



WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

**EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAMME WITHIN PERMIT AREA TP/3 PART 1
OFFSHORE ONSLOW (575)**

WEST AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM PTY LTD

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review for all wells proposed as part of the programme specified in the Consultative Environmental Review. (A copy of the commitments is attached).
2. 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. Prior to implementing any drilling beyond that in the programme proposed in the Consultative Environmental Review or development plans resulting from that programme, the proponent shall refer proposals for such further work to the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Mines.
4. At least three weeks prior to the commencement of drilling of exploration wells contained within the programme described in the Consultative Environmental Review, the proponent shall provide details of the exact locations of the wells and descriptions of the adjacent environment together with any proposed site-specific modifications to environmental management provisions for those locations, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Mines. The proponent shall subsequently implement the proposals to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Mines.

Published on

25 OCT 1991

5. Prior to drilling the first well, the proponent shall implement arrangements to accept responsibility for any adverse environmental impacts which may occur as a consequence of the proposal proceeding, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment after consultation with the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Mines.
6. Prior to drilling the first well, the proponent shall provide on or adjacent to the rig the capability for containing small oil spillages, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Mines.
7. The proponent shall only refuel the rig when weather and sea conditions are sufficiently calm to permit containment and recovery of any fuel oil which may be spilt, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Mines.
8. Prior to commencement of the first well, the proponent shall successfully trial run the oil spill contingency plan, up to the point of the deployment of resources, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the State Committee for Combatting Marine Oil Pollution.
9. The proponent shall run further oil spill contingency plan trials at least once a year or for each change of rig, whichever is the sooner, for the duration of the programme in the Consultative Environmental Review, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Mines.
10. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning the rig and any wells and rehabilitating the site and its environs to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Director, Petroleum Division, Department of Mines.
11. 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.
12. 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).

Bob Pearce, MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
25 OCT 1991

LIST OF COMMITMENTS

West Australian Petroleum Pty Limited (WAPET) undertakes to abide by all of the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review (CER) for the Permit Area TP/3 Part 1 Five Year Exploration Drilling Programme, and in all cases will fulfil those commitments to the satisfaction of the appropriate statutory authority(s).

The major commitments given within the CER are listed in the following sections.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- (1) Before commencement of their duties, each worker or contractor (including workboat and supply vessel crews) will be given an induction course including advice on the sensitive nature of the environment in which the drilling rig is located.

SAFETY AND OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY

- (1) To improve operational safety, commercial and recreational vessels will not be permitted closer than 500 m to the drilling rig during the construction phase.
- (2) The drilling rig to be contracted will be capable of withstanding cyclonic wind and wave conditions. Detailed procedures which set out the various levels of responses to cyclones will be contained in the operator's Emergency Procedures Manual.
- (3) WAPET will abide by all procedures detailed in the Permit Area TP/3 Part 1 Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP).
- (4) An oil spill containment boom will be present at the site during drilling. A vessel will be in the vicinity of the drilling rig at all times to deploy the boom and skimmer in the event of an oil spill.
- (5) During any spill event, WAPET would make available oil spill equipment, vessels, aircraft and personnel, to help with containment and clean-up measures.
- (6) Existing WAPET and rig operator procedures for cyclone response will be followed to safeguard the wells, rig, offshore structures, vessels and personnel.

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- (7) With regard to any oil spill or discharge resulting from the drilling of any wells in the Permit Area WAPET makes the following commitments:
- (a) to be fully responsible for the cost of operations conducted by it or any Governmental agency aimed at containing or dispersing or recovering any such petroleum or cleaning up any areas polluted by such petroleum;
 - (b) to promptly pay to any person, company or Government (Federal, State or Local) any damages to which any of those entities is lawfully entitled from WAPET.

DRILLING RIG OPERATIONS

- (1) Prior to spudding in, the rig operator will conduct surveys and tests in accordance with Department of Mines regulations to ensure stability of the rig and to minimise the risk of abnormal penetration of the seabed during storm conditions.
- (2) The blowout preventer (BOP) stack will be tested in accordance with Department of Mines regulations after the surface casing has been installed.
- (3) All casing strings installed below the BOP stack will be pressure tested in accordance with Department of Mines regulations before drilling is resumed.
- (4) Drilling fluids used will be those approved for offshore use by the Department of Mines.
- (5) Chrome lignosulphates will not be used in drilling any well.
- (6) At prospects within 500 m of sensitive marine resources drillers will only drill 17.5" and 36" holes during times when the tidal currents will transport the cuttings away from sensitive resources. Drill cuttings and excess fluids produced after the 36" hole will be disposed of between the down hole casings and into the lost circulation zone. If this zone is not available, drilling of the hole will only continue during favourable tidal conditions.
- (7) At prospects within 500 m and 2 km of sensitive marine resources, cuttings will be separated on board the rig and continuously discharged overboard through a conductor pipe to the seabed. Drilling fluid will be stored and discharged down the conductor pipe on tides that will carry the fluids away from sensitive marine resources.
- (8) At prospects more than 2 km from sensitive marine resources, cuttings will be separated and disposed overboard continuously. Drilling fluids will be

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stored and released at a controlled rate during tide and wind conditions that will move the plume away from the closest sensitive resources.

- (9) Deck drainage and other oily wastes will be collected and transported to Port Hedland for recycling.
- (10) Sanitary wastes from the kitchen, showers and laundry will be passed through a sewage treatment plant for comminution and disinfection before being discharged overboard. Solid food waste will be macerated before disposal overboard. Biodegradable detergents will be used for cleaning functions. Combustible materials will be burnt on the rig. All non-combustible material will be returned to the shore base for disposal at an approved land site.

OPERATION OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT

- (1) Helicopter pilots will be instructed not to overfly islands.
- (2) Regular crew transfers between the drilling rig, Thevenard Island and Perth will use existing routes involving helicopter/light aircraft transfers to Barrow Island, and chartered commercial flight direct to Perth.
- (3) All refuelling operations for the supply vessels will be conducted in accordance with strict Port Authority requirements, including continuous visual monitoring and the use of reinforced hoses and fail-safe valves and fittings.
- (4) It will be a contractual requirement for the supply vessels and rig to comply with all State and Commonwealth legislation for the control of pollution and dumping at sea.
- (5) Masters of supply vessels will be instructed not to allow crew to disturb islands or wreck sites, nor to anchor close to coral reefs.