

Summary of reasons for decision – Amendment of an approved proposal and implementation conditions under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Ministerial Statement:	1164
Proposal Title	Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2
Approved Proposal:	The Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2 is a conventional gas proposal located approximately 16 kilometres east-south-east of the Dongara-Port Denison town sites. The proposal includes the construction and operation of a 250 terajoules per day gas plant and related infrastructure.
Proponent:	AWE Perth Pty Ltd
Environment Online Reference Number:	APP-0000389
Date Ministerial Statement first issued	1 February 2021
Dates of any approved changes to Approved Proposal	4 October 2021
Date of proponent's request to amend	12 June 2023 and revised on 27 November 2023
Date additional information received	5 March 2024, 6 March 2024, 25 March 2024 and 5 April 2024
Description of requested amendments to approved proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing the proposal description to specify that the facility will produce 91.25 petajoules of gas per annum instead of 250 terajoules per day to allow flexibility of operations and account for shutdowns. • Increasing the size of the development envelope to 580.9 hectares (ha) from 409.25 ha. • Increasing the number of wells from 8 to 19 in order to increase operational flexibility and efficiency. The proposal's greenhouse gas emissions and production rate will not increase. • Increasing the disturbance footprint from 397.75 ha to 479.2 ha without increasing native vegetation clearing.

Description of requested amendment(s) to implementation conditions	Minor conditions have been imposed on Ministerial Statement 1164.
Decision	The requested amendments to the Approved Proposal and addition of implementation conditions are not considered to be significant amendments. The amendments to the Approved Proposal are approved.

Environmental factors relevant to amendments:

- Social surroundings
- Air quality

Summary of review of whether amendments should be approved under section 45c(1)	
Environmental Factor review	<p>Air Quality: The closest residence to the development is approximately 500 metres (m) northeast of a production well. Atmospheric emissions from existing wells have an insignificant impact on air quality 30 m away from wells. The proponent has measures in place to minimise emissions from wells by reducing flaring and detecting and repairing leaks. Noting the intensity and magnitude of emissions, the EPA considers it unlikely that atmospheric emissions will significantly impact air quality.</p> <p>Social surroundings: The proponent will avoid impacts to Aboriginal heritage values within the development envelope.</p> <p>Impacts to visual amenity are likely to be temporary during construction and can be managed under the existing flaring management plan and through access agreements.</p> <p>A new minor condition has been imposed on Ministerial Statement 1164 requiring noise levels to be compliant with the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> at residential receptors.</p> <p>Impacts to social surroundings are unlikely to be significant.</p>
Controls on implementation, including relevant DMA processes (where relevant), for amendment	<p>The proponent is required to submit a Well Management Plan to DEMIRS under the <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2015</i>. The proponent has submitted an Environment Plan to DEMIRS under the <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012</i>.</p> <p>The amended proposal would remain subject to the works approval and licensing regime under Part V of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p> <p>Existing conditions within MS 1164 still need to be met by the proponent.</p>

Significance of requested amendment	Impacts to the environment are unlikely to be significant as a result of the amendments to the proposal and addition of implementation conditions.
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Summary of consideration of amendment

The decision-maker has considered whether the proposed amendment would be a significant amendment in addition to the potential impacts of the amendments.

The EPA has considered:

- the cumulative environmental impacts
- the holistic impacts
- whether the environmental effects of the implementation of the proposal as amended will be consistent with the EPA's environmental factor objectives
- whether the proposal as amended would still be substantially the same character as the approved proposal.

Summary of decision

The decision-maker has considered the request to amend the approved proposal and implementation conditions under section 45C(1) of the EP Act. The decision-maker considers the requested amendments to the Approved Proposal and implementation conditions are not considered to be significant amendments.

Attachments:

- Figure showing changes to development envelope
- Proposal content document

Appeals: Decision not appealable.



