



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of State Development

Your ref: OEPA 2010/183
Our ref: S0195/201003
Enquiries: Tania Ashworth - Ph 9222 0464 Fax 9222 0505
Email: tania.ashworth@dsd.wa.gov.au

Dr Paul Vogel
Chairman
Environmental Protection Authority
Locked Bag 33
Cloisters Square
PERTH WA 6850

Dear Paul

BROWSE LNG PRECINCT - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Thank you for your letter of 6 February 2012 regarding the provision of information on refinements to the precinct design for consideration by the EPA under section 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Before providing this information I would like to clarify one point made in your letter in relation to the notice of intention to take (NOITT) process. It appears from your letter that you understand there are to be amendments proposed to the Browse LNG precinct footprint related to the NOITT process. This is not the case. As confirmed at the EPA meeting of 16 February, 2012, any revised NOITTS once issued will be entirely within the previously identified Precinct Layout footprint. The refinements to design documented below are not related to the NOITT process but rather are refinements arising from increased understanding of requirements of Front End Engineering and Design (FEED).

In relation to these refinements it is understood that the EPA can only consent to a proponent making changes to a proposal without a revised proposal being referred if it considers the change is unlikely to significantly increase any impact the proposal may have on the environment.

As required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Administrative Procedures 2010 we are providing information on the following:

1. Details of the proposed change;
2. Statement of the significance of the change having; and
3. Rationale for the change.

Following discussion with the OEPA this information is provided in relation to the following refinements:

- The IMF construction including the option of excavation into the coastline;
- Changes to the alignment of the access channel; and
- Changes to the extent of the port shore crossing.

Detailed figures and explanations are provided in the following attachments:

- 1) Overview of indicative IMF layout for Port Area A.
- 2) Indicative Port Layout and Channel Alignment with BPPH, non BPPH, and BH (as requested by Marine Ecosystems Branch).
- 3) Generic Precinct Layout with 900m nominal location identified.
- 4) Rationale for IMF inclusion in SAR.
- 5) Revised Description of Activities (Key Characteristics).

Table 1 provides a brief overview for each of these refinements.

Refinement	Details	Statement of significance	Rationale for Change
Port layout and IMF location	Excavation inshore for some features of IMF.	No increase in impact; the proposed conceptual layout for the Port and IMF does not vary significantly from any of the four potential layouts presented in the SAR. It is expected that the predicted impacts on the marine and terrestrial environment would be consistent with those discussed in the SAR.	Technical and commercial advantages to decreasing length of jetty and cryogenic line. This also results in decreased risk of sedimentation and a reduction in total marine footprint.
Access channel alignment	Access channel route transits directly east-west compared to northwest-southeast orientation presented in SAR.	No increase in impact; potential to reduce impact on BPPH.	Increased understanding of metocean conditions has identified this option provides better safety for large vessels while still using old paeleo channel to reduce dredging.
Port shore crossing	Avoidance of northern 900m on nominal location presented in SAR.	No increase in impact; reduction in footprint disturbed.	Avoids dinosaur footprints and indigenous heritage.

Overall it is anticipated that these refinements will reduce environmental impacts in a number of ways and do not result in any significant increase in impacts. It is acknowledged that they may result in increased management requirements in relation to maintaining groundwater integrity and management of sand accumulation.

Please note that the spatial information relating to the attachments will be forwarded at a later date.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter please contact Tania Ashworth on 08 9222 0464.

Yours sincerely



Gail McGowan
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
STATE INITIATIVES

24 February 2012