or being removed from the site daily as required by EPN 10078/1. Clarify whether this will be able to be undertaken from now on. Mixed abattoir waste must be removed from The Land every day of abattoir operation (Condition WM2).
	Wastewater not contained on-site. Overflow or wastewater spilling from wastewater tanks, flowing off-site in the southwest corner.	Clarify the frequency and volume of wastewater spills or overflow from the wastewater tanks from the southwest corner of the site and onto neighbouring properties. What management measures can be implemented to prevent this from happening? What contingency measures can be implemented if such a spill does occur?
2	Public health - contaminated groundwater. The elevated thermotolerant coliform count of 160 CFU/100 ml is concerning as groundwater throughout the catchment is accessible for residential use.	Additional groundwater sampling will need to be undertaken, in accordance with Australian Standards, as required by Condition M1 and M2 of EPN 10078/1 to determine the current level of thermotolerant coliforms in the groundwater at the existing bore. The results of the sampling must be reported in the supplement to the EER.
2	Environmental impacts Wastewater discharge to the west and east of the site and impacts to land and waterways.	Clarify the frequency and volume of wastewater discharge from the site and the potential for any discharge to impact on the waterway to

Representation No./ Agency	Comments and issues	Additional information required
	Concerns that wastewater discharge from the site will impact the waterway (to the west of the site) leading to the threatened wetland community located approximately 500m north of the site.	the west of the site and consequently the threatened wetland community (Saltmarsh and wetland, AWU).

TABLE 2: OTHER MATTERS RAISED DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD

Representation No./ Agency	Comments and issues	Further Info requested [yes/no]	EPA Comments
2	The land area, location and supporting infrastructure and design of the Stowport Abattoir was not intended to support the 1000% increase in throughput that has occurred.	No	For proponent information.
2	Industry reputational risk The current practices and appearance of the site pose a significant risk to the reputation of the Tasmanian red meat sector. Issues from the site include stockpiling and decaying of skins, overflowing paunch, unsealed stockyards, effluent discharge, contaminated groundwater and pungent odours.	no	For proponent information.

Appendix 2 – Table of proponent commitments

No.	Proposed management measure
1	Stowport Abattoir will install a larger screen to handle the volumes of washdown water from the stockyard area, to avoid overspill of solid material.
2	Stowport Abattoir will wash down the area where paunch, blood, viscera and solid waste exits the building, on a daily basis.
3	Stowport Abattoir will ensure that bins and truck trays used for the storage of solid waste will be coverable (while still allowing air circulation).
4	Stowport Abattoir will assess (and if required) the use of a recirculation pump to mix the wastewater to prevent stratification and anaerobic conditions at the base of the wastewater column. If wastewater is to be stored for extended periods.
5	Stowport Abattoir will install a fixed pump connected to mains power or a spare pump retained on-site to minimise downtime should the existing unit breakdown. Pumping of wastewater to trucks for removal from site is conducted using a mobile diesel pump.
6	Stowport Abattoir will monitor and record water usage on a weekly basis.
7	Stowport Abattoir will conduct groundwater monitoring on a quarterly basis as outlined in EPN 10078/1.
8	Stowport Abattoir will construct a two-sided noise attenuation barrier around the existing diesel generator. The barrier should be a minimum height of 0.75 m above the top of the generator muffler and approximately 1 m from the side of the generator on the south and east sides.
9	Stowport Abattoir will develop and implement a paunch management plan prior to any land spreading in accordance with VM2 EPN 10078/1.
10	<p>Stowport Abattoir will implement the following management measures to reduce mortality from roadkill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing awareness to site personnel and contractors during inductions and toolbox meetings. • Driving at reduced speeds during dawn and dusk. • Identify high-risk roadkill areas and provide signage where relevant. • Move roadkill away from the road corridor, where practical. • Report injured animals and roadkill.
11	Stowport Abattoir will continue to consult with key stakeholders and neighbours throughout the life of the project.

