

Permitting decisions – Part Surrender

We have decided to accept the part surrender of the permit for Albury Wellsite operated by Island Gas Limited.

The permit number is EPR/EB3100FC/S005.

The decision was issued on 14/07/2026.

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching this decision that we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It summarises the decision-making process to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account.

We have assessed the aspects that are changing as part of this part surrender, we have not revisited any other sections of this permit.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals for part surrender.

The variation is to remove Activity Section 4.2A(1)(a)(i) Production of a single inorganic chemical (Hydrogen) activity (AR1). No hydrogen production has occurred, and no plant associated with this activity has been constructed on site. As such we can determine this as an application to remove authorisation to carry on an activity which has not been put into operation.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the surrender notice.

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

The regulated facility

The permitted regulated facilities have changed as a result of the partial surrender.

The variation is to remove Activity Section 4.2A(1)(a)(i) Production of a single inorganic chemical) (Hydrogen) activity (AR1).

The remaining part of the permit applies to activities AR2 to AR5 as detailed in Table S1.1 activities

The site

The extent of the facility has not changed as a result of the partial surrender, this surrender is for the removal of an activity, AR1 only. The installation boundary remains unchanged.

The plan is included in the permit.

Pollution risk

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.

Satisfactory state

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state, having regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.

Changes to permit conditions as a consequence of the surrender

The permit conditions have changed as a result of the partial surrender.

Introductory Note – removal of references to activity AR1 Hydrogen will be produced by Steam-Methane Reformation (SMR) from gas produced from the pre-existing Albury 1 well (ALB-1).

1.2 Energy efficiency – Reference to AR1 removed from condition 1.2.1

1.3 Efficient use of raw materials – Reference to AR1 removed from condition 1.3.1 and updated template condition.

2.3 Operating Techniques - Reference to AR1 removed from condition 2.3.1

3.5.4 - New template condition added regarding MCERTS calibration checks

4.2 Reporting - Reference to AR1 removed from condition 4.2.2

Table S1.1 activities – Removal of activity AR1

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements – IC1 removed as no longer required as the activity is the subject of this surrender.

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements – removal of point source A3 SMR Emission Point.

Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to accept this partial permit surrender.

Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:

“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.

We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.