

Project Approval

Section 75J of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

I, Deputy Director-General, Development Assessment and Systems Performance, as delegate for the Minister for Planning, approve the project referred to in Schedule 1, subject to the conditions in Schedule 2.

These conditions are required to:

- prevent, minimise, and/or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the project.



Richard Pearson
Deputy Director-General
As delegate for the Minister for Planning

Sydney

3rd June

2010

File No: S06/00305

SCHEDULE 1

Application No:	06_0217
Proponent:	Metgasco Ltd
Approval Authority:	Minister for Planning
Land:	Land generally around Ellangown Road and between Ellangowan Road and Casino Coraki Road, East Casino.
Project:	<p>Construction and operation in stages of a nominal 30 megawatt gas-fired power station and development of the Casino gas project to extract coal seam methane and conventional gas. The project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• subdivision of the site;• installation and operation of nominally ten 3 MW reciprocating gas engines within a bunded area;• water storage ponds, switchyard, workshops and maintenance facilities;• internal access tracks;• installation and operation of approximately 40 production wells; and• internal gas delivery pipelines.
Major Project:	<p>The project was declared a Major Project under section 75B(1)(a) of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, because it is development of a kind described in clause 24 of Schedule 1 of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005</i> (development for the purposes of electricity generation that has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million).</p>

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SCHEDULE 2

Council	Richmond Valley Council
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Department, the	Department of Planning
Director-General, the	Director-General of the Department of Planning (or delegate).
Director-General's approval or the agreement or satisfaction of the Director-General	A written approval of the Director-General (or delegate). Where the Director-General's approval is required under a condition of this approval, the Director-General will endeavour to provide a response within one month of receiving an approval request. The Director-General may require additional information if the approval request is considered incomplete. When further information is required by the Director-General, the time for the Proponent to respond in writing will be added to the one-month period.
Dust	Any solid material that may become suspended in air or deposited
EA	<i>Richmond Valley Power Station and Casino Gas Project: Environmental Assessment</i> , prepared by Metgasco Ltd and dated 4 August 2008
EPA	Environment Protection Authority as part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Minister, the	Minister for Planning
NOW	New South Wales Office of Water as part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
NSWI&I	New South Wales Industry and Investment
Proponent	Metgasco Ltd
Publicly Available	Available for inspection by a member of the general public (for example available on an internet site or at a display centre).
Reasonable and feasible	Consideration of best practice taking into account the benefit of proposed measures and their technological and associated operational application in the NSW and Australian context. Feasible relates to engineering considerations and what is practical to build. Reasonable relates to the application of judgement in arriving at a decision, taking into account mitigation benefits and cost of mitigation versus benefits provided, community views and nature and extent of potential improvements.
Site	Land to which Major Projects Application 06_0217 applies.
Submissions Report	<i>Richmond Valley Power Station and Casino Gas Project: Submission Report and Revised Statement of Commitments (Rev 1)</i> , prepared by Metgasco Ltd and dated February 2010

1. ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

Terms of Approval

- 1.1 The Proponent shall carry out the project generally in accordance with the:
 - a) Major Project Application 06_0217;
 - b) *Richmond Valley Power Station and Casino Gas Project: Environmental Assessment*, prepared by Metgasco Ltd and dated 4 August 2008;
 - c) *Richmond Valley Power Station and Casino Gas Project: Submission Report and Revised Statement of Commitments (Rev 1)*, prepared by Metgasco Ltd and dated February 2010; and
 - d) the conditions of this approval.
- 1.2 In the event of an inconsistency between:
 - a) the conditions of this approval and any document listed from condition 1.1a) and 1.1c) inclusive, the conditions of this approval shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency; and
 - b) any document listed from condition 1.1a) and 1.1c) inclusive, and any other document listed from condition 1.1a) and 1.1c) inclusive, the most recent document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Limits of Approval

- 1.3 This project approval shall lapse five years after the date on which it is granted, unless the works the subject of this approval are physically commenced on or before that time.

Statutory Requirements

- 1.4 The Proponent shall ensure that all licences, permits and approvals are obtained and maintained as required throughout the life of the project. No condition of this approval removes the obligation for the Proponent to obtain, renew or comply with such licences, permits or approvals. The Proponent shall ensure that a copy of this approval and all relevant environmental approvals are available on the site at all times during the project.

2. SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Air Quality Impacts

Dust Generation

- 2.1 The Proponent shall construct the project in a manner that minimises dust emissions from the site, including wind-blown and traffic-generated dust. All activities on the site shall be undertaken with the objective of preventing visible emissions of dust from the site. Should such visible dust emissions occur at any time, the Proponent shall identify and implement all practicable dust mitigation measures, including cessation of relevant works, as appropriate, such that emissions of visible dust cease.

Odour

- 2.2 The Proponent shall not permit any offensive odour, as defined under section 129 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, to be emitted from the site which impacts on any sensitive surrounding receptors.

Monitoring and Discharge Points

- 2.3 For the purposes of this approval, air monitoring/ air discharge points shall be at the exhaust stacks of each stationary reciprocating internal combustion gas generator located on the site.
- 2.4 Each air emissions discharge point associated with the HV generators for the project shall be no less than 12.5 metres above ground-level.

Discharge Limits

- 2.5 The Proponent shall minimise the venting or flaring of gas, except where it is not commercially or technically reasonable to use the gas, or in the event of an emergency or plant upset conditions.

- 2.6 The Proponent shall design, construct, operate and maintain the project to ensure that for each generator exhaust stack discharge point, the concentration of each pollutant listed in Table 1 is not exceeded. This condition only applies to the operation of the project, and to avoid any doubt, does not apply during start-up or shut-down.

Table 1 - Maximum Allowable Discharge Concentration Limits (Air)

Pollutant	Fuel Type	100 Percentile limit (mgm ⁻³)	Reference conditions
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) or nitric oxide (NO), or both (as NO ₂)	Coal seam methane/ natural gas	450	dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa, 3% O ₂ and one hour averaging period

Noise Impacts

Vibration Impacts

- 2.7 The Proponent shall ensure that the vibration resulting from the construction and operation of the project does not exceed the preferred vibration values for low probability of adverse comment presented in *Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline* (DECC, February 2006), at any affected residential dwelling.

Construction Noise

- 2.8 The Proponent shall only undertake construction activities associated with the project, including any fracturing of the coal seam, that would generate an audible noise at any residential premises during the following hours:
- 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays, inclusive;
 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays; and
 - at no time on Sundays or public holidays.

This condition does not apply in the event of a direction from police or other relevant authority for safety reasons.

- 2.9 Notwithstanding condition 2.8, well drilling may be undertaken at any time, subject to compliance with an approved Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (refer to condition 6.3).
- 2.10 For activities other than well drilling, the hours of construction activities specified under condition 2.8 of this approval may be varied with the prior written approval of the Director-General. Any request to alter the hours of construction specified under condition 2.8 shall be:
- considered on a case-by-case basis; and
 - accompanied by details of the nature and need for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours and any other information necessary to reasonably determine that activities undertaken during the varied construction hours will not adversely impact on the acoustic amenity of receptors in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.11 Following completion of detailed design of the project, and prior to the commencement of construction, the Proponent shall undertake an updated construction noise impact assessment for the project to inform the preparation of the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (refer to condition 6.3) and the mitigation and management measures to be detailed therein. The updated construction noise impact assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009).

Operational Noise Criteria

- 2.12 The Proponent shall design, operate and maintain the project to ensure that the noise contributions from the project (including from the operation of the gas wells and the operation of the power station) to the background acoustic environment do not exceed the limits

specified in Table 2, at any residential premises existing or otherwise subject to development consent at the date of this approval, during the periods indicated in the Table. This maximum allowable noise contributions do not apply under the following meteorological conditions:

- a) wind speeds greater than 3 ms^{-1} at 10 metres above ground level; or
- b) under temperature inversion conditions of up to $3^\circ\text{C}/100$ metres and wind speeds of up to 2 ms^{-1} at 10 metres above the ground.