Appendix 3 – Environment Protection Notice No. I0131/I



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION NOTICE No. 10131/1

Issued under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*

Issued to: **FOOTROT FLATS PTY LTD**
ACN 160 224 500
'THE GROVES' UNIT 1, 3986 - 398 PACIFIC HIGHWAY
LOGANHOLME QLD 4129

Environmentally Relevant Activity: **The operation of an abattoir (ACTIVITY TYPE: Abattoirs or Slaughterhouses (works discharging all wastewater to external approved Wastewater Treatment Works))**
STOWPORT ABATTOIR, 5 WARRA ROAD
STOWPORT TAS 7321

GROUND

I, Wes Ford, Director, Environment Protection Authority, being satisfied in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) that in relation to the above-mentioned environmentally relevant activity that serious or material environmental harm or environmental nuisance is being, or is likely to be, caused hereby issue this environment protection notice to the above-mentioned person as the person responsible for the activity.

PARTICULARS

The particulars of the grounds upon which this notice is issued are:

- 1 The above activity, being an environmentally relevant activity which does not require a land use permit, was required to be referred to the EPA under Section 27 of the EMPCA for environmental impact assessment. Having completed its assessment, the Board of the EPA has caused the Director to issue this environment protection notice containing conditions and restrictions which the Board requires to apply to the activity.

DEFINITIONS

Unless the contrary appears, words and expressions used in this Notice have the meaning given to them in Schedule 1 of this Notice and in the EMPCA. If there is any inconsistency between a definition in the EMPCA and a definition in this Notice, the EMPCA prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

REQUIREMENTS

The person responsible for the activity must comply with the conditions as set out in Schedule 2 of this Notice.

INFORMATION

Attention is drawn to **Schedule 3**, which contains important additional information.

PENALTIES

If a person bound by an environment protection notice contravenes a requirement of the notice, that person is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 1000 penalty units in the case of a body corporate or 500 penalty units in any other case (at the time of issuance of this Notice one penalty unit is equal to \$173.00).

NOTICE TAKES EFFECT

This notice takes effect on the date on which it is served upon you.

APPEAL RIGHTS

You may appeal to the Appeal Tribunal against this notice, or against any requirement contained in the notice, within 14 days from the date on which the notice is served on you. The Appeal Tribunal contact details are:

The Chairperson
Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal
GPO Box 2036
Hobart TAS 7001

Phone: (03) 6165 6794
Email: rmpat@justice.tas.gov.au

Signed: _____


DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: _____

17th of December 2021

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Attachments

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Schedule 1: Definitions

Activity means any environmentally relevant activity (as defined in Section 3 of EMPCA) to which this document relates, and includes more than one such activity.

Control Location (Noise) means a location chosen to represent the general ambient sound without contribution from noise sources at the activity.

Controlled Waste has the meaning described in Section 3(1) of EMPCA.

Director means the Director, Environment Protection Authority holding office under Section 18 of EMPCA and includes a delegate or person authorised in writing by the Director to exercise a power or function on the Director's behalf.

DRP means Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan.

EMPCA means the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Environmental Harm and **Material Environmental Harm** and **Serious Environmental Harm** each have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 5 of EMPCA.

Environmental Nuisance and **Pollutant** each have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 3 of EMPCA.

Mixed abattoir material means those parts of a slaughtered animal that are not destined for human consumption and includes, but is not limited to, flesh, organs, blood, fat, hair, hide and bone.

Noise Sensitive Premises means residences and residential zones (whether occupied or not), schools, hospitals, caravan parks and similar land uses involving the presence of individual people for extended periods, except in the course of their employment or for recreation.

Mixed abattoir material means those parts of a slaughtered animal that are not destined for human consumption and includes, but is not limited to, flesh, organs, blood, fat, hair, hide and bone.

Person Responsible is any person who is or was responsible for the environmentally relevant activity to which this document relates and includes the officers, employees, contractors, joint venture partners and agents of that person, and includes a body corporate.

Pollutant has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 3 of EMPCA.

Tasmanian Noise Measurement Procedures Manual means the document titled *Noise Measurement Procedures Manual*, by the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, dated July 2008, and any amendment to or substitution of this document.

