

## Guidelines to Applicants - Abattoir Approvals - Western Australian Meat Industry Authority

The Western Australian Meat Industry Authority (WAMIA), under the *WAMIA Act 1976 (Act)* has a statutory obligation to approve the construction and operation of abattoirs in Western Australia (WA). You must apply to WAMIA for approval to construct or approval to operate.

WAMIA is not required to approve structural additions or alterations to abattoirs and therefore you are not required to apply to WAMIA for approval for these activities.

### Before Applying to WAMIA

WAMIA recommends reading the [Abattoir Regulatory Approval Guidelines – Western Australia](#) which provide a summary of key regulatory approvals required prior to constructing or operating an abattoir that will slaughter animals for sale for human consumption.

### WAMIA Approval Process and Timeframes

1. *Pre-Lodgement* – please contact WAMIA staff via email [wamia@wamia.wa.gov.au](mailto:wamia@wamia.wa.gov.au) or phone [\(08\) 9571 0013](tel:0895710013) to discuss your intentions and allow WAMIA to confirm application requirements and answer any queries you may have.
2. *Lodgement of Application* – submit application form (see application form for details on submission options) and pay the prescribed application fee. WAMIA staff will review your application to check whether it is complete and confirm with you when it has been accepted as complete.
3. *Validation and Assessment* – WAMIA staff will validate information provided where necessary. For approval to operate the validation process will include a site visit. The application will then be assessed by the WAMIA board.
4. *Decision* – The WAMIA Board will grant approval to construct or operate specifying any conditions or restrictions or will refuse to grant approval.

WAMIA endeavours to make decisions on approvals within 30 days of applications being accepted as complete.

*Note: If approval is refused or applicant is not satisfied with any conditions / restrictions they may apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for review.*

### WAMIA Assessment

In line with the *Act* (Part IV s19) WAMIA shall assess applications against the following criteria:

- whether the applicant has been convicted of any offences against the *Act*
- provisions of any planning schemes or land use order made under any Act and site location suitability for an abattoir (only applicable to approval construct)

- suitability of the applicant and merit of the application
- any matters prescribed, more specifically compliance with Food Regulations 2009 (Western Australia) Part 5 (Meat Hygiene) Division 6 (Premises Used in Meat Production) which specifies that abattoirs, processing premises and the slaughtering of animals must comply with the requirements of adopted standards.

*Note: Under the Act, WAMIA can also consider site linkages to rail or transport facilities, saleyards and markets however WAMIA deems this to be a commercial decision and therefore does not assess.*

WAMIA may also impose conditions and restrictions on abattoir approvals (as per the Act Part IV s18).

The application forms and questions are designed to capture information relevant to making an assessment against the above matters.

In circumstances where matters are regulated and assessed by other jurisdictions, WAMIA policy is to accept evidence of compliance from those jurisdictions as sufficient to make a decision.

*Example 1 - In regard to land use planning matters and site location suitability, WAMIA will accept evidence of Development Approval from Local Government and Works Approval from the Department of Environment, Water and Regulation.*

*Example 2 – In regard to compliance with the Food Regulations 2009, WAMIA will accept a Certificate of Food Business Registration from Local Government.*

Approval holders may also apply to amend conditions and restrictions on their approvals including for example the kind of animals that can be slaughtered under their existing approval.

Application forms contain detailed instructions on how to complete the form.

## Application Forms

Form Type	Applicability
APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT APPLICATION FORM	Applicable only to fixed premise abattoirs
APPROVAL TO OPERATE APPLICATION FORM	Applicable to both fixed premise and mobile abattoirs
APPROVAL AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM	Applicable to approvals to construct and operate

**For any queries related to the application process or assistance with completing application forms please don't hesitate to contact WAMIA via e-mail [wamia@wamia.wa.gov.au](mailto:wamia@wamia.wa.gov.au) or phone [\(08\) 9571 0013](tel:0895710013)**