Table 2 - Maximum Allowable Noise Contributions

Day 7:00am to 6:00pm Mondays to Saturdays 8:00am to 6:00pm Sundays and public holidays	Evening 6:00pm to 10:00pm on any day	Night 10:00pm to 7:00am Mondays to Saturdays 10:00pm to 8:00am Sundays and public holidays	
$L_{Aeq}(15 \text{ minute})$	$L_{Aeq}(15 \text{ minute})$	$L_{Aeq}(15 \text{ minute})$	$L_{A1}(1 \text{ minute})$
35	35	35	45

- 2.13 For the purpose of assessment of noise contributions specified under condition 2.12 of this approval, noise from the project shall be:
- a) measured at the most affected point within the residential boundary or at the most affected point within 30 metres of the dwelling where the dwelling is more than 30 metres from the boundary to determine compliance with the $L_{Aeq}(15\text{-minute})$ noise limits;
 - b) measured at one metre from the dwelling façade to determine compliance with the $L_{A1}(1\text{-minute})$ noise limits; and
 - c) subject to the modification factors provided in Section 4 of the *New South Wales Industrial Noise Policy* (EPA, 2000), where applicable.

Notwithstanding the above, should direct measurement of noise from the project be impractical, the Proponent may employ an alternative noise assessment method deemed acceptable by the DECC (refer to Section 11 of the *New South Wales Industrial Noise Policy* (EPA, 2000)). Details of such an alternative noise assessment method accepted by the DECC shall be submitted to the Director-General prior to the implementation of the assessment method.

Soil, Water Quality and Water Quantity Impacts

- 2.14 Soil and water management controls shall be employed to minimise soil erosion and the discharge of sediment and other pollutants to lands and/or waters during construction activities, in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Conservation* (Landcom, 2004).
- 2.15 The Proponent shall design, construct, operate and maintain the project to ensure that there will be zero discharge of water stored in the evaporation/ storage ponds, unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Director-General that such discharge will be beneficial to pasture/ crops and will not leave any adverse soil residues, and unless any proposed discharge is subject to an Irrigation Management Plan developed in accordance with *Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation* (DEC, 2004) and approved by the Director-General.
- 2.16 Unless otherwise approved by the Director-General, the Proponent shall design, construct, operate and maintain the evaporation/storage pond(s) to ensure that the pond wall(s) are above the 1 in 100 year flood event and that the pond(s) are lined with an impervious membrane to prevent any stored water infiltrating into the underlying groundwater.

Waste Generation and Management

- 2.17 The Proponent shall not cause, permit or allow any waste generated outside the site to be received at the site for storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing, or disposal or any waste generated on site to be disposed of at the site, except as expressly permitted by a

licence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, if such a licence is required in relation to that waste.

- 2.18 The Proponent shall ensure that all liquid and / or non-liquid waste generated and / or stored on the site is assessed and classified in accordance with *Waste Classification Guidelines Part 1: Classifying Waste* (DECC, 2008), or any future guideline that may supersede that document.

Hazards and Risk

- 2.19 The Proponent shall design, construct, operate and maintain the gas gathering system for the project in accordance with *AS3723-1989: Installation and Maintenance of Plastic Pipe Systems for Gas* or *AS2885: Pipelines – Gas and Liquid Petroleum*, as relevant, unless otherwise agreed by the Director-General.

Bunding and Spill Management

- 2.20 The Proponent shall store and handle all dangerous goods, as defined by the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, and all fuels, oils chemicals or other environmentally hazardous materials strictly in accordance with:
- a) all relevant Australian Standards;
 - b) for liquids, a minimum bund volume requirement of 110% of the volume of the largest single stored volume within the bund; and
 - c) *Bunding and Spill Management* (EPA, 2001).

In the event of an inconsistency between the requirements listed from a) to c) above, the most stringent requirement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Traffic and Transport Impacts

- 2.21 Upon determining the haulage route(s) for construction materials associated with the project, the Proponent shall commission a qualified person to undertake a Road Dilapidation Report of all roads proposed to be used for construction activities in consultation with relevant road authorities. The Report shall assess the current condition of the roads and detail mechanisms to restore any damage that may result due to traffic and transport related to the construction and ongoing operation of the project. The Report shall be submitted to the relevant road authorities for review prior to the commencement of haulage.

The cost of any restorative work described in the Report or reasonably recommended by the relevant road authorities after review of the Report, shall be funded by the Proponent. Such work shall be undertaken at a time as agreed upon between the Proponent and the relevant road authorities. In the event of a dispute between the parties with respect to the extent of restorative work that may be required under this condition, any party may refer the matter to the Director-General for resolution. The Director-General's determination of any such dispute shall be final and binding on the parties.

