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Published on 13 March 2008

Statement No. 763

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

**FRESHWATER POINT 1 DRILLING PROJECT WITHIN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION  
LEASE EP413, BEEKEEPERS' NATURE RESERVE, SHIRE OF IRWIN**

**Proposal:** The clearing of an area of native vegetation not exceeding 6.5 hectares; the construction of a lease pad (drilling area), access track and camp site; extraction of material from a Reserve Borrow Pit; drilling of petroleum exploration well Freshwater Point 1; and rehabilitation, as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

**Proponent:** Origin Energy Resources Limited

**Proponent Address:** 34 Colin Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

**Assessment Number:** 1706

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** Bulletin 1277

The proposal referred to in the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority may be implemented. The implementation of that proposal is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

**1 Proposal Implementation**

1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.

## **2 Proponent Environmental Management Commitment**

- 2-1 The proponent shall fulfil the environmental management commitment contained in schedule 2 of this statement.

## **3 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details**

- 3-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.
- 3-2 The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation (CEO) of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.

## **4 Time Limit of Authorisation**

- 4-1 The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void within five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.
- 4-2 The proponent shall provide the CEO with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.

## **5 Compliance Reporting**

- 5-1 In addition to any other reporting requirements under this statement, the proponent shall submit to the CEO an environmental compliance report within three months after completion of drilling and thereafter submit environmental compliance reports annually reporting on the previous twelve-month period, unless required by the CEO to report more frequently.

Compliance reporting shall continue until such time as the CEO determines that the proponent's compliance responsibilities have been fulfilled.

- 5-2 The environmental compliance reports shall address each element of an audit program approved by the CEO and shall be prepared and submitted in a format acceptable to the CEO.

The environmental compliance reports shall:

1. be endorsed by signature of the proponent's Executive Director or a person, approved in writing by the CEO, delegated to sign on behalf of the proponent's Executive Director;

2. state whether the proponent has complied with each condition and procedure contained in this statement;
3. provide verifiable evidence of compliance with each condition and procedure contained in this statement;
4. state whether the proponent has complied with each key action contained in any environmental management plan or program required by this statement;
5. provide verifiable evidence of conformance with each key action contained in any environmental management plan or program required by this statement;
6. identify all non-compliances and non-conformances and describe the corrective and preventative actions taken in relation to each non-compliance or non-conformance; and
7. review the effectiveness of all corrective and preventative actions taken.

5-3 The proponent shall make the environmental compliance reports required by condition 5-1 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **6 Rehabilitation Performance Bond**

- 6-1 As security for the due and punctual observance and performance by the proponent of the requirements of condition 9 to be observed, conformed and complied with, the proponent shall lodge with the CEO on demand prior to commencement of site preparation activities, an irrevocable Performance Bond as nominated and approved by the CEO in his sole unfettered discretion to a cash value and in a form acceptable to the CEO ("the Security") which Security at the date hereof being \$65,000.
- 6-2 The CEO may review the Security required by condition 6-1 at any time or times and if, on such review, the CEO considers that a security has ceased to be acceptable to the CEO, then the CEO may, with the approval of the Minister for the Environment, require the proponent to furnish replacement or additional security for performance by the proponent of its obligations regarding rehabilitation under condition 9.
- 6-3 The proponent shall within 14 days after written request by the CEO furnish replacement or additional security in such sum as the CEO shall nominate, in a form and upon terms and conditions approved by the CEO, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. On receipt of approved replacement security the CEO shall release and discharge the original security.

Note: In the preparation of advice to the CEO in relation to conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3, the Environmental Protection Authority expects that the advice of the following agency will be obtained:

- Department of Industry and Resources.

## **7 Environmental Supervision**

- 7-1 The proponent shall ensure that all works are supervised by environmental personnel with experience and qualifications relevant to each phase of the proposal from initial site preparation to final decommissioning and relinquishment.

The duties of these Environmental Personnel shall include the following:

1. supervision of works to ensure best practice environmental performance;
2. ensuring that vegetation clearing, quarantine management and rehabilitation works are carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with approved management plans;
3. monitoring and preparation of reports on matters of potential environmental concern;
4. liaising with relevant officers of the Department of Industry and Resources and the Department of Environment and Conservation;
5. communicating potential environmental problems to the project manager;
6. notifying appropriate government agencies of environmental problems; and
7. enhancing environmental knowledge of employees and contactors generally at the project site by means of talks, discussions, seminars, brochures, operational methods and training.

## **8 Weed and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Management**

- 8-1 Prior to commencement of site preparation activities, the proponent shall implement the Weed and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Environmental Management Plan (November 2007) contained within the proponent's Environmental Protection Statement document submitted for the proposal.

