



# Environmental Protection Authority

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Dr Bevan Warris  
Executive Director  
Empire Oil and Gas NL  
229 Stirling Highway  
CLAREMONT WA 6010

Our Ref A559616  
Enquiries Maree Heath  
Phone 6467 5410

Dear Dr Warris

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 39A(3)**  
***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**PROPOSAL:** Wannamal 3D Seismic Survey over Gingin Gas Field  
**LOCALITY:** Shire of Gingin  
**PROPONENT:** Empire Oil and Gas NL  
**DECISION:** Not Assessed – Public Advice Given

Thank you for your letter referring the above matter to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

This proposal raises a number of environmental issues. However, the EPA has decided not to subject this proposal to the environmental impact assessment process and the subsequent setting of formal conditions by the Minister for Environment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Nevertheless, the staff of the Office of the EPA has provided the attached advice to you as the proponent, and other relevant authorities on the environmental aspects of the proposal.

The EPA's decision to not assess the proposal is open to appeal. There is a 14-day period, closing 31 December 2012. Information on the appeals process is available through the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website, [www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au](http://www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au), or by telephoning 6467 5190.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Sutton  
Director  
Assessment and Compliance Division

17 December 2012

Encl

**PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)**  
***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

This advice applies to a proposal the Wannamal 3D Seismic Survey, referred to the EPA by Empire Oil and Gas NL (Empire) on 24 October 2012.

Empire is proposing to conduct a 3D seismic survey over the Gingin Gas Fields including parts of the Boonanarring and Bartlett's Well nature reserves, utilising a helicopter assisted or 'heliportable' technique, transporting drilling and seismic receiver equipment by a long-line, suspended beneath a helicopter. The equipment is lowered into position and released at pre-programmed points. Charges are detonated one at a time and seismic data is recorded. Site remediation and site check would occur post survey.

The EPA understands that the proposal includes the disturbance of up to 1.8 hectares of vegetation. The Office of the EPA considers that the avoidance of clearing by using of the heliportal technique of collecting data significantly reduces the potential environmental impact and is supported.

The EPA considers that the proponent should be aware of any clearing permits that may be required for the proposal. The decision of the EPA to not assess your proposal carries no presumption about the outcome of an application for a Clearing Permit should it be necessary.

**Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**

The Office of the EPA notes that the referral documentation included the *Wannamal 3D Seismic Survey Environmental Management Plan* (October 2012, Rev 3). The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has advised the EPA that the plan is acceptable for implementation of the proposal.

The EPA notes that in accordance with the requirements of Section 15A (3) of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum is required to seek the advice and recommendations of the Minister for Environment on the conditions to apply to consent in authorising Empire Oil and Gas's entry to Boonanarring and Bartlett's Well nature reserves, as the Minister responsible for the reserved lands. It is understood that through this process the DEC will advise the Minister on any recommended conditions to further ensure that the proposal is implemented in accordance with the EMP. On this basis, noting the proposed exploration methodology, the mitigation management measures included in the EMP and the ability for this project to be regulated through other approvals processes, the proposal is not considered to have a significant impact on the environment.