

Acceptance decision

Wheatstone Project Start-Up and Operations Environment Plan

This document provides notification of NOPSEMA’s decision made under regulation 10 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Environment Regulations) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Wheatstone Project Start-Up and Operations Environment Plan (WS2-COP-0001, Revision 4.0)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-46-L, WA-47-L, WA-48-L, WA-3-IL and WA-25-PL
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	13/07/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of a facility used for the recovery or processing of petroleum • Recovery of petroleum using a subsea installation • Operation of a licensed petroleum pipeline
Activity overview:	<p>Overview</p> <p>The Project will produce hydrocarbon fluids from offshore fields, transport fluids through flowlines to the Wheatstone platform (the platform) for initial processing, and transport gas and condensate through a pipeline (the trunkline) to the onshore gas plant for further processing. Resultant LNG and condensate will be exported by vessels to the international market, and gas will also be made available to the domestic market via a tie-in with the existing Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline.</p> <p>The activities will be conducted in Commonwealth Waters, Western Australia (WA) State Waters, and on the WA mainland, thus spanning more than one regulatory jurisdiction. Only those activities that fall within a given jurisdiction are submitted to the respective regulator to meet relevant regulations, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) for acceptance under the Commonwealth Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (OPGGSER) • the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) for approval under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Environment) Regulations (PSLER) 2012 (WA)/ Petroleum Pipelines (Environment) Regulations (PPER) 2012 (WA).


Location

Fluid production will be from wells located in the Wheatstone (WA-46-L, WA-47-L, and WA-48-L) and Iago (WA-46-L and WA-48-L) fields located off the Pilbara coast of WA. The platform will receive the fluids for processing and transportation to the WA mainland via the trunkline.

Approximate water depths in the offshore licence areas range between 150 and 280 m for the Wheatstone field and between 70 and 120 m for the Iago field. The platform is in water approximately 71 m deep, with centre coordinates of 19° 55' 45.78" S and 115° 23' 02.22" E. The trunkline generally extends along the outer continental shelf at approximately the 110 m isobath, and crosses the shore through a microtunnel at Ashburton North approximately 12 km south-west of Onslow on the Pilbara coast. The platform is approximately 50 km north of the Montebello Islands, while the trunkline is approximately 46 km west of Barrow Island and the Montebello Islands.

Scope

This EP addresses Project Start-up and Operations activities associated with the Wheatstone/Iago hydrocarbon system and platform, commencing when hydrocarbons are introduced into the hydrocarbon system (either through 'buy-back' gas from the onshore plant delivered through the trunkline to the platform, or, from the delivery of production fluids from the wells through the flowlines to the platform).

Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	31/08/2016
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Seismic & Production Operations



Basis of decision

NOPSEMA has assessed the environment plan in accordance with its assessment policies and procedures. Having regard to all information provided by, and referred to in the environment plan, NOPSEMA is reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the criteria set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations.

Next steps for the petroleum activity

An environment plan summary must be provided to NOPSEMA within 10 days of this acceptance. regulation 11(4) requires that this document provide material from the accepted environment plan.

Once the summary document has been prepared to NOPSEMA satisfaction it will be published on NOPSEMA's website. NOPSEMA aims to have all environment plan summary documents published within 20 days of acceptance. This timeframe may vary should the document require amendment by the titleholder.

The titleholder is required to notify NOPSEMA 10 days prior to the commencement of the activity. This notification will be published on NOPSEMA's website.

Titleholder environmental performance requirements

A titleholder is required to undertake a petroleum activity in accordance with the accepted environment plan. It is an offence under the Environment Regulations to act in a manner contrary to the accepted environment plan. A titleholder must submit a revision to the environment plan in response to a new or increased environmental impact or risk, or a significant modification or stage of the activity not provided for in the accepted environment plan.

How to get further information

If you have any further questions regarding the activity it is suggested you contact the titleholder's nominated liaison person for the activity.

If you would like to access any further information regarding this decision, or would like to contact NOPSEMA please email environment@nopsema.gov.au.

¹ A titleholder includes an applicant for a petroleum access authority, petroleum special prospecting authority, pipeline licence, greenhouse gas search authority or greenhouse gas special authority under sub-regulation 9(2).

² Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004