- 2.22 The Proponent shall design and construct a new site access point on Casino-Coraki Road in accordance with AUSTROAD guidelines and to meet the requirements of Council. The Proponent shall ensure that the site access point has been constructed prior to the commencement of construction of the project, unless otherwise agreed by the Director-General, and that the site access is constructed at no cost to Council.

Flora and Fauna Impacts

- 2.23 In identifying the location for and constructing the wells for the project, the Proponent shall avoid all areas marked as "highly constrained areas" in Figure 6-9 of the document referred to under condition 1.1b).

Aboriginal Objects

- 2.24 If during the course of construction the Proponent becomes aware of any previously unidentified significant Aboriginal object(s), all work likely to affect the object(s) shall cease immediately and the DECCW informed in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife*

Act 1974. Relevant works shall not recommence until written authorisation from the DECCW advising otherwise is received by the Proponent.

Visual Amenity Impacts

2.25 Prior to the commencement of construction of the power station component of the project, the Proponent shall provide the Director-General with details of the urban design and landscaping measures to be implemented as part of the project to ensure that its visual impacts are minimised as far as practicable to surrounding receptors and roadways. This shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a) the minimisation of the use of reflective building elements and maximising the use of building materials and treatments which visually complement surrounding landuse;
- b) ensuring that all external lighting associated with the project is mounted, screened, and directed in such a manner so as not to create a nuisance to the surrounding environment, receptors and roadways. The lighting shall be the minimum level of illumination necessary and shall comply with AS 4282(INT) 1997 – *Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*; and
- c) as far as possible, the use of locally occurring indigenous species consistent with the surrounding landscape for landscaping purposes.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND AUDITING

Air Quality Monitoring and Performance Verification

3.1 The Proponent shall determine the pollutant concentrations and emission parameters specified in Table 3 below, at each generator exhaust stack discharge point (established in strict accordance with the *Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* (DECC, 2007)). Monitoring shall be undertaken during operation of the power station, at the frequency indicated in the Table, unless otherwise agreed by the Director-General.

Table 3 - Periodic Pollutant and Parameter Monitoring (Air)

Pollutant/ Parameter	Units of Measure	Method	Frequency
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) or nitric oxide (NO), or both (as NO ₂)	mgm ⁻³	TM 11	Upon the commencement of operation of the power station and annually thereafter
Velocity	ms ⁻¹	TM-2	
Volumetric flow rate	m ³ s ⁻¹	TM-2	
Temperature	°C	TM-2	
Moisture content in stack gases	%	TM-22	
Dry gas density	kgm ⁻³	TM-23	
Molecular weight of stack gases	g.gmol ⁻¹	TM-23	
Oxygen	%	TM-25	

3.2 Within 90 days of the commencement of operation of the power station and at every stage that new generation capacity is added to the power station, or as otherwise agreed by the Director-General, and during a period in which the power station is operating under normal operating conditions (considering all operational generators at the time), the Proponent shall undertake point source emission sampling and analysis subject to the requirements listed under condition 3.1 to determine compliance with the stack discharge concentration limits identified in condition 2.6.

In the event that this sampling and analysis indicates that the operation of the project will lead to greater point source emissions than the stack discharge concentration limits detailed in condition 2.5 of this approval, then the Proponent shall, unless otherwise agreed to by the Director-General, provide details of remedial measures to be implemented to reduce point source emissions to no greater than the stack discharge concentration limits detailed in condition 2.5 of this approval. A report providing the results of the sampling and analysis as well as details of the remedial measures to be implemented and a timetable for implementation (or justification otherwise) shall be submitted to the Director-General for approval within two months of the date of the completion of the sampling and analysis

required under condition 3.2. The report must also provide details of any entries in the Complaints Register (condition 5.3 of this approval) relating to air quality impacts.

Noise Performance Verification

- 3.3 Within 90 days of the commencement of operation of the power station and at every stage that new generation capacity is added to the power station or as otherwise agreed by the Director-General, and during a period in which the power station is operating under normal operating conditions (considering all operational generators at the time), the Proponent shall undertake a program to confirm the noise emission performance of the project. The program shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) noise monitoring, consistent with the guidelines provided in the *New South Wales Industrial Noise Policy* (EPA, 2000), to assess compliance with the maximum allowable noise contributions specified under condition 2.12 of this approval; and
 - b) details of any entries in the Complaints Register (condition 5.3 of this approval) relating to noise impacts.

