

Wheatstone Well Intervention and Infill Drilling

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). In this instance, NOPSEMA is providing an opportunity to modify and resubmit the environment plan as it is not reasonably satisfied that the plans meets the acceptance criteria set out in the regulations.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Wheatstone Well Intervention and Infill Drilling, ABU-COP-02222, Rev 0.4.
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-46-L, WA-47-L, WA-48-L
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	18/07/2017
Activities type(s)²:	Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	The Wheatstone Project will produce hydrocarbon fluids from offshore wells, transport fluids through flowlines to the Wheatstone Platform for initial processing, and transport gas and condensate through a pipeline to the onshore gas plant at Ashburton North, near Onslow 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. This Plan includes well intervention activities for the producing wells with either a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) or vessel; and infill drilling of <5 wells by 2022. The operational area is within the 500 m drilling exclusion zone at well locations within the Wheatstone and Iago fields (production licences WA-46-L, WA-47-L, and WA-48-L). Well abandonment of suspended well/s in the same licence areas is included.
Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	17/08/2017
Resubmission due date³:	16/10/2017
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Drilling & Developments

Basis of decision

NOPSEMA has assessed the environment plan in accordance with its assessment policies and procedures. On completion of assessment, NOPSEMA has decided that it is not reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the criteria below as set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations:

- (a) is appropriate for the nature and scale of the activity
- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level
- (d) provides for appropriate environmental performance outcomes, environmental performance standards and measurement criteria
- (e) includes an appropriate implementation strategy and monitoring, recording and reporting arrangements
- (g) demonstrates that:
 - (i) the titleholder has carried out the consultations required by Division 2.2A
 - (ii) the measures (if any) that the titleholder has adopted, or proposes to adopt, because of the consultations are appropriate

Titleholder requirements

In accordance with regulation 10, the titleholder is required to modify and resubmit the environment plan. Upon resubmission of the plan, NOPSEMA will continue to assess the submission in accordance with its assessment policies and make a decision under regulation 10. After a titleholder has been provided with reasonable opportunity to modify and resubmit an environment plan, NOPSEMA will make a final decision on whether to accept or refuse to accept the 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

³ NOPSEMA sets the proposed timeframe for resubmission; after which NOPSEMA may determine a reasonable opportunity has been given and NOPSEMA may refuse to accept the plan. Titleholders can request an extended timeframe.