

NOTIFICATION OF FEE INCREASES - LICENSING REGISTRATION AND WORKS APPROVALS FOR PRESCRIBED PREMISES UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) recently undertook a review of the costs associated with the regulation of prescribed premises under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

As a result of this review and its endorsement by Government, DEC will be increasing fees for licences, registrations and works approvals for prescribed premises.

The fee increases will be introduced over a two-year period commencing on 1 July 2007 and are divided into three categories; general fee increases applicable to all prescribed premises, increases applicable to particular industries and increases applicable to specific pollutants on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Information on these fee increases is detailed below.

General Fee Increases

In 2003 the State Government determined that the full costs associated with the regulation of industry should be recovered from industry rather than borne by the taxpayer. Consequently licence, registration and works approval fees were increased.

In recent years there has been substantial growth in Western Australia and an increased requirement for industry regulation. In light of this, DEC contracted an independent consultant to determine the full cost of industry licensing.

This review indicated that the cost of industry regulation was substantially higher than the fees recovered from licence, registration and works approval applications. To address this issue and provide increased capacity for industry regulation, the following fee increases will occur.

	Current charge per fee unit	Charge per fee unit from 1/07/07	Charge per fee unit from 1/07/08
Works Approval and Registration Fees	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
Premise Fees	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
Discharge Fees	\$29.25	\$32.00	\$35.00

In addition, the maximum fee limits will be raised by \$90,000 on 1 July 2007 and by \$100,000 on 1 July 2008. Thereafter, the maximum fee payable will increase at the current rate of \$50,000 a year until 1 July 2012. Please note that the maximum fee cap increases are only relevant to a small number of companies whose licence fee exceeds the cap amount.

Specific Industry Fee Increases

A review of industry regulation has identified that the fees for some industries are disproportionately low in comparison to other industries for the level of regulation undertaken.

Therefore, there will be an increase in the number of premise fee units payable for industries in Category 46 (brickworks) and Category 41 (alumina refineries). The fee unit increases are detailed below.

Category	Production or Design Capacity (tonnes/pa)	Current Fee Units	Fee Units from 1/07/07
41	< 5,000	50	150
	5,000 - 49,999	100	300
	50,000 - 499,999	250	750
	≥ 500,000	350	1050
46	<1,000,000	250	1250
	≥1,000,000	600	3000

Specific Pollutant Fee Increases

Investigation has also identified that certain air pollutants discharged into the densely populated metropolitan area and on the Swan Coastal Plain should be subject to increased air shed monitoring and review.

Accordingly, the fee units associated with oxides of nitrogen, sulphur oxides and particulates discharged within the metropolitan area and Swan Coastal Plain will also increase. Fee units for discharges outside of the metropolitan area and Swan Coastal Plain will remain unchanged. The fee unit increases are detailed in the table below.

Discharge into the metropolitan area or Swan Coastal Plain	Current Fee Units (per g/min)	Fee Units from 1/07/07 (per g/min)
Oxides of nitrogen, sulphur oxides and particulates	0.1	1

If you require any further information on the fee increases, please do not hesitate to contact the Licensing Policy Unit on 6467 5385 or visit our website (www.dec.wa.gov.au) where a new fee calculator will be available by 15 June 2007 to assist you in determining how the fee increases will affect your business.

If you have a licence renewal on, or after the 1 July 2007, or submit a works approval or new licence application after that date, you will need to use the new fee calculator in determining your fee.