A report providing the results of the program shall be submitted to the Director-General within 28 days of completion of the monitoring required under a).

Water Quality and Hydrological Monitoring

- 3.4 Prior to the commencement of drilling associated with the project, the Proponent shall prepare and implement a **Groundwater Monitoring Program** to monitor the impact of the project on groundwater levels in the vicinity of the project area. The Program shall be developed in consultation with NOW and NSWI&I and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) identification of a groundwater monitoring network in and around the project, having regard to the need to reflect groundwater gradients and the locations of other local groundwater users;
 - b) provision for monitoring groundwater levels, flows and qualities in and around the project;
 - c) provision for capturing monitoring data continuously during operation and for at least six months after extraction has halted;
 - d) trigger levels with respect to groundwater levels, flows and qualities at which further action may be required to mitigate or manage groundwater impacts;
 - e) an annual assessment of monitoring results identifying the presence or otherwise of drawdown of the perched water level;
 - f) details of how the monitoring results will provide input into the construction and operation of the project, including cessation or modification of extraction where necessary;
 - g) contingency measures in the event that groundwater monitoring indicates that the project is having or is likely to have an adverse or unexpected impact on local groundwater conditions; and
 - h) details of how the monitoring results will be reported to the Director-General.

The Program shall be submitted for the approval of the Director-General no later than one month prior to the commencement of construction, or within such period otherwise agreed by the Director-General, accompanied by evidence that the NOW and NSWI&I have been consulted regarding the Program. Construction shall not commence until written approval has been received from the Director-General.

- 3.5 Prior to the commencement of operation of the project, the Proponent shall prepare and implement a **Water Quality Monitoring Program** to monitor the quality of water extracted and stored as part of the project. The Program shall be developed in consultation with NOW and NSWI&I and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) details of parameters to be monitored with respect to the quality and quantity of water extracted and stored as part of the project, having regard to any potential spatial or temporal change in water quality or quantity during the life of the project;

- b) a schedule for water quality monitoring, having regard to any staging of the project and associated water extraction;
- c) a framework for the evaluation of water quality and quantity in the context of potential beneficial reuse opportunities within or external to the project;
- d) a framework for the evaluation of timing for bringing pond cells on line, and for ensuring compliance with the zero discharge requirement of condition 2.15;
- e) contingency measures in the event that extracted water is of greater volume or lower quality than anticipated;
- f) details of how the monitoring results will be reported to the Director-General.

The Program shall be submitted for the approval of the Director-General no later than one month prior to the commencement of operation, or within such period otherwise agreed by the Director-General, accompanied by evidence that the NOW and NSWI&I have been consulted regarding the Program. Operation shall not commence until written approval has been received from the Director-General.

4. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND TRACKING

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of construction of the project, the Proponent shall develop and implement a **Compliance Tracking Program** for the project, to track compliance with the requirements of this approval during the construction and operation of the project and shall include, but not necessarily limited to:
- i) provisions for periodic review of the compliance status of the project against the requirements of this approval;
 - ii) provisions for periodic reporting of the compliance status to the Director-General including at least prior to the commencement of construction of the project, prior to the commencement of operation of the project, and prior to the commencement of operation of the power station at a capacity more than 25 megawatts;
 - iii) a program for independent environmental auditing in accordance with *AS/NZ ISO 19011:2003 - Guidelines for Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing*;
 - iv) procedures for rectifying any non-compliance identified during environmental auditing or review of compliance;
 - v) mechanisms for recording environmental incidents and actions taken in response to those incidents;
 - vi) provisions for reporting environmental incidents to the Director-General during construction and operation; and
 - vii) provisions for ensuring all employees, contractors and sub-contractors are aware of, and comply with, the conditions of this approval relevant to their respective activities.

5. COMMUNITY INFORMATION, CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 Subject to confidentiality, the Proponent shall make all documents required under this approval available for public inspection on request.

Complaints Procedure

- 5.2 Prior to the commencement of construction of the project, the Proponent shall ensure that the following are available for community complaints for the life of the project (including construction and operation):
- a) a telephone number on which complaints about construction and operational activities at the site may be registered;
 - b) a postal address to which written complaints may be sent; and
 - c) an email address to which electronic complaints may be transmitted.

The telephone number, the postal address and the email address shall be displayed on a sign near the entrance to the site, in a position that is clearly visible to the public, and which clearly indicates the purposes of the sign and within the project website required under condition 5.4.

- 5.3 The Proponent shall record details of all complaints received through the means listed under condition 5.2 of this approval in an up-to-date Complaints Register. The Register shall record, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) the date and time, where relevant, of the complaint;
 - b) the means by which the complaint was made (telephone, mail or email);
 - c) any personal details of the complainant that were provided, or if no details were provided, a note to that effect;
 - d) the nature of the complaint;
 - e) any action(s) taken by the Proponent in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant; and
 - f) if no action was taken by the Proponent in relation to the complaint, the reason(s) why no action was taken.

The Complaints Register shall be made available for inspection by the Director-General upon request.

Provision of Electronic Information

- 5.4 Prior to the commencement of construction of the project, the Proponent shall establish a dedicated website or maintain dedicated pages within its existing website for the provision of electronic information associated with the project subject to confidentiality. The Proponent shall publish and maintain up-to-date information on this website or dedicated pages including, but not necessarily limited to:
- a) the current implementation status of the project;
 - b) a copy of this approval and any future modification to this approval;
 - c) a copy of each relevant environmental approval, licence or permit required and obtained in relation to the project;
 - d) a copy of each plan, report, or required monitoring program under this approval; and
 - e) details of the outcomes of compliance reviews and audits of the project.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Representative

- 6.1 Prior to the commencement of any construction or operational activities, or as otherwise agreed by the Director-General, the Proponent shall nominate for the approval of the Director-General a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Representative(s) independent of the design, construction and operation personnel. The Proponent shall engage the Environmental Representative(s) during any construction activities, and throughout the life of the project, or as otherwise agreed by the Director-General. The Environmental Representative(s) shall be the Proponent's principal point of advice in relation to the environmental performance of the project and shall have responsibility for:
- a) overseeing the implementation of all environmental management plans and monitoring programs required under this approval, and advise the Proponent upon the achievement of these plans/programs;
 - b) considering and advising the Proponent on its compliance obligations against all matters specified in the conditions of this approval; and
 - c) having the authority and independence to recommend to the Proponent reasonable steps to be taken to avoid or minimise unintended or adverse environmental impacts, and, failing the effectiveness of such steps, to recommend to the Proponent that relevant activities are to be ceased as soon as reasonably practicable if there is a significant risk that an adverse impact on the environment will be likely to occur.

Construction Environmental Management Plan

- 6.2 The Proponent shall prepare and implement a **Construction Environmental Management Plan** to outline environmental management practices and procedures to be followed during construction of the project and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) a description of all activities to be undertaken on the site during construction including an indication of stages of construction, where relevant;

- b) statutory and other obligations that the Proponent is required to fulfil during construction including all approvals, consultations and agreements required from authorities and other stakeholders, and key legislation and policies;
- c) details of how the environmental performance of the construction works will be monitored, and what actions will be taken to address identified adverse environmental impacts. In particular, the following environmental performance issues shall be addressed in the Plan:
 - i) measures to monitor and minimise soil erosion and the discharge of sediment and other pollutants to lands and/ or waters during construction activities, particularly during any construction works at or near drainage lines;
 - ii) measures to minimise and manage impacts on native ecology, including minimisation of vegetation clearing; methods to minimise unintended impacts on vegetation to be retained and fauna; topsoil, seed and vegetative material re-use initiatives to be employed; and measures to be undertaken to control weed spread;
 - iii) measures to monitor and manage dust emissions;
 - iv) measures to monitor and control noise and vibration emissions during construction works (refer to condition 6.3); and
 - v) measures to monitor and manage traffic impacts in consultation with relevant road authorities including details of traffic routes for heavy vehicles and any necessary route or timing restriction for oversized loads; detailed consideration of measures to be employed to ensure traffic volume, acoustic and amenity impacts along the heavy vehicle routes are minimised; and detailed consideration of alternative routes (where necessary);
- d) a description of the roles and responsibilities for all relevant employees involved in the construction of the project; and
- e) complaints handling procedures during construction.

