

INPEX BROWSE, LTD.

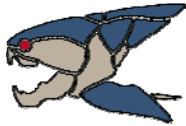
ICHTHYS GAS FIELD DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT PLAN SUMMARY

FOR PROPOSED 2008-2010
EXPLORATION DRILLING
PROGRAMME

Document No.
DEV-EXT-PL-0045

Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Checked	Approved
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PROPOSED 2008-2010 EXPLORATION
DRILLING PROGRAM

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1 BACKGROUND

INPEX Browse, Ltd. (INPEX) proposes to drill three exploration and appraisal wells between 2008 and 2009. The first well to be drilled, Ichthys West-1 is located in permit area WA-285-P. Other permit areas where INPEX will potentially conduct drilling operations are permit areas WA-341-P, WA-343-P and WA-344-P, shown in Figure 1.

This Environment Plan has been prepared for submission to Western Australia's Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR) in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 [P(SL)A] and the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Management of Environment) Regulations 1999.

The purpose of this Environment Plan is to describe the 2008/2009 drilling campaign and the receiving environment, identify and assess potential environmental impacts to the receiving environment and to outline the management measures proposed to ensure that environmental performance objectives and standards are met for these wells and subsequent drilling campaigns.


The basis for well design has been completed for Ichthys West-1 with relevant details contained within this EP.

The basis for well design has not yet been completed for two subsequent wells to be drilled in this campaign. When the basis for well design is completed for future wells, an addendum to this Environment Plan will be submitted to the DoIR for environmental approval for those wells.

1.1 THE PLAN

This plan:

- Describes the environmental setting in which the drilling campaign will take place
- Describes the proposed activities of the drilling campaign that have the potential to affect the environment
- Presents an analysis of the effects on the environment and describes the management measures to be used to minimise the environmental impacts of the drilling campaign.

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2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 LOCATION

INPEX proposes to drill up to three wells in the 2008 drilling campaign. The permit areas are situated off the Kimberley coast within the Browse Basin. Permit Area WA-285-P is located 251 nautical miles north of Broome, in Commonwealth waters.

The first well, Ichthys West-1, is located on the western flank of the Ichthys Field in Permit Area WA-285-P (refer Figure 2.1-1), 512226.4mE, 8467621.6mN.

Locations of subsequent wells have not yet been determined; however, they will all be located within 140 km of Ichthys West-1, within the other permit areas displayed in Figure 1.

2.2 DETAILS OF DRILLING CAMPAIGN

The drilling period is expected to be approximately 100 days per well, commencing in February 2008.

Vertical seismic profiling (VSP) will be conducted on all wells drilled.

All wells drilled in this campaign will be drilled by the semi-submersible mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) *Songa Venus* operated by Songa Offshore. The *Songa Venus* will be moored to the seafloor by eight anchors and mooring chains.


The wells will be drilled using water-based mud and synthetic-based mud ('Syn-teq'). The drilling program proposes to use the following fluids as the basis of the mud:

- Seawater with gel sweeps in the 36" hole section. At the end of this hole section, the seawater and sweeps will be discharged to the sea.
- The 17½" and 16" hole sections will be drilled with a water-based mud (WBM) system. At the end of this hole section the WBM will be discharged to the sea.
- The 12¼" and 8½" hole sections will be drilled with a synthetic-based mud (SBM) system of low toxicity. The drilling fluid from the 12¼" and 8½" hole sections will be recycled and reused.

Drill cuttings from all hole sections will be discharged into the sea after appropriate processing with solids control equipment.

As the "basis for well design" (BFD) for other wells is likely to be similar to that of Ichthys West-1, volumes of cuttings discharged from other wells drilled in this campaign will be similar to those discharged from the Ichthys West-1 well.

Subsequent to completion of drilling and testing (if required), the Proponent will abandon the wells in accordance with the requirements of the Petroleum

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(Submerged Lands) Acts, Schedule: Specific Requirements as to Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Production – 2005.



