



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT;  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Ass # 1040

Bull # 856

State # 457

000457

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

**WONNICH GAS DEVELOPMENT  
SOUTH-WEST OF THE MONTEBELLO ISLANDS (1040)**

**APACHE NORTHWEST PTY LTD**

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

**1 Proponent Commitments**

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review and subsequently during the environmental assessment process conducted by the Environmental Protection Authority, provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

In the event of any inconsistency, the conditions and procedures shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

The attached environmental management commitments form the basis for consideration by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection for auditing of this proposal in conjunction with the conditions and procedures contained in this statement.

**2 Implementation**

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 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.

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- 2-2 Where, in the course of the detailed implementation referred to in condition 2-1, the proponent seeks to change the designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority 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 Proponent**

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 3-1 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.

### **4 Environmental Management System**

The proponent should exercise care and diligence in accordance with international best practice environmental management principles.

- 4-1 In order to manage the relevant environmental factors, to meet the environmental objectives in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 856, and to fulfil the requirements of the conditions and procedures in this statement, prior to implementation of the proposal, the proponent shall prepare environmental management system documentation with components such as those adopted in Australian Standards AS/NZS ISO 14000 series, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

- 4-2 The proponent shall implement the environmental management system referred to in condition 4-1.

### **5 Location of Monopod and Pipeline**

To avoid disturbance to coral "bommies" and other locally significant features, the proponent should carry out detailed seabed surveys to determine environmentally acceptable locations for the offshore structures.

- 5-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall determine suitable locations for the monopod and pipeline by means of detailed seabed surveys, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Department of Minerals and Energy.

- 5-2 The proponent shall construct the monopod and pipeline in locations according to the requirements of condition 5-1.

### **6 Shoreline Crossing**

- 6-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall determine the location of the shoreline crossing, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

- 6-2 The proponent shall construct the shoreline crossing to the requirements of condition 6-1.

- 6-3 Prior to construction, the proponent shall prepare a rehabilitation plan for the shoreline crossing and its environs, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

- 6-4 The proponent shall implement the rehabilitation plan required by condition 6-3.

## **7 Work Practices**

- 7-1 Prior to commencement of drilling, the proponent shall prepare a written prescription for contractor work practices covering drilling, pipeline installation and support vessel operation, to ensure that work practices are carried out at the level of international best practice, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Minerals and Energy.
- 7-2 The proponent shall ensure that all drilling and pipeline works and support vessel operations comply with the prescription referred to in condition 7-1.

## **8 Decommissioning**

- 8-1 The proponent shall carry out the decommissioning of the project, which includes the removal of the production monopod and may include the removal of the pipeline.
- 8-2 At least two years prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to achieve the objectives of condition 8-1 to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- 8-3 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 8-2.

## **9 Time Limit on Commencement**

The environmental approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal is limited.

- 9-1 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.

Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years for the substantial commencement of the proposal.

## **10 Performance Review**

The proponent should review their environmental performance to ensure that environmental management meets the environmental objectives and allows for continuous improvement.

- 10-1 Each five years following commencement of construction, the proponent shall carry out a performance review to evaluate environmental performance with respect to the environmental objectives, the performance indicators, and the environmental management system targets, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Note:

The Environmental Protection Authority may recommend actions to the Minister for the Environment following consideration of the performance review.

## 11 Compliance Auditing

To help determine environmental performance and compliance with the conditions, periodic reports on the implementation of the proposal are required.

- 11-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

### Procedure

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.
- 2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

### Note

- 1 The Environmental Protection Authority reported on the proposal in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 856 (June 1997).
- 2 The Department of Minerals and Energy will require the proponent to prepare an annexure to the existing approved oil spill contingency plan to detail the contingency measures applicable to a spill of condensate.

This annexure will be prepared to the requirements of the Department of Minerals and Energy on advice of the State Committee for Combating Marine Oil Pollution and the Department of Environmental Protection.

- 3 The Department of Minerals and Energy will require the proponent to take out adequate oil spill insurance to cover damages to third parties and the cost of oil spill clean-up operations, to meet the requirements of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act.
- 4 The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act.

There is a specific requirement for a Works Approval for the deep disposal well.

