

# **Well licence application, Nowergup**

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**Mr R Anderson**

**Report and recommendations of the  
Environmental Protection Authority**

**Environmental Protection Authority  
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**Well licence for irrigated pasture and poultry  
production, Lot 12 Gibbs Road, Nowergup**

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## Introduction

In July 1990 the Water Authority of Western Australia referred to the Environmental Protection Authority a proposal to increase the groundwater extraction of a well licence. The proposed increase in extraction volume was to support poultry production at Lot 12 Gibbs Road, Nowergup.

The Environmental Protection Authority determined that the proposal should be assessed at the level of Consultative Environmental Review under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

## The proposal

The proposal is to establish intensive chicken farming (approximately 150,000 birds) in three sheds on the above property. The property consists of 68ha, 40 of which is currently under irrigation for the production of lucerne. The poultry litter will be removed from site.

## The assessment process

The Authority has assessed the proposal on the basis of:

- information provided to the Authority by the proponent and in the well licence application;
- discussions with the proponent by officers of the Environmental Protection Authority; and,
- the Authority's knowledge of current poultry production practice and its environmental effects.

## Environmental impacts

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the most significant impact of the proposed poultry and pasture production is the potential leaching of nutrients from the property into nearby wetlands (Neerabup National Park).

To minimise the leaching of nutrients from poultry litter, the proponent has undertaken to dispose of the litter either as fertiliser for nearby market gardens, or through private contractors. In addition, the litter which is stockpiled on the property will be stored under cover as protection from rain and site drainage.

### Recommendation 1

**The Environmental Protection Authority concludes that the proposed poultry production at Lot 12 Gibbs Road, Nowergup, as described in the Consultative Environmental Review is environmentally acceptable, and that it could proceed subject to the recommendations in this report. Accordingly, the Authority recommends that a well licence be issued.**

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the most significant potential impact of this proposal is nutrient leaching and runoff from the poultry litter, thereby polluting nearby waterbodies. The Authority therefore recommends the following.

### Recommendation 2

**The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that the storage of poultry litter on Lot 12 Gibbs Road, Nowergup be to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.**

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