

27 June 2007

Dr Paul Vogel
EPA Chairman
Locked Bag 33, Cloister Square
PERTH WA 6850

Dear Dr Vogel

Environmental Impact Assessment Review

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (CME) welcome the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

APPEA and CME have been working together to identify innovative solutions for approvals process reform in WA and have identified considerable common ground across industry and government in terms of potential key reform areas.

This document forms APPEA and CME's initial input to the review process. The aim of the document is to outline key areas for reform and suggest models, strategies or actions to be taken to bring about beneficial change. APPEA and CME believe that these changes can be made to the approvals system without compromising WA's high level of protection and environmental controls.

There are a range of initiatives that APPEA and CME believe would streamline the approvals process but two major changes are recommended in this submission:

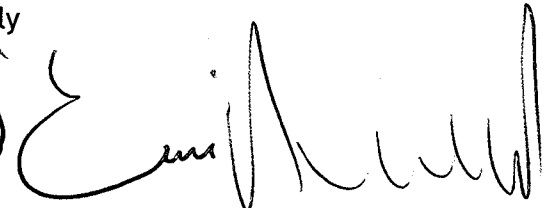
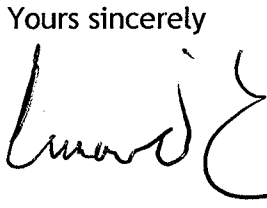
- Adoption of a risk-based assessment process that incorporates an outcomes-based approach. A risk-based approach to scoping in particular, would address many of the concerns held by the resources sector. It also would simplify and streamline the system and make it more transparent, while increasing focus on the key environmental issues for each project.
- The introduction of a number of administrative changes within the EPA Service Unit, coupled with increased resourcing, to deliver improved efficiency during a time of unprecedented growth in the resources sector.

While acknowledging the appeals process is outside the Terms of Reference of this review, APPEA and CME would also like to stress that it continues to be a significant concern to industry.

The attached submission briefly touches on the importance of certainty of timelines for all aspects of the approvals process, with well documented and transparent stop-the-clock mechanisms also required. APPEA and CME also note that there are many other aspects of the approvals process that are expected to be addressed in the EIA review process partially covered by the priorities listed in the body of the submission.

APPEA and CME appreciate the opportunity to work with the EPA in this critically important review of the EIA process and invite any discussion to further explore the issues raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely



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APPEA

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CME



APPEA

