

Decision on licence amendment (WL38)

Gascoyne Water Co-operative Limited

1 March 2019

Economic Regulation Authority

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Decision

1. In accordance with section 18 of the *Water Services Act 2012*, the Economic Regulation Authority has approved an amendment to Gascoyne Water Co-operative Limited's water services licence (WL38) to extend the operating area. The amended operating area is set out in plan OWR-OA-177, Issue E.
2. As required by section 47(2)(a) of the Act and regulation 10 of the *Water Services Regulations 2013*, the ERA will publish a notice of its approval of the licence amendment in the Western Australian Government Gazette as soon as is practicable.

Reasons

1. Gascoyne Water is a co-operative that supplies irrigation water services to local growers and non-potable water to community lifestyle blocks in the Carnarvon area.
2. On 16 January 2019, Gascoyne Water applied for an amendment to WL38 to extend the boundary of its operating area to the area set out in OWR-OA-177, Issue E.
3. The operating area has been expanded to include:
 - the Northern Gascoyne River borefield
 - proposed land releases under the Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative
 - the Carnarvon Waste Disposal Facility at Brown's Range
 - a new bore
 - three sand spears installed under the GFBI.¹
4. Under section 18 of the Act, the ERA may amend a licence if it is satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so.
5. Section 46 of the Act specifies, without limitation, the public interest matters to be taken into account by the ERA in making its decision.
6. On 23 January 2019, the ERA sought public comment on the licence application by 14 February 2019. The ERA did not receive any submissions.
7. The ERA considered the public interest, including the matters set out in section 46 of the Act. Having regard to this and the outcome of the public consultation, the ERA is satisfied that approving the amendment to WL38 would not be contrary to the public interest.

¹ A sand spear is a shallow well bore that pumps water from the underground water table to the surface.