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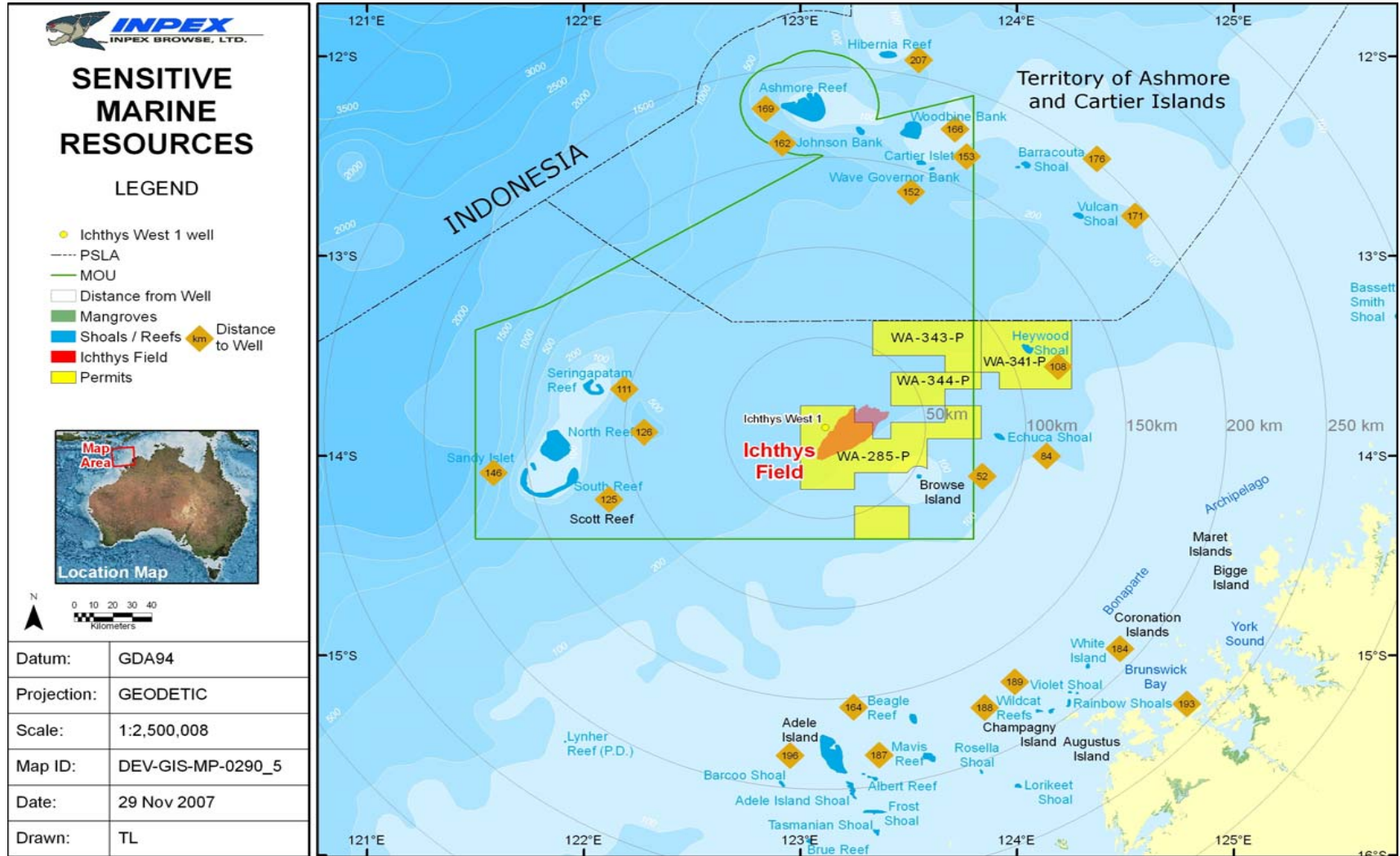



Figure 1: Ichthys West-1 Location Map

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3 THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 REGIONAL SETTING

INPEX-operated permit areas relevant to this Environment Plan are located in the Timor Sea within the Browse Basin on the Australian continental shelf in water depths between 90 m to 340 m. In general, the continental shelf is a flat featureless plain that dips gently northward toward the edge of the shelf, but scattered throughout the area are shoals and occasional islands that support a diverse flora and fauna (Figure 1). To the north, the Timor Trough, with water depths of up to 9000 m, marks the outer boundary of the continental shelf.

3.2 CLIMATE AND OCEANOGRAPHY

The study area is situated in the tropics and experiences a monsoonal climate with two predominant seasons: a summer wet season (October - April) and a winter dry season (May–September). During the wet season, prevailing winds are typically from the west and south-west, and during the dry season, winds are from the north-east, though east and south-east.

The wave climate reflects the seasonal wind regime, with waves predominantly from the west in summer and from the east in winter. Seawater temperature in the region ranges from 25 °C to 31 °C at the surface and 22 °C to 25 °C at the seafloor. The maximum tidal range is 5.7 m.

3.3 BATHYMETRY AND SEAFLOOR GEOLOGY

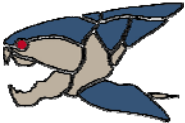
Bathymetry of the permit areas and surrounds is displayed in Figure 1. The seabed topography is relatively flat and featureless and the geology is relatively contiguous though the region. A number of shoals including Hewyard, Echuca and Vulcan Shoals are located within 100 km of the INPEX operated permit areas.

3.4 MARINE ECOLOGY

The marine fauna of northern Australia is part of the vast Indo-West Pacific biogeographical province. Diversity in most components of the coastal northern Australian biota is relatively impoverished compared with assemblages found along the coastlines of Timor and neighbouring Nusa Tenggara islands.

Continental shelf – open waters

The Timor Sea supports a variety of shark and pelagic finfish species of commercial and recreational game-fishing importance (e.g. tunas,

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mackerels and swordfishes). The Timor Sea also supports five species of turtles and a variety of cetaceans.