- 8-2 The proponent shall report from the commencement of site preparation activities to the Department of Environment and Conservation, any non-compliance with the Weed and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Environmental Management Plan referred to in condition 8-1.

This report shall include:

1. Time, date and location of incidents; and
2. Management actions taken to mitigate/reduce the non-conformance of hygiene procedures;

Reporting shall conclude when the requirements of condition 9-2 have been fulfilled.

- 8-3 The proponent shall ensure that all vehicles are to be cleaned in accordance with the Weed and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* management plan. The proponent shall also ensure that all vehicles and footwear are to be cleaned at the hygiene station to a satisfactory standard.
- 8-4 The proponent shall revise the Weed and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* management plan to include an additional clean down point at the entrance to the borrow pit used for access construction. The additional clean down point will be utilised whenever a high rainfall event occurs during the site preparation phase of the project.

## **9 Rehabilitation Management Plan**

- 9-1 The proponent shall implement the Rehabilitation Management Plan (November 2007) contained within the proponent's Environmental Protection Statement document submitted for the proposal.

The Rehabilitation Management Plan shall contain provision for update and review.

- 9-2 The proponent shall implement the Rehabilitation Management Plan referred to in condition 9-1 until such time as the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the CEO, that the proponent's rehabilitation responsibilities have been fulfilled.

## **Notes**

1. The Environmental Protection Authority may seek advice from other agencies or organisations, as required, in order to provide its advice to the Department of Environment and Conservation.
2. The Minister for the Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environment and Conservation over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.
3. Compliance and performance reporting will endeavour to be in accord with the timing requirements of the *Petroleum Act 1967*.

David Templeman MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; CLIMATE CHANGE; PEEL

10 March 2008

# Schedule 1

## The Proposal (Assessment No. 1706)

### General Description

The proposal involves the clearing of an area of native vegetation not exceeding 6.5 hectares for the purpose of drilling petroleum exploration well Freshwater Point 1, within Beekeepers' Nature Reserve. Beekeepers' Nature Reserve is a "C"-class reserve vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia for the purpose of conservation of flora and fauna.

The drilling exploration will include the construction of a lease pad (drilling area) and access track from existing reserve borrow pits to Freshwater Point 1. Construction material will be sourced from one of the reserve borrow pits. A fire buffer with a 150-metre radius around the lease pad will be cleared of vegetation. A temporary camp site will be established on privately owned and previously cleared property 10.5 kilometres south of Freshwater Point 1.

On completion of exploration drilling, the proponent will undertake rehabilitation of both reserve borrow pits and the fire buffer. If the well does not identify a commercially viable resource, the lease pad and access track will be rehabilitated. If the well is successful the lease pad and access track will remain.

The proposal is described in the following document – *Environmental Protection Statement – Freshwater Point, W.A.* (version 6, November 2007).

### Summary Description

A summary of the key proposal characteristics is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Summary of Key Proposal Characteristics**