The Land means the land on which the activity to which this document relates may be carried out, and includes: buildings and other structures permanently fixed to the land, any part of the land covered with water, and any water covering the land. The Land falls within the area defined by:

- 1 Certificate of Title 156448/1; and
- 2 as further delineated at Attachment 1.

Wastewater means spent or used water (whether from industrial or domestic sources) containing a pollutant and includes stormwater which becomes mixed with wastewater.

Schedule 2: Conditions

General

G1 Maximum quantities

1 Regulatory limit

1.1 Production of up to 1,625 tonnes of meat or meat products per year.

G2 Access to and awareness of conditions and associated documents

A copy of these conditions and any associated documents referred to in these conditions must be held in a location that is known to and accessible to the person responsible for the activity. The person responsible for the activity must ensure that all persons who are responsible for undertaking work on The Land, including contractors and sub-contractors, are familiar with these conditions to the extent relevant to their work.

G3 Incident response

If an incident causing or threatening environmental nuisance, serious environmental harm or material environmental harm from pollution occurs in the course of the activity, then the person responsible for the activity must immediately take all reasonable and practicable action to minimise any adverse environmental effects from the incident.

G4 No changes without approval

1 The following changes, if they may cause or increase the emission of a pollutant which may cause material or serious environmental harm or environmental nuisance, must only take place in relation to the activity if such changes have been approved in writing by the EPA Board following its assessment of an application for a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, or approved in writing by the Director:

1.1 a change to a process used in the course of carrying out the activity; or

1.2 the construction, installation, alteration or removal of any structure or equipment used in the course of carrying out the activity; or

1.3 a change in the quantity or characteristics of materials used in the course of carrying out the activity.

G5 Change of responsibility

If the person responsible for the activity intends to cease to be responsible for the activity, that person must notify the Director in writing of the full particulars of any person succeeding him or her as the person responsible for the activity, before such cessation.

G6 Change of ownership

If the owner of The Land upon which the activity is carried out changes or is to change, then, as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 30 days after becoming aware of the change or intended change in the ownership of The Land, the person responsible must notify the Director in writing of the change or intended change of ownership.

G7 Complaints register

1 A public complaints register must be maintained. The public complaints register must, as a minimum, record the following detail in relation to each complaint received in which it is alleged that environmental harm (including an environmental nuisance) has been caused by the activity:

1.1 the date and time at which the complaint was received;

1.2 contact details for the complainant (where provided);

- 1.3 the subject matter of the complaint;
 - 1.4 any investigations undertaken with regard to the complaint; and
 - 1.5 the manner in which the complaint was resolved, including any mitigation measures implemented.
- 2 Complaint records must be maintained for a period of at least 3 years.

Atmospheric

A1 Covering of vehicles

Vehicles carrying loads containing material which may blow or spill must be equipped with effective control measures to prevent the escape of the materials from the vehicles when they leave The Land or travel on public roads. Effective control measures may include tarpaulins or load dampening.

A2 Odour management

The person responsible must institute such odour management measures as are necessary to prevent odours causing environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of The Land.

Decommissioning And Rehabilitation

DC1 DRP requirements

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) for the activity must be submitted for approval to the Director within 30 days of the Director being notified of the planned cessation of the activity or by a date specified in writing by the Director. The DRP must be prepared in accordance with any guidelines provided by the Director.

DC2 Rehabilitation following cessation

- 1 Following permanent cessation of the activity, and unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, The Land must be rehabilitated including:
 - 1.1 stabilisation of any land surfaces that may be subject to erosion;
 - 1.2 removal or mitigation of all environmental hazards or land contamination, that might pose an on-going risk of causing environmental harm; and
 - 1.3 decommissioning of any equipment that has not been removed.
- 2 Where a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) has been approved by the Director, decommissioning and rehabilitation must be carried out in accordance with that plan, as may be amended from time to time with written approval of the Director.

DC3 Notification of cessation

Within 30 days of becoming aware of any event or decision which is likely to give rise to the permanent cessation of the activity, the person responsible for the activity must notify the Director in writing of that event or decision. The notice must specify the date upon which the activity is expected to cease or has ceased.

