

Information sheet

Environmental Protection (Waste ERA Framework) Amendment Regulation 2018

Waste ERA framework ERA 55 – Other waste reprocessing or treatment

The purpose of this information sheet is to outline the introduction of an updated environmentally relevant activity (ERA) following the new waste ERA framework stage 2. This document is intended for guidance only and does not take the place of relevant legislation.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) introduced changes to the waste-related environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) found in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation)¹. The information sheet *Overview of the new waste ERA framework – Stage 2*² gives an overview of these changes.

On 4 February 2019, new risk-based categories were introduced into Schedule 9 of the EP Regulation³. Accordingly, the ERA 55 thresholds will align with these categories of waste and the scale of the activity. The aggregate environmental scores (AESs) will also align with the risk and scale of the activity and will determine the annual fee.

Summary of ERA 55

From 1 July 2019, ERA 55 Other waste reprocessing or treatment requires an environmental authority for *operating a facility for receiving waste and reprocessing the waste or treating the waste to render it non-hazardous or less hazardous*.

Examples of activities covered by the new ERA 55 include: operating a facility for receiving waste and reprocessing or treating the waste using methods such as bioremediation, chemical fixation and microwaving or autoclaving clinical waste.

ERA 55 thresholds are divided across the following classifications of waste:

- general waste
- category 2 regulated waste;
- category 1 regulated waste; and
- clinical or biosecurity waste.

Each classification (except clinical or biosecurity waste) has thresholds for:

- small-scale operations disposing of 5000t/year or less of waste;
- medium-scale operations disposing of more than 5000 to 10 000t/year of waste; and

¹ The EP Regulation is available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/sl-2019-0155>.

² Available at www.qld.gov.au using the publication number “ESR/2019/4606” as a search term.

³ Information on the new regulated waste classifications can be found on the department’s website <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/waste/review-reg-waste.html>

ERA 55 – Other waste reprocessing or treatment

- large-scale operations disposing of more than 10 000t/year of waste.

Note: ERA 55 will not capture activities which are captured by the following ERAs:

- ERA 53 – Organic material processing
- ERA 54 – Mechanical waste reprocessing
- ERA 61 – Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment
- ERA 62 – Resource recovery and transfer facility operations

Appendix 1 – ERA 55 thresholds shows the new ERA 55 thresholds that came into effect on 1 July 2019. The Environmental Protection Regulation 2019² details the new ERA 55 in its entirety, including description, exclusions, thresholds and definitions.

Further information

Information regarding the waste ERA framework can be found on the department's website <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/waste/review-reg-waste.html>. This includes links to the relevant legislation and details about Stage 1 of the waste ERA framework, which commenced on 23 November 2018.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Permit and Licence Management on 1300 130 372 (option 4) or email palm@des.qld.gov.au.

Disclaimer:

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Version history

Version	Date published	Comments
1.00	12 April 2019	First published.
2.00	1 September 2019	Updated for the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation (Waste) Amendment Regulation 2019 and EP Regulation 2019.

ERA 55 – Other waste reprocessing or treatment

Appendix 1 – ERA 55 Other waste reprocessing or treatment

- (1) Other waste reprocessing or treatment (the **relevant activity**) consists of operating a facility for receiving waste and—
- reprocessing the waste; or
 - treating the waste to render it non-hazardous or less hazardous.
- (2) The relevant activity does not include an activity to which section 53, 54, 61 or 62 applies.
Examples of the relevant activity—
operating a facility for receiving waste and reprocessing or treating the waste using bioremediation, chemical fixation, microwaves or an autoclave
- (3) In the following table, the aggregate environmental score for the relevant activity is the score state opposite the threshold within which the relevant activity is carried out.

New ERA	Threshold		AES
ERA 55 Other waste reprocessing or treatment	1(a)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste - 5,000t or less	28
	1(b)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	39
	1(c)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste – more than 10,000t	48
	2(a)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - 5,000t or less	38
	2(b)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	52
	2(c)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - more than 10,000t	65
	3(a)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - 5,000t or less	46
	3(b)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	65
	3(c)	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - more than 10,000t	82
	4	operating a facility for receiving and reprocessing or treating clinical waste or biosecurity waste	46

- (4) **reprocessing** includes recycling.