



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

WONNICH 1 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION WELL  
10 KM WEST OF MONTEBELLO ISLANDS (920)

AMPOLEX LTD

Ass # 920

Bull # 780

State # 386

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

**1 Proponent Commitments**

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the relevant environmental management commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review, those resulting from the proponent's response to public submissions and the commitment provided in the letter of 8 May 1995 to the Department of Environmental Protection, consolidated in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 780 as Appendix 5; provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

A schedule of environmental management commitments (May 1995) which will be audited by the Department of Environmental Protection is attached.

**2 Implementation**

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

**3 Proponent**

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 3-1 No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

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**4 Time Limit on Approval**

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

- 4-1 If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced.

Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority).

**5 Time Limits on Drilling**

Since oil spill trajectory predictions for the Wonnich-1 location are only available for the period May to July, drilling outside this period should only take place if the proponent provides trajectory information for the new time of drilling.

- 5-1 The proponent shall only drill the exploration well between 1 May and 31 July in any year.
- 5-2 Notwithstanding condition 5-1, the proponent may drill the exploration well outside the period 1 May to 31 July after having provided additional oil spill trajectory predictions to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection.

**6 Compliance Auditing**

To help determine environmental performance, periodic reports on progress in implementation of the proposal are required.

- 6-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Progress and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

**Procedure**

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.
- 2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Hon. Peter Foss, MLC  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

09 JUN 1995

**Schedule of Environmental Management Commitments  
which will be audited  
by the Department of Environmental Protection**

**May 1995**

**WONNICH 1 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION WELL  
10 KM WEST OF MONTEBELLO ISLANDS (920)**

**AMPOLEX LTD**

The following is a consolidated list of all environmental management commitments which will be audited by the Department of Environmental Protection:

1. In the event that the operations give rise to an oil spill or discharge, Ampolex will be responsible for the costs of operations conducted for the purpose of containing or treating spilt oil or cleaning up areas contaminated by such oil. It will also promptly compensate any party for damages associated with an oil spill to the extent to which they are legally entitled.
2. All personnel involved at the location will be given an induction course which will include an outline of the material in the Consultative Environmental Review Report and these Commitments.
3. Transfers of fuel from work boats to the rig at the location will only be undertaken:
  - 1 under the direct supervision of the support vessel Master and the Reading & Bates Barge Captain;
  - 2 in the daylight hours;
  - 3 in suitable sea conditions, and
  - 4 with crew of the work boat and the drilling rig constantly monitoring the operation.
4. The testing of any hydrocarbons discovered by the well will be undertaken with the initiation of first hydrocarbons to surface during daylight hours. This will be carried out using the specialist contractor's (Schlumberger) latest technology, including "Green Burners."
5. Satellite tracker buoys will be kept on the drilling rig so that in the event of a spill they can be deployed into the spill to provide 24-hour location information.
6. The well will be drilled using water-based drilling fluids with additives selected so as to minimise the toxicity of the fluids.
7. Releases of drilling fluids will only be permitted by the Ampolex representative when currents will move the resulting plume away from reefs and islands. A log of all drilling fluids and cuttings discharged to the environment will be kept.
8. Waste oil and grease from machinery will be returned to shore for recycling or disposal. A log of these wastes will be kept.
9. Solid wastes will be returned to shore for disposal in approved landfill dumps. A log of these wastes (type, amount and disposal location) will be kept.
10. Prior to drilling, and at the completion of the programme before the rig moves off location, remotely operated vehicle surveys of the ocean floor will be conducted. This will confirm that no rubbish has been left behind and will provide useful information on the seafloor area disturbed by drilling activities.
11. Helicopter pilots will be instructed to fly at least one kilometre offshore from any islands in the Montebello or Lowendal groups to avoid alarming birds.
12. Work boats will stand off from islands and reefs and not permit crew access to these areas. Captains will be advised of the presence of known historical wrecks and will avoid them. Captains will be instructed to avoid anchoring in areas where coral reef occurs.
13. Immediately prior to the mobilising of equipment to the location, discussions will again be held with both the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and Morgan & Co Pty Ltd, as agreed in initial consultations.

14. Ampolex will undertake, before and after drilling, aerial photography of those coral reef areas of the Montebellos which are the closest to the Wonnich-1 well location.
15. An environmental audit of these management commitments will be undertaken by Ampolex during the drilling of the Wonnich-1 well.
16. In the event of an oil spill during the drilling of Wonnich-1 exploration well, Ampolex will take every action possible to protect the marine environmental resources of the Montebello Islands. This commitment includes the deployment of appropriate oil booms, already available in the immediate area, to protect those areas identified by the WA Museum, and other areas of high environmental priority as determined by the environmental resource maps of the area. In this commitment, it must be acknowledged that boom efficiency may have limitations by the current, wind and sea state conditions prevailing at the time.
17. Ampolex will contract the dedicated oil spill response vessel "Mermaid Avenger" at the Wonnich-1 location for the duration of the drilling program.