DC4 Temporary suspension of activity

- 1 Within 30 days of becoming aware of any event or decision which is likely to give rise to the temporary suspension of the activity, the person responsible for the activity must notify the Director in writing of that event or decision. The notice must specify the date upon which the activity is expected to suspend or has suspended.
- 2 During temporary suspension of the activity:

- 2.1** The Land must be managed and monitored by the person responsible for the activity to ensure that emissions from The Land do not cause serious environmental harm, material environmental harm or environmental nuisance; and
 - 2.2** If required by the Director a Care and Maintenance Plan for the activity must be submitted, by a date specified in writing by the Director, for approval. The person responsible must implement the approved Care and Maintenance Plan, as may be amended from time to time with written approval of the Director.
- 3** Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, if the activity on The Land has substantially ceased for 2 years or more, rehabilitation of The Land must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of these conditions as if the activity has permanently ceased.

Effluent Disposal

E1 Solid matter in wastewater

- 1** Solid matter must be prevented by all reasonable means from entering the wastewater stream. Without limiting the generality of the term, reasonable means includes:
 - 1.1** effective screening at all points of wastewater ingress to the wastewater treatment system to prevent the entry of gross solids;
 - 1.2** implementation of comprehensive operating procedures, and the appropriate training and supervision of employees, contractors and sub-contractors; and
 - 1.3** good housekeeping including the provision of adequate containers to avoid loss to the floor and the control of spillage by sweeping, shovelling, impoundment, or the entrapment of wastes in tanks or vessels for further treatment before disposal.

E2 Wastewater management

- 1** Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, the following wastewater streams generated by the activity must be directed to the wastewater holding system:
 - 1.1** All process wastewater;
 - 1.2** All contaminated and potentially contaminated wastewater, such as wash down water; and
 - 1.3** Any stormwater potentially contaminated.

E3 Wastewater disposal

- 1** Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, any wastewater generated on The Land must be managed in the following manner:
 - 1.1** reused within the activity;
 - 1.2** stored in the wastewater holding system prior to controlled irrigation as approved by the Director in accordance with Condition WR1 of this Notice;
 - 1.3** disposed of at a facility approved by the relevant planning authority or the Director to accept the wastewater.
 - 1.4** where wastewater is stored onsite, wastewater must be removed from site a minimum of twice per week to reduce odour.
- 2** Uncontrolled wastewater or contaminated stormwater must not be discharged from The Land.

E4 Design and maintenance of wastewater holding system

- 1** The wastewater holding system must be appropriately sized, lined and maintained to prevent any uncontrolled release of wastewater or contaminated stormwater from The Land.

- 2 Sediment and sludge from the wastewater holding system must be removed at a frequency to prevent environmental nuisance.
- 3 Sediment and sludge removed during any cleaning must be disposed of at a facility approved by the Director.

E5 Bunding of wastewater holding system

- 1 All wastewater tanks must be suitably bunded to prevent any uncontrolled release of wastewater from the land during removal of wastewater from the site.
- 2 All bunds should be of sufficient size to capture the volume of any spills during the removal of wastewater from the land.
- 3 All bunding must be suitably maintained in a condition fit for purpose.

Monitoring

M1 Samples and measurements for monitoring purposes

- 1 Any sample or measurement required under these conditions must be taken and processed in accordance with the following:
 - 1.1 sampling and measuring must be undertaken by a person with training, experience, and knowledge of the appropriate procedure;
 - 1.2 the integrity of samples must be maintained prior to delivery to a testing facility;
 - 1.3 sample analysis must be conducted by a testing facility accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), or a testing facility approved in writing by the Director, for the specified test;
 - 1.4 details of methods employed in taking samples and measurements and results of sample analysis, and measurements must be retained for at least three (3) years after the date of collection; and
 - 1.5 sampling and measurement equipment must be maintained and operated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and records of maintenance must be retained for at least three (3) years.

M2 Groundwater Monitoring

- 1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, within 30 days from the date of issue of these conditions the person responsible for the activity must implement the groundwater monitoring program specified in Table 1.
- 2 Results of the monitoring must be reported to the Director within 30 days. Each report must include:
 - 2.1 the bore name and location;
 - 2.2 the date(s) of measurements;
 - 2.3 method(s) employed to produce the measurements; and
 - 2.4 results and interpretation of results.