CHERYL EDWARDES (Mrs) MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

25 SEP 1997

Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

**WONNICH GAS DEVELOPMENT  
SOUTH-WEST OF THE MONTEBELLO ISLANDS  
(1040)**

Apache Northwest Pty Ltd

Wonnich Gas Development (1040)

Environmental Management Commitments

Commitment (what)	Objective (Why)	Action (How/where)	Timing (When)	Whose advice (To whom)	Measurement criteria
1. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) using ISO 14000 principles shall be prepared for the development.	To ensure compliance with Ministerial conditions.	The EMP shall be made available to all personnel involved in the drilling and installation program. A list of guidelines and procedures as given in the CER will be (1) placed on appropriate locations on the drill rig, (2) incorporated into the following contracts: drilling rig, pipeline contractors, support vessel operators.	Prior to the commencement of the development program.	EPA,DME	Letter from EPA approving the EMP. Contracts are to be legally binding.
2. Apache and each of the Participants will hold extensive insurance for liability, control of well and clean-up.	To ensure ample financial resources for clean-up and remedial action in the case of an oil spill.	Certification of currency of insurance in accordance with directions from the Minister for Minerals and Energy.	Prior to the commencement of the development program.	DME	Certificate of Insurance from underwriters.
3. An updated Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) will be prepared and implemented.	To develop strategies for the containment, deflection and clean-up of condensate and diesel spills.	Upgrade the existing (OSCP) to include the Wonnich development program.	Prior to locating equipment at the development location.	DME	Letter from the DME approving the updated OSCP.

Commitment (What)	Objective (Why)	Action (How/where)	Timing (When)	Whose advice (To whom)	Measurement criteria
4. An ocean rated oil spill boom shall be on standby at the location during the drilling program and installation of the monopod.	For rapid deployment response in the case of an oil spill.	The boom shall be stored on the dedicated oil spill vessel which will be on location during well drilling.	Prior to the commencement of the drilling and installation program.	DME	Letter of confirmation to DME that boom will be on site.
5. The risk of diesel spillage during refueling shall be minimised.	To protect the marine environment.	A refueling procedure will be prepared and implemented including a dry coupling system and carrying out refueling when any spillage would be carried away from sensitive resources.	Before the commencement of the development program.	DME	Approval of the procedure by the DME. Letter from Apache to DME with performance report.
6. An oil spill response exercise shall be carried out.	To ensure an efficient response in the case of an oil spill.	A desk-top and field exercise will be carried out to the point of deployment of equipment.	Within three days of spudding the well.	DME	Letter of confirmation to the DME from Apache outlining the scope of the exercise and the results.

Commitment (what)	Objective (Why)	Action (How/where)	Timing (When)	Whose advice (To whom)	Measurement criteria
7. Drill cuttings and excess drilling fluid shall be disposed down the annulus.	Protection of the marine environment.	The procedure for disposing drill cuttings will be incorporated into the drilling program for the Wonnich production wells.	Prior to locating equipment at the drilling location.	DME	Letter from DME for approval of drilling manual.
8. A debris survey shall be conducted.	To confirm that no debris has been left on the sea floor.	A remotely operated vehicle will be used. Report and video submitted to Apache.	At the completion of the development program prior to the rig moving off site.	DME	Letter of confirmation that all debris has been removed from Apache to DME.
9. There shall be no access to islands and support vessel anchorage away from coral reefs shall be provided.	Protection of the Montebello Islands, reef habitats and shipwreck sites.	Confirmation of anchoring positions in log of support vessel. Flight plans will be made for helicopters.	During the entire drilling and installation program.	DME	Sighting of vessel and helicopter log books by DME.
10. An aerial photograph of the fringing reef shall be taken prior to and after the development program.	To record the state of the fringing reef prior and after the development program.	Contract with aerial photography company.	Prior to locating equipment at the drilling location and after the installation of the monopod and pipeline.	EPA	Letter of confirmation that photography has been carried out from Apache to EPA.



Commitment (what)	Objective (Why)	Action (How/where)	Timing (When)	Whose advice (To whom)	Measurement criteria
11. All personnel on site will undergo an education and training program.	To give the personnel the means of identifying the risks and knowledge of the environmental implications of the development program.	Inductions to be given to all personnel. Posters and maps are to be provided to rig and support vessels.	Prior to the spudding of the well.	DEP	Details of education and training program to be submitted to DEP.
12. An environmental audit of the drilling and installation operations will be undertaken.	To ensure compliance to commitments, guidelines and procedures.	An environmental audit will be carried out using ISO 14000 as the standard.	Within two weeks after development program has commenced.	DME and DEP	Results audit will be submitted to DME and DEP.
13. A decommissioning plan will be written and implemented.	To detail the means of how the monopod and pipeline will be decommissioned.	A plan will be written which will incorporate how the monopod and pipeline will be decommissioned, and how it will be managed to minimise impact.	Two years prior to the earliest date for decommissioning.	EPA, DME and CALM	Plan to be approved by the DME, EPA and CALM.