

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 39A(7)

PUBLIC ADVICE

- Proposal:** Xanadu-1 Conventional Onshore Oil Well
- Proponent:** Norwest Energy NL
- Decision:** Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act. Advice Given.

The EPA considers that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment and does not warrant formal assessment.

Background:

On 1 March 2017, Norwest Energy NL referred the Xanadu-1 Conventional Onshore Oil Well proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The proposal is for the development of a conventional onshore oil well to assist with designing future drilling programs, and further refine the structural detail of the Xanadu-1 deposit. No unconventional drilling would occur. Norwest holds Exploration Permit No EP413 where the proposal is located.

The proposal is located on the coast, approximately 42 kilometres south of Geraldton, in the Shire of Irwin. The proposal area is located off the Indian Ocean Drive, and is approximately 360 metres west of Bee Keepers Nature Reserve (C Class).

The proposal requires clearing of 4.5 hectares of native vegetation, which is also fauna habitat, for the construction of a well pad and access roads. There will be no impact to the marine environment. The duration of the drilling and testing activities will be approximately 45 – 65 days, including site civil works and demobilisation.

The Proposal involves the following key phases:

1. site preparation operations in readiness for equipment mobilisation;
2. mobilisation of the drilling package and ancillary equipment to the well location;
3. drill, wireline log, plug and abandon the well as per the approved Well Management Plan;
4. demobilisation of the drilling package and ancillary equipment from the location; and

5. rehabilitation of the well location following completion of the drill program.

The proposal was advertised for public comment from 11 – 18 April 2017, and seventeen (17) public comments were received.

Relevant Statutory and Administrative Provisions

The EPA has considered the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the EP Act and the *Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Administrative Procedures 2016* and *Procedures Manual*.

Materials considered in making this decision

The EPA has considered and had regard to the referral information, which is available on the EPA's consultation hub, any comments received during the 7 day comment period, information conducted through its own inquiries and any further information requested from the proponent and government agencies.

Consideration

In making its decision on whether to assess the proposal, the EPA had regard to various matters, including the following (as outlined in the EPA's *Statement of Environmental Principles, Factors and Objectives*):

- a) values, sensitivity and quality of the environment which is likely to be impacted;
- b) extent (intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic footprint) of the likely impacts;
- c) consequence of the likely impacts (or change);
- d) resilience of the environment to cope with the impacts or change;
- e) cumulative impact with other projects;
- f) connections and interactions between parts of the environment to inform a holistic view of impacts to the whole environment;
- g) level of confidence in the prediction of impacts and the success of proposed mitigation; and
- h) public interest about the likely effect of the proposal, if implemented, on the environment, and public information that informs the EPA's assessment.

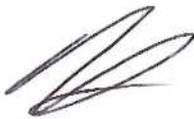
In considering the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposal on Flora and Vegetation, and Terrestrial Fauna, the EPA has had particular regard to:

- the proposal is for conventional onshore exploration drilling;
- the small footprint and short duration of the proposed activities;
- no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are known to intersect the proposal area, and no Threatened flora species were identified during field surveys;
- the measures proposed by the proponent to manage any conservation significant fauna species that may be present at the site; and

- at completion of drilling, the well will be plugged and abandoned, equipment and any refuse will be removed from the site, and then rehabilitation works will be undertaken.

In consideration of the points above, the EPA considers that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment and does not warrant formal assessment. The potential impacts from the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the referral documentation and the proponent's management measures.

The EPA notes that the proposal will also be managed by the Department of Mines and Petroleum through the provisions of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.



Dr Tom Hatton
Chairman

17 May 2017