3 Table 1: Groundwater monitoring program

Parameter	Units	Sampling Frequency
Flow	kilolitres per day	Continuous
pH		Quarterly
Electrical conductivity	us/cm	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	ppm (mg/L)	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen (TN)	mg/L	Quarterly
Total Phosphorous (TP)	mg/L	Quarterly
Thermotolerant coliforms	ppm	Quarterly

M3 Abattoir water usage

- 1 A flow meter or alternative approved method of measuring the volume of process water must:
 - 1.1 record water used daily and weekly by the abattoir operations;
 - 1.2 provide information on the groundwater extraction rate and an estimate of wastewater volume discharged to the holding system.
- 2 The flow meter must be maintained in good working order.
- 3 This information must be provided to the Director with the quarterly groundwater results in Table 1.

Noise Control

N1 Operating hours

- 1 Unless otherwise approved by the Director, activities associated with the operation of an abattoir must not be undertaken outside the hours of 0700 hours to 1800 hours on weekdays.
- 2 Activities must not be carried out on weekends or public holidays that are observed Statewide (Easter Tuesday excepted), with the exception of livestock deliveries Sunday afternoon which must be no later than 2000 hours.

N2 Noise emission limits

- 1 Noise emissions from the activity when measured at any noise sensitive premises in other ownership and expressed as the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level must not exceed:
 - 1.1 50 dB(A) between 0700 hours and 1800 hours (Day time);
 - 1.2 45 dB(A) between 1800 hours and 2200 hours (Evening time); and
 - 1.3 40 dB(A) between 2200 hours and 0700 hours (Night time).
- 2 Where the combined level of noise from the activity and the normal ambient noise exceeds the noise levels stated above, this condition will not be considered to be breached unless the noise emissions from the activity are audible and exceed the ambient noise levels by at least 5 dB(A).
- 3 The time interval over which noise levels are averaged must be 10 minutes or an alternative time interval specified in writing by the Director.
- 4 Measured noise levels must be adjusted for tonality, impulsiveness, modulation and low frequency in accordance with the Tasmanian Noise Measurement Procedures Manual.

- 5 All methods of measurement must be in accordance with the Tasmanian Noise Measurement Procedures Manual.

N3 Noise survey requirements

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, a noise survey must be completed within six months from the date on which these conditions take effect.

N4 Noise Survey Method and Reporting

- 1 Noise surveys must be undertaken in accordance with a survey method approved in writing by the Director, as may be amended from time to time with written approval of the Director.
- 2 Without limitation, the survey method must address the following:
 - 2.1 measurements must be carried out at day, evening and night times (where applicable) at each location; and
 - 2.2 measurement locations, and the number thereof, must be specified, with one location established as a control location (noise).
- 3 Measurements and data recorded during the survey must include:
 - 3.1 operational status of noise producing equipment and throughput of the activity;
 - 3.2 subjective descriptions of the sound at each location;
 - 3.3 details of meteorological conditions relevant to the propagation of noise; and
 - 3.4 the equivalent continuous (L_{eq}) and L_1 , L_{10} , L_{50} , L_{90} and L_{99} A-weighted sound pressure levels measured over a period of 10 minutes or an alternative time interval specified by the Director.
- 4 A noise survey report must be forwarded to the Director within 30 days from the date on which the noise survey is completed
- 5 The noise survey report must include the following:
 - 5.1 the results and interpretation of the measurements required by these conditions;
 - 5.2 a map of the area surrounding the activity with the boundary of The Land, measurement locations, and noise sensitive premises clearly marked on the map;
 - 5.3 any other information that will assist with interpreting the results and whether the activity is in compliance with these conditions and EMPCA; and
 - 5.4 recommendations of appropriate mitigation measures to manage any noise problems identified by the noise survey.