The Plan shall be submitted for the approval of the Director-General no later than one month prior to the commencement of any construction works associated with the project, or within such period otherwise agreed by the Director-General. Construction works shall not commence until written approval has been received from the Director-General.

- 6.3 As part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan referred to under condition 6.2, the Proponent shall prepare and implement a **Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan** to detail how construction noise and vibration, particularly with respect to works undertaken outside the hours specified under condition 2.8 (such as well drilling), will be managed. The Plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- a) details of construction activities and a schedule for construction works;
 - b) identification of construction activities that have the potential to generate noise and/or vibration impacts on surrounding sensitive receivers, particularly residential areas and identified heritage items and an assessment of these;
 - c) a detailed description of what actions and measures would be implemented to manage noise and vibration;
 - d) procedures for notifying residents of construction activities that are likely to affect their noise and vibration amenity, as well as procedures for dealing with and responding to noise complaints;
 - e) a description of how the effectiveness of these actions and measures would be monitored during the proposed works, clearly indicating how often this monitoring would be conducted, how the results of this monitoring would be recorded, and if any non-compliance is detected; and
 - f) specific measures for the management of out-of-hours construction activities, particularly well drilling, with specific reference to:
 - i) noise goals for out-of-hours construction works, having regard to the location and sensitivity of potentially affected receivers, duration and intensity of works, provision of periods of respite and scheduling of activities wherever possible to minimise the intensity and duration of high-noise activities during the night time period;

- ii) consideration of cumulative noise impacts with other construction works and operation of project components, and measures to schedule and coordinate construction and operational activities to minimise cumulative noise impacts;
- iii) details of noise mitigation and management measures, including scheduling and coordination of activities, provision of noise attenuation measures, and at-receiver mitigation (including potential temporary relocation of adversely affected receivers) relative to the intensity and duration of construction activities and the sensitivity of potentially affected receivers;
- iv) measures for communication and consultation with affected receivers during out-of-hours works;
- v) complaint handling procedures with respect to noise from out-of-hours works.

Operation Environmental Management Plan

6.4 The Proponent shall prepare and implement an **Operation Environmental Management Plan** to detail an environmental management framework, practices and procedures to be followed during operation of the project. The Plan shall be developed in consultation with NSW Industry and Investment and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- a) identification of all statutory and other obligations that the Proponent is required to fulfil in relation to operation of the project, including all approvals, licences, approvals and consultations;
- b) a description of the roles and responsibilities for all relevant employees involved in the operation of the project;
- c) overall environmental policies and principles to be applied to the operation of the project;
- d) standards and performance measures to be applied to the project, and a means by which environmental performance can be periodically reviewed and improved, where appropriate;
- e) management policies to ensure that environmental performance goals are met and to comply with the conditions of this approval;
- f) specific details of how the following matters will be managed and monitored during operation:
 - i) measures to manage and monitor air quality;
 - ii) measures to manage and monitor noise and vibration;
 - iii) measures to manage and monitor site water including an operational site water balance, stormwater and waste water management; and
 - iv) measures to manage and monitor hazards, including bushfire management;
- g) the environmental monitoring requirements outlined under conditions 3.1 to 3.5 of this approval, inclusive.

The Plan shall be submitted for the approval of the Director-General no later than one month prior to the commencement of operation of the project, or within such period otherwise agreed by the Director-General. Operation shall not commence until written approval has been received from the Director-General.

6.5 To meet the requirements for a Petroleum Production Lease for the project, the Operation Environmental Management Plan required under condition 6.4 shall include:

- a) A Rehabilitation Strategy identifying final land use and rehabilitation performance objectives for each disturbance domain, well sites and water storage facilities; and
- b) A Rehabilitation Plan, with completion criteria having regard to the various stages of progressive rehabilitation, monitoring and research, and post-closure maintenance.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Incident Reporting

7.1 The Proponent shall notify the Director-General of any incident with actual or potential significant off-site impacts on people or the biophysical environment within 12 hours of becoming aware of the incident. The Proponent shall provide full written details of the incident to the Director-General within seven days of the date on which the incident occurred.

- 7.2 The Proponent shall meet the requirements of the Director-General to address the cause or impact of any incident, as it relates to this approval, reported in accordance with condition 7.1 of this approval, within such period as the Director-General may require.
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