



Environmental Protection Authority

EPA Referral Form

Form for the referral of a proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Referrer information			
Who is referring this proposal?		<input type="checkbox"/> Proponent <input type="checkbox"/> Decision-making authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community member/third party	
Name: Piers Verstegen		Signature 	
Position	Director	Organisation	Conservation Council of WA
Email	Piers.Verstegen@ccwa.org.au		
Address	City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St		
	West Perth	WA	6005
Date	20 November 2018		
Does the referrer request that the EPA treat any part of the proposal information in the referral as confidential? <i>Provide confidential information in a separate attachment.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Referral declaration for organisations, proponents and decision-making authorities: I, Piers Verstegen declare that I am authorised to refer this proposal on behalf of the Conservation Council of WA and further declare that the information contained in this form is true and not misleading.			
Part A: Proponent and proposal description			
Proponent information			
Name of the proponent/s (including Trading Name if relevant)		Woodside Energy Ltd	
Australian Company Number(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	63 005 482 986	
OR Australian Business Number(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Contact for the proposal (if different from the referrer) <i>Please include: name, physical address, phone, and email.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Kate McCallum – 9348 5475 / 0419 782 563 Woodside Energy Ltd Woodside Plaza, 240 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000 Kate.McCallum@woodside.com.au		

<p>Does the proponent have the legal access required for the implementation of all aspects of the proposal?</p> <p>If yes, provide details of legal access authorisations / agreements / tenure.</p> <p>If no, what authorisations / agreements / tenure is required and from whom?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Ministerial Statement (allowing implementation) under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA) from the WA Minister for Environment</p> <p>Approval under Part 9 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) from the Commonwealth Minister for Environment</p>
<p>Proposal type</p>	
<p>What type of proposal is being referred?</p> <p>For a change to an approved proposal please state the Ministerial Statement number/s (MS No./s) of the approved proposal</p> <p>For a derived proposal please state the Ministerial Statement number (MS No.) of the associated strategic proposal</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> significant – new proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> significant – change to approved proposal (MS No./s: _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> proposal under an assessed planning scheme</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strategic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> derived (Strategic MS No.: _____)</p>
<p>For a significant proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you consider the proposal may have a significant effect on the environment and warrant referral to the EPA? 	<p>Since at least 14 February 2018, vessels and equipment have been operated by, or at the direction of, the proponent for the purposes of its offshore “Greater Exmouth Tieback Project”, and possibly other projects in the region, in the Exmouth Gulf (Proposal). The vessels include the Global 1201, the Heavy Lift Vessels AAL Nanjing and Jumbo Fairlane, and the Deep Orient.</p> <p>Natural environment / Marine fauna</p> <p>The Exmouth Gulf is a highly sensitive environment. It is habitat to several protected, vulnerable and endangered species under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> (WA) including the Humpback whale, Loggerhead turtle and dugong. The Exmouth Gulf is located near the Ningaloo Marine Park, a National Heritage and World Heritage place, making it an especially valuable environment.</p> <p>Light emissions and underwater noise from vessels can impact behaviour of marine fauna such as cetaceans. In particular, there is a significant risk that vessels may impact on the relatively high numbers of Humpback Whales (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) (Vulnerable) in the area. Industrial emissions of noise and light from the Proposal are likely to have a significant impact on these.</p> <p>There is broad public interest in this iconic Western Australian marine environment and fauna species.</p> <p>Social surroundings</p> <p>The noise and visual impacts of the vessels in the Exmouth Gulf have ongoing impacts. They are a significant imposition on the visual beauty and amenity of the Exmouth Gulf which is a notable tourism asset. Noise impact, especially the intrusive and far-reaching volume of the dynamic positioning systems used, is audible from the town centre and reported as far south as Pebble Beach, approximately 15 kilometres south of Exmouth.</p>

<p>For a proposal under an assessed planning scheme, provide the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme name and number <p>For the Responsible Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new environmental issues are raised by the proposal that were not assessed during the assessment of the planning scheme? • How does the proposal not comply with the assessed scheme and/or the environmental conditions in the assessed planning scheme? 	Not applicable
Proposal description	
Title of the proposal	Greater Enfield Tieback Project – Exmouth Gulf shipping operations
Name of the Local Government Authority in which the proposal is located.	Shire of Exmouth
<p>Location:</p> <p>a) street address, lot number, suburb, and nearest road intersection; or</p> <p>b) if remote the nearest town and distance and direction from that town to the proposal site.</p>	Exmouth Gulf, Exmouth WA 6707
<p>Proposal description – including the key characteristics of the proposal</p> <p><i>Provide as an attachment to the form</i></p>	See attached
<p>Have you provided electronic spatial data, maps and figure in the appropriate format?</p> <p><i>Refer to instructions at the front of the form</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>What is the current land use on the property, and the extent (area in hectares) of the property?</p>	<p>Species habitat and breeding ground, tourism, aquaculture/pastoral, defence, petroleum tenements</p> <p>Approx. 260,000ha</p>
<p>Have you had pre-referral discussions with the EPA at DWER Services? If so, quote the reference number and/or the DWER contact.</p>	Not applicable
Part B: Environmental impacts	
Environmental factors	
<p>What are the likely significant environmental factors for this proposal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Benthic Communities and Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Processes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marine Environmental Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marine Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Flora and Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Landforms <input type="checkbox"/> Subterranean Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Waters

		<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Surroundings <input type="checkbox"/> Human Health
<p><i>For each of the environmental factors identified above, complete the following table, or provide the information in a supplementary report</i></p>		
<p>Potential environmental impacts</p>		
1	EPA Factor	Marine fauna
2	EPA policy and guidance - What have you considered and how have you applied them in relation to this factor?	The Environmental Factor Guideline: Marine Fauna was used to identify the project's significant impacts.
3	Consultation – Outline the outcomes of consultation in relation to the potential environmental impacts	<p>The consultation document for Commonwealth approval of the Greater Enfield Tieback project states: "Subject to detailed planning, the Exmouth Gulf may be used by the project as a staging area for the transport of equipment to the offshore project area" and that the proponent will "Minimise, where practicable, the use of Exmouth Gulf to support activities".</p> <p>Concerns about use of Exmouth Gulf in relation to the Greater Enfield Tieback project (including that it is an important whale calving ground) were raised in consultation on 17 November 2016, on the offshore environment plan. No response or action from the proponent is evident from the Summary Environment Plan.</p>
4	Receiving environment – Describe the current condition of the receiving environment in relation to this factor.	<p>Exmouth Gulf is a resting/calving and migratory area for Humpback whales from early August to late November.¹</p> <p>Dugong minimum Exmouth Gulf population estimate of approx. 1000 during winter (i.e. regionally significant).² Important feeding and calving ground for dugongs.³</p> <p>Turtles, manta rays and sharks are also found in Exmouth Gulf.⁴</p>
5	Proposal activities – Describe the proposal activities that have the potential to impact the environment	Light and noise emissions from vessels
6	Mitigation – Describe the measures proposed to manage and mitigate the potential environmental impacts.	None known

¹ Centre for Whale Research WA, "Distribution and Abundance of Humpback Whales and Other Mega Fauna in Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia 2004/2005".

² Oceanwise Environmental Scientists Pty Ltd, "The Dugong of Exmouth Gulf", 2005.

³ Centre for Whale Research WA, above n 1.

⁴ Centre for Whale Research WA, above n 1.

7	Impacts – Assess the impacts of the proposal and review the residual impacts against the EPA objective.	In order to maintain biological diversity and ecological integrity – especially to minimise disturbance of protected species – vessels cannot be permitted in Exmouth Gulf, particularly during migration periods.
8	Assumptions - Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment e.g. particular mitigation measures or regulatory conditions.	Not applicable
Potential environmental impacts		
1	EPA Factor	Social surroundings
2	EPA policy and guidance - What have you considered and how have you applied them in relation to this factor?	The Environmental Factor Guideline: Social Surroundings was used to identify this project’s significant impacts.
3	Consultation – Outline the outcomes of consultation in relation to the potential environmental impacts	None known
4	Receiving environment – Describe the current condition of the receiving environment in relation to this factor.	High level of natural heritage, near the Ningaloo world heritage site. Residential environment sensitive to noise/light emissions from industry in Exmouth Gulf (both for this proposal and cumulatively) which impacts on amenity, welfare and health. Noise audible from town centre and reported as far south as Pebble Beach, approximately 15km from Exmouth. Visual amenity for the currently relatively unmodified landscape of Exmouth Gulf vista (important for residents and tourism activities).
5	Proposal activities – Describe the proposal activities that have the potential to impact the environment	Vessel/infrastructure presence in Exmouth Gulf, including light and noise emissions from large ships using dynamic positioning
6	Mitigation – Describe the measures proposed to manage and mitigate the potential environmental impacts.	None known
7	Impacts – Assess the impacts of the proposal and review the residual impacts against the EPA objective.	In order to protect social surroundings from significant harm – including to amenity for nearby residents and economic impacts on tourism opportunities – vessels in Exmouth Gulf must be subject to controls/conditions on light and noise emissions.
8	Assumptions - Describe any assumptions critical to your assessment e.g. particular mitigation measures or regulatory conditions.	Not applicable

Part C: Other approvals and regulation			
State and Local Government approvals			
Is rezoning of any land required before the proposal can be implemented? If yes, please provide details.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If this proposal has been referred by a decision-making authority, what approval(s) are required from you?		Not applicable	
Please identify other approvals required for the proposal:		Not applicable	
Proposal activities	Land tenure/access	Type of approval	Legislation regulating the activity
e.g. clearing, dewatering, mining, processing, dredging	e.g. Crown land, Mining lease, specify legislation for access if relevant	e.g. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit, licence, mining proposal,	e.g. <i>EP Act 1986 – Part V, RiWI Act 1914, Mining Act 1979</i>
Commonwealth Government approvals			
Does the proposal involve an action that may be or is a controlled action under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the proposed action been referred? If yes, when was it referred and what is the reference number (EPBC No.)?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		Date:	
		EPBC No.:	
If referred, has a decision been made on whether the proposed action is a controlled action? If 'yes', check the appropriate box and provide the decision in an attachment.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Decision – controlled action	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Decision – not a controlled action	
If the proposal is determined to be a controlled action, do you request that this proposal be assessed under the bilateral agreement or as an accredited assessment?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Bilateral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Accredited	
Is approval required from other Commonwealth Government/s for any part of the proposal? <i>If yes, describe.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		Approval:	