Waste Management

WM1 Management of Mixed Abattoir Material

- 1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, burial of mixed abattoir material on The Land is not permitted from the date of issue of this Notice.
- 2 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, mixed abattoir material must on every day of abattoir operation be:
 - 2.1 Removed from The Land to a secondary processing or rendering facility that has been approved in writing by the relevant planning authority or the Director to receive such waste; or
 - 2.2 Removed from The Land to a composting facility that is approved in writing by the relevant planning authority or the Director to receive such waste; or
 - 2.3 Removed from the Land to a landfill that is approved in writing by the relevant planning authority or the Director to receive such waste; or

- 2.4 Removed to an alternative site for which a burial or composting management plan has been submitted and approved by the Director.

WM2 Land spreading of paunch contents

- 1 Prior to any land spreading of paunch contents a Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Director. The Management Plan must include, but is not limited to:
 - 1.1 details and map of the receiving property, including proximity of nearby watercourses, residences and roads;
 - 1.2 a signed agreement with the property owner;
 - 1.3 approximate volume of paunch contents and screenings (per day and annually);
 - 1.4 methods of collection and treatment;
 - 1.5 transport details;
 - 1.6 method of application, including spreading rates;
 - 1.7 explanation of the record keeping system;
 - 1.8 animal health protection measures, including stock withholding periods; and
 - 1.9 other matters as set out in the Paunch Contents Land Spreading Management Guidelines (Tasmania).
- 2 The person responsible must implement and act in accordance with the approved plan.
- 3 In the event that the Director, by notice in writing to the person responsible, either approves a minor variation to the approved plan or approves a new plan in substitution for the plan originally approved, the person responsible must implement and act in accordance with the varied plan or the new plan, as the case may be.

Wastewater Reuse

WR1 Wastewater Management Plan

- 1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, prior to any irrigation of wastewater, a Wastewater Management Plan (WWMP) for all current and proposed properties that receive or may receive, treated wastewater from the activity must be submitted to the Director for approval. A review of the WWMP must be undertaken every 3 years following approval of the WWMP.
- 2 The WWMP must:
 - 2.1 include a site plan of the wastewater storage and irrigation areas, including buffer zones;
 - 2.2 include a signed lease or agreement covering the acceptance of treated wastewater or sludge onto land with the property owner;
 - 2.3 specify monitoring parameters and frequency;
 - 2.4 identify the wastewater constituent(s) that limit(s) the application rate;
 - 2.5 determine a nutrient budget and sustainable application rate (kg/ha/annum) for all nutrient inputs (including salt), stores and the likely risk to soils, surface water and groundwater;
 - 2.6 demonstrate how the application rate will not be exceeded;
 - 2.7 detail wastewater storage volume required in a 90th percentile rainfall year;
 - 2.8 detail stock withholding periods; and
 - 2.9 include appropriate monitoring, management and reporting of soils, surface water and groundwater.

- 3** The *Environmental Guidelines for the Use of Recycled Water in Tasmania (December 2002)* Appendices A and C should be used to determine the required scope of the WWMP.
- 4** The irrigation of wastewater must not commence until the WWMP has been approved in writing by the Director.
- 5** The person responsible for the activity must ensure that irrigation is undertaken in accordance with the most recent version of the WWMP.

Schedule 3: Information

Legal Obligations

LO1 EMPCA

The activity must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and Regulations thereunder. The conditions of this document must not be construed as an exemption from any of those requirements.

LO2 Controlled waste transport

Transport of controlled wastes to and from The Land must be undertaken only by persons authorised to do so under EMPCA or subordinate legislation.

Other Information

OI1 Waste management hierarchy

1 Wastes should be managed in accordance with the following hierarchy of waste management:

- 1.1** waste should be minimised, that is, the generation of waste must be reduced to the maximum extent that is reasonable and practicable, having regard to best practice environmental management;
- 1.2** waste should be re-used or recycled to the maximum extent that is practicable; and
- 1.3** waste that cannot be re-used or recycled must be disposed of at a waste depot site or treatment facility that has been approved in writing by the relevant planning authority or the Director to receive such waste, or otherwise in a manner approved in writing by the Director.

OI2 Notification of incidents under section 32 of EMPCA

Where a person is required by section 32 of EMPCA to notify the Director of the release of a pollutant, the Director can be notified by telephoning **1800 005 171** (a 24-hour emergency telephone number).

Attachment 1: Premises Location





ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY