

Decisions pursuant to s.39(1) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal Title: Xanadu-1 Conventional Onshore Oil Well
Proposal Location: Approximately 42 kilometres south of Geraldton, Shire of Irwin
Case Number: CMS17047
Date Received: 01/03/17 **Date More Information Received:** 23/03, 30/03, 10/05 and 12/05/17
Referrer: Norwest Energy NL **Proponent:** Norwest Energy NL

Potential significant effects: 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 a temporary impact to dune vegetation and fauna habitat. Following completion of the exploration drilling program the site will be required to be rehabilitated.

Preliminary key environmental factors: Flora and Vegetation, Terrestrial Fauna

Public comments on referral information:

Assess:	a) Referral information	0
	b) Environmental review (no public review)	1
	c) Public environmental review	16
	d) Other	0

Total Submissions: 17

Decision: s. 39A – Not Assess

Level of assessment:

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act – Advice Given.

Explanation of decision: The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment. The proposal is for conventional onshore exploration drilling. The proposal has a small footprint, and the activities are of a short duration. There are no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities that intersect the proposal area, and no Threatened flora species were identified during field surveys. Measures will be put in place to manage any conservation significant fauna species that may be present at the site. 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.

The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the referral documentation, and the Environment Plan required under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.

Rights of Appeal:

This decision is appealable. Appeals close on 5/6/17. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.



Dr Tom Hatton
Chairman
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 17 May 2017