Professor Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 16 April 2024

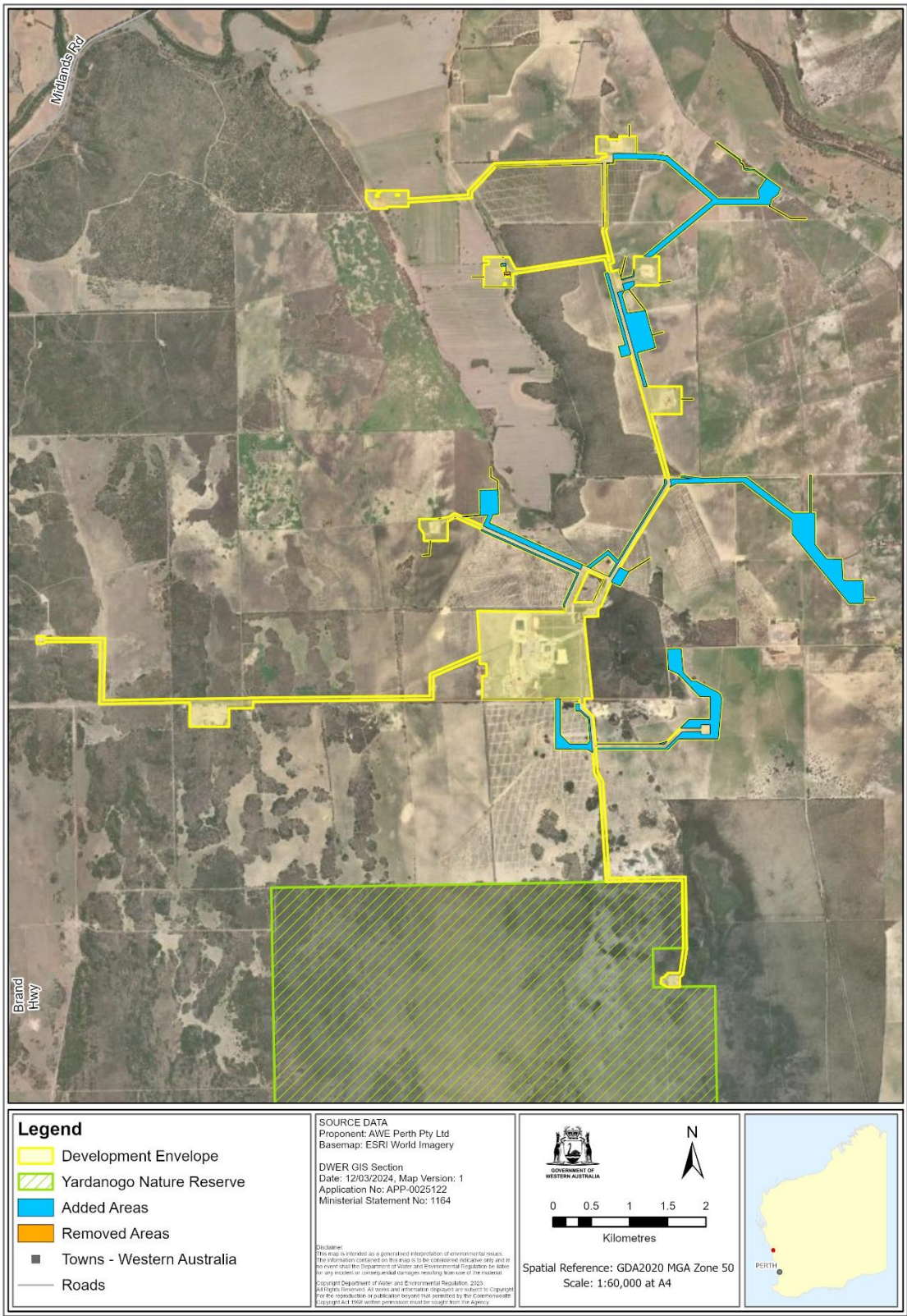


Figure 1: Changes to Development Envelope