



Report and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority



**Bluewaters Power Station Expansion
- Phase III and Phase IV Proposal
- inquiry under s46 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986
to amend Ministerial Statement 837**

Bluewaters Power 3 Pty Ltd

Report 1543

March 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENT

**BLUEWATERS POWER STATION EXPANSION – PHASE III AND PHASE
IV PROPOSAL – INQUIRY UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986 TO AMEND MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT 837 – EXTENSION OF TIMEFRAME FOR SUBSTANTIAL
COMMENCEMENT (ASSESSMENT NO. 2037)**

The Minister for Environment has requested (on 16 December 2014) that under section 46 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) inquire into and report on the matter of changing the implementation conditions relating to the Bluewaters Power Station Expansion – Phase III and Phase IV proposal.

The following is the EPA's Report and Recommendations (No. 1543) to the Minister pursuant to section 46(6) of the EP Act.

Background

Ministerial Statement 837 (published 17 September 2010) gives approval for the Bluewaters Power Station Expansion – Phase III and Phase IV proposal. Under Section 40 of the EP Act, the EPA determined that the proposal was to be assessed at the Public Environmental Review (PER) level of assessment.

The EPA considered the following key environmental factors in its original assessment of the proposal:

- Air Quality;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Noise;
- Biodiversity; and
- Marine Environment

Using the new *Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Environmental Factors and Objectives* (EAG 8) these factors are now represented by:

- Air Quality and Atmospheric Gases;
- Amenity;
- Flora and Vegetation;
- Rehabilitation and Decommissioning;

- Inland Waters and Environmental Quality;
- Terrestrial Fauna;
- Terrestrial Environmental Quality;
- Benthic Communities and Habitat;
- Marine Environmental Quality; and
- Marine Fauna

Requested changes to conditions

Condition 3 of Statement 837 requires the proponent to substantially commence the proposal within five years of the date of the Statement (i.e. before 17 September 2015).

The proposal has not yet substantially commenced. The proponent, Bluewaters Power 3 Pty Ltd, has requested an extension of the time limit of authorisation for a further five years, to 17 September 2020.

Assessment of the requested change to conditions

The EPA considers that the environmental factors of the proposal have not changed significantly from those presented in the Public Environmental Review (PER) and as assessed by the EPA in Report 1349 (March 2010), and no new significant environmental factors have arisen since the EPA's assessment of the proposal. The EPA is satisfied that the existing implementation conditions will continue to address the relevant environmental factors, and manage and mitigate the potential impacts of the proposal.

The EPA concludes that its objectives would not be compromised through amendment to condition 3 to extend the 'Time Limit of Authorisation' by five years, to 17 September 2020.

EPA recommendation(s)

Having inquired into this matter, the EPA recommends to the Minister for Environment that:

- the time limit of authorisation of the Bluewaters Power Station Expansion – Phase III and Phase IV proposal be extended by five years, to 17 September 2020; and
- after complying with section 46(8) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the Minister issues a statement of decision to change condition 3 of Statement 837 in the manner provided for in the attached recommended statement.

RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

**STATEMENT TO AMEND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO A PROPOSAL
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

BLUEWATERS POWER STATION EXPANSION – PHASE III AND PHASE IV
SHIRE OF COLLIE, SHIRE OF DARDANUP, SHIRE OF HARVEY

Proposal: The proposal is for the construction and operation of two nominal 229 Megawatt (208 Megawatt net sent-out) subcritical coal-fired base-load generation plants (i.e. Bluewaters Power Station Phases III and IV) on a site adjacent to the existing Bluewaters Phase I and Phase II generating plants located approximately 4.5 kilometres north-east of Collie. The proposal also involves the construction and operation of an approximately 63 kilometre long wastewater discharge pipeline following the same alignment as the existing Collie A Power Station wastewater pipeline with a route deviation through the coastal foredune system, and an ocean outfall consisting of an approximately 650 metre long pipe including a 110 metre long diffuser located north of the Leschenault Inlet at Buffalo Road. The proposal is further documented in Statement 837.

Proponent: Bluewaters Power 3 Pty Ltd
(ACN: 126 582 876)

Proponent Address: Level 8, 225 St Georges Terrace,
PERTH WA 6000

Assessment Number: 2037

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Report 1543

Related Statement Number: Ministerial Statement 837

The implementation of the proposal to which the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority relates, is subject to the conditions and procedures contained in Ministerial Statement No. 837, as amended by the following:

1 Condition 3 changed

Condition 3 of Ministerial Statement 837 is deleted and replaced with:

3 Time Limit for Proposal Implementation

3-1 The proponent shall not commence implementation of the proposal after 17 September 2020, and any commencement prior to this date must be substantial.

3-2 Any commencement of implementation of the proposal, on or before 17 September 2020, must be demonstrated as substantial by providing the CEO with written evidence, on or before 17 September 2020.

[Signed xxx]

**HON ALBERT JACOB MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; HERITAGE**