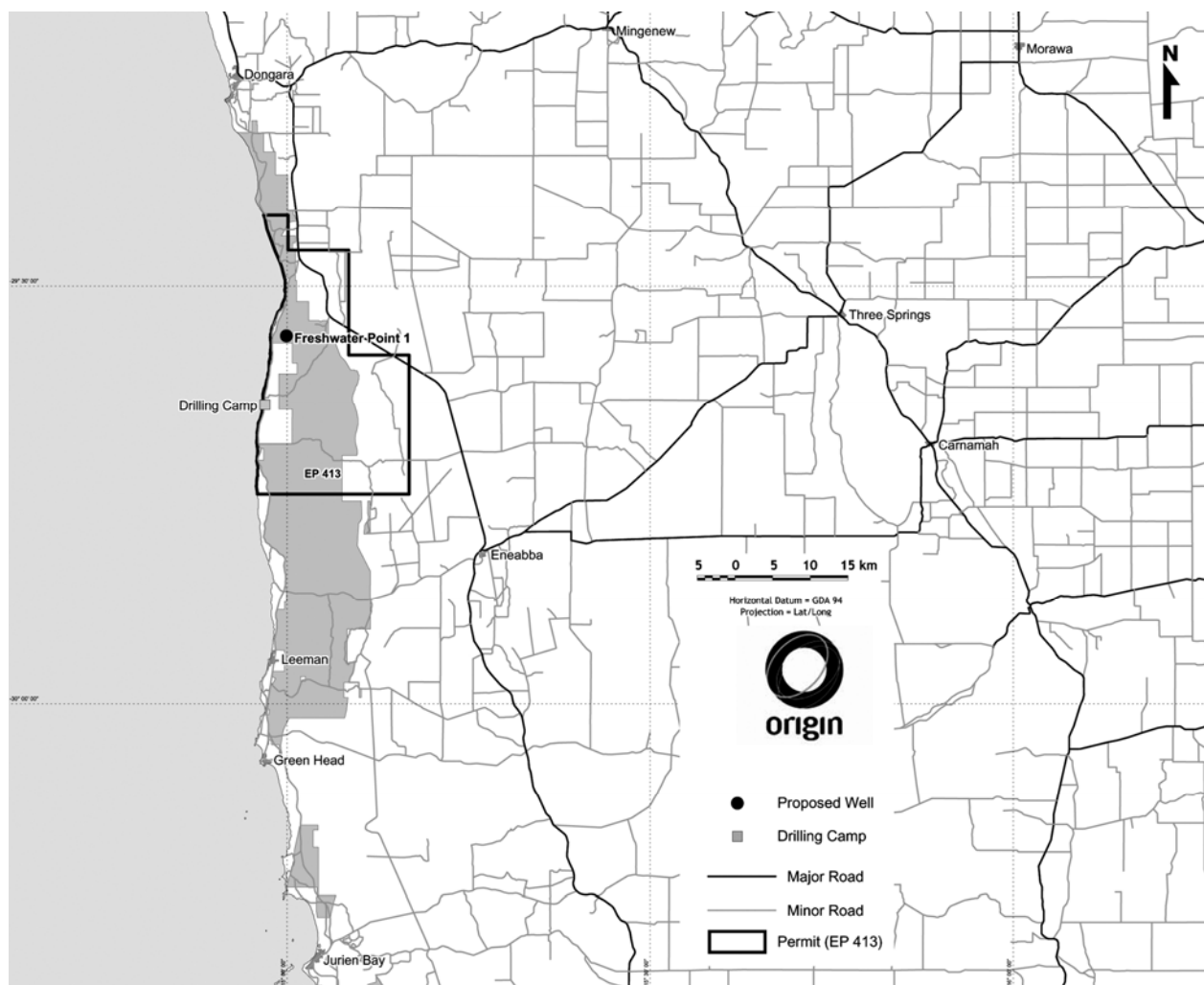
Element	Description
Petroleum Exploration Permit	EP413
Type of Project	Exploration Drilling
Area of Disturbance	Not more than 6.5 hectares
Timing and Duration	Site preparation and drilling to be carried out within the period 1 December to 31 May in any year. Rehabilitation not less than 3 years and until completion criteria achieved.
Lease Pad	130 metres x 100 metres. Supports drilling rig and ancillary equipment.
Flare Buffer (firebreak)	Flare buffer with 150-metre radius from the flare pit. Flare pit 6.1 metres x 4.6 metres x 1.8 metres depth excavated adjacent to the lease pad.
Turkey Nest Dam	Located within flare buffer, excavated to a depth of 2 metres and lined with 0.4mm thick Damtuff.

<b>Element</b>	<b>Description</b>
Access Track	From Indian Ocean Drive along existing reserve borrow pit access track. Construction of new track 6 metres x 1,400 metres from reserve borrow pit to well site.
Camp Site	Located on private land 10.5 kilometres south of well site. Includes hygiene station, hard stand area (vehicle parking) and mobile facilities (office, mess and accommodation).
Reserve Borrow Pits	Two previously disturbed reserve borrow pits exist off Indian Ocean Drive. One pit will be cleared of vegetation, and marl material from the pit will be used for site preparation activities (lease pad, access track and camp site). Both pits will be rehabilitated.

**Figure (attached)**

Figure 1 – Location of Freshwater Point 1 and Beekeepers' Nature Reserve.

**Figure 1:**





## Schedule 2

### **PROPONENT'S CONSOLIDATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT FRESHWATER POINT 1 DRILLING PROJECT WITHIN BEEKEEPERS' NATURE RESERVE (Assessment No. 1706)**

Note: The term “commitment” as used in this schedule includes the entire row of the table and its six separate parts as follows:

- a commitment number;
- a commitment topic;
- the objective of the commitment;
- the ‘action’ to be undertaken by the proponent;
- the timing requirements of the commitment; and
- the body/agency to provide technical advice to the Department of Environment & Conservation.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Advice</b>
1	Existing Reserve Borrow Pits	To provide a cover of indigenous plant species consistent with the vegetation immediately adjacent to the clearing and that provides for stabilisation of the soil surface and provision of habitat for fauna and flora species.	(1) Both existing reserve borrow pits will be re-contoured, re-spread with topsoil and seeded with native species from the appropriate community.  (2) Rehabilitation will be monitored for three years or until completion criteria are achieved.	Prior to 30 April 2008 or within 3 months following decommissioning.	-