

Appendix O

Framework Offshore Environmental Management Plan
prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz



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1. Blacktip Project Framework Environment Plan

1.1 Overview

This document is a framework Environment Plan (EP), providing an outline for the final detailed document(s). This framework EP summarises the EP approval process for all offshore aspects and phases of the Blacktip Project. However, the detailed EP will be split into separate documents covering drilling, installation, production and decommissioning stages of the project.

EPs are typically undertaken by the Proponent. Woodside is the designated operator and proponent of Permit WA-279-P of the Blacktip Project.

Detailed EPs are required for petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Management of Environment) Regulations 1999* [P(SL)(MoE) Regulations], where they are referred to as Environment Plans (EPs). The requirements of the *P(SL) (MoE) Regulations* will also be applied to Blacktip Project activities occurring in Northern Territory Territorial waters, which are also subject to the Northern Territory *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 2003*, and shore crossing activities which are subjected to the Northern Territory *Petroleum Act 1984*.

This *framework* EP has been prepared to address the requirement of the ‘Guidelines for Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Blacktip Gas Project’.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the EP

As specified in the ‘Guidelines for the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Blacktip Gas Project’, a detailed EP should outline ‘specific safeguards and controls, which would be employed to minimise or remedy environmental impacts’. The EP will also be prepared in accordance with the Commonwealth regulatory requirements, as per the *P(SL)(MoE) Regulations*, and will be structured as follows:

- ***A Description of the Proposed Activity:*** This section of the EP typically describes the technical detail pertaining to the proposed project. Details on the location of the project, description of the development during all phases of the development are provided.
- ***A Description of the Existing Environment:*** A summary of the existing environment of the project area will be provided which generally covers the following areas:
 - physical environment
 - biological environment
 - socio-economic environment
 - particular values and sensitivities.
- ***Identification & Assessment of Environmental Effects and Risks:*** The aspect, source, potential and predicted impact, management measures and residual risk are detailed covering the following activities:
 - drilling

- installation and construction
- operation
- decommissioning of the facilities
- ***Environmental Objectives, Standards and Criteria:*** Objectives and standards will be set to measure environmental effects and risks, to determine if an activity is meeting its environmental objectives and standards, and to assess the performance and implementation of the EP. The performance objectives and standards must be consistent with reducing environmental risks and effects to ‘as low as reasonably practicable’ (ALARP).
- ***Environmental Management Techniques:*** This section provides a description of the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to be put in place for all phases of the proposed development. Safeguards and mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that all significant environmental effects associated with the proposed development are minimised or avoided.
- ***Implementation Strategy:*** This section explains the strategy for implementing the EP. Details on the following are therefore included:
 - **Roles and Responsibilities:** Key roles and responsibilities of personnel with respect to meeting environmental management and performance objectives during the various stages of the project.
 - **Training and Education:** The operational systems and procedures designed to ensure that each employee or contractor working on or in connection with the project is aware of their responsibilities in relation to the environment and has the appropriate skills and training.
 - **Monitoring, audit and reporting requirements:** Arrangements for recording, monitoring and reporting information about the activity that will enable the relevant regulatory authority to determine whether the environmental performance objectives and standards in the EP have been met. A detailed audit and reporting schedule will be developed and implemented.
 - **Environmental Monitoring:** A detailed environmental monitoring programme will be developed to detect and monitor appropriate impacts resulting from the main environmental effects of the project.
 - **Emergency Events and Contingency Planning:** An up-to-date emergency response manual (including an oil spill contingency plan) that includes detailed response and investigative arrangements will be developed and maintained.
 - **Consultations:** Each EP will include a report on consultations between the operator and relevant authorities, organisations or other interested parties in the course of developing the EP. It will also include details of ongoing consultation arrangements to be adopted during the operational phase with other marine users and interest groups.
- ***Environmental Commitments:*** The development of the Blacktip Project will be undertaken in a manner that minimises impacts on the surrounding biophysical and social environments. Accordingly, Woodside will adopt the Environmental Commitments as outlined in **Section 15** of the Draft EIS.

1.3 Timing

The detailed EP will be split into separate documents covering drilling, installation, production and decommissioning stages of the project. Once the detailed design phase has been progressed to a stage at which technical detail is available to describe detailed management techniques, the EPs for each relevant phase will be drafted for approval by the relevant regulatory authorities.