Epibenthic flora and fauna

Epibenthic fauna are abundant and diverse in shallower coastal waters of the continental shelf. However, sea floor communities in deeper waters are generally depauperate. Species found in these areas include sponges, gorgonians (sea whips and sea fans), ascidians (sea squirts), echinoderms, crustaceans, bryozoans (lace corals), and soft corals.

Benthic nfauna

Across the northern continental shelf, the predominant animals living within sea floor sediments are polychaetes (burrowing worms) and crustaceans (prawns, shrimps, crabs, etc.). Other species include echinoderms (sea stars, sea urchins, feather stars, etc.), molluscs (both gastropods and bivalves), nemerteans (ribbon worms), sponges and fish.

Shoals

Two small subtidal shoals or pinnacles occur near to or within the permit area. These are the Heywood and Echuca Shoals. The flora and fauna of the shoals located within Permit Area WA-285-P has not been studied. However, work on other shoals in the region shows that subsea mounts and shoals can be quite productive areas supporting corals, halimeda algae, sponges and a range of associated reef fish species.

Islands and reefs


There are over 2000 islands of all sizes and shapes along the Kimberley coast.

The closest of these is Browse Island, which is located 52 km from Ichthys West-1, adjacent to Permit Area WA-285-P. Browse Island is believed to be an important turtle and seabird nesting site, and is surrounded by extensive coral reefs.

Shallow subtidal and intertidal habitats also occur in the region. However, these reefs and islands are not located in close proximity to the permit area (129 km to 200 km away). They include Ashmore Reef, Hibernia Reef, Cartier Reef, Seringapatam Reef and Scott Reef. Important assemblages and species with high conservation and protection significance are found in all of these areas as summarised below.

Seagrass and macroalgae

Macroalgae form the basis of many food webs in the marine environment and also contribute to reef structure and to sediment formation. Algal

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meadows grow on shallow limestone pavement while seagrass beds are generally located on sandy patches in the lagoons.

Corals

The offshore atolls have major assemblages of reef-building corals. Coral reefs are ecologically important due to their high biological productivity and the high diversity and abundance of marine organisms that they support.

Giant clams

All species of giant clam protected in Australian waters are common on the reefs and surrounding atolls.

Dugongs and turtles

Reefs in the region may be feeding grounds for dugongs and turtles. Turtles nest above the high-water mark on many sandy beaches in the West Kimberley.

Seabirds

Seabird feeding grounds, roosting and nesting areas are found on the offshore atolls. Migratory seabirds, a number of which are protected by international agreements (e.g. the Bonn Convention, JAMBA and CAMBA), including a number of albatross species, may pass through the study area.


Cetaceans

The blue whale is a migratory species, which migrates through the general area. The annual migration of the humpback whale occurs closer to shore, with numbers peaking in August and September. Key areas on the Kimberley coast for humpback whales are Camden Sound and Pender Bay.

Endangered and Vulnerable Species

Eight species of marine organisms are listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth EPBC Act), of which two endangered species (blue whale and loggerhead turtle) are known to occur in offshore areas of northern Western Australia and may pass through the permit areas. A further six species, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act, have been recorded from this region (whale shark, green turtle, leatherback turtle, humpback whale, hawksbill turtle and flatback turtle).


It is reasonable to conclude that some of these species may pass through the permit areas; however the permit areas are unlikely to provide any critical habitat for these species.

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3.5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Browse Basin is the focus for a number of activities including commercial and traditional fisheries and oil exploration and production. In addition, a number of major shipping routes pass through the area.

Other uses near the Kimberley coast, some 200 km inshore from the permit area, include marine tourism, pearling and aquaculture.

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4 ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Table 1 presents the environmental risk assessment for each effect on the natural environment that is known to occur from routine drilling activities in offshore areas. It also presents a summary of the management actions that INPEX and its contractors will undertake for protection of the environment during each drilling campaign.



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IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Table 1: Summary of major environmental hazards and management actions

Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of consequence	Environmental risk	Management action
Routine					
Noise from the MODU, tenders and helicopters. Short periods of high noise levels within 2 to 5 km of the MODU and audible noise up to 20 km from the MODU.	Highly likely	Possible avoidance/disturbance behaviour or marine megafauna and possible behavioural impacts on cetaceans if they are present.	Minor	Medium	Cetacean Interaction and Observation Procedure distributed and adhered to by anchor handling support vessel (AHSV) masters and helicopter pilots. Helicopters will not approach at a height lower than 1650 feet (500 m) and within a horizontal radius of 500 m of a cetacean unless necessary for take-off and landings on the MODU.
Noise from vertical seismic profiling (VSP). Short periods of acoustic pulses.	Highly likely	Possible avoidance/disturbance behaviour of marine megafauna and possible physiological impact on cetaceans if they are present.	Minor	Medium	Visual observations during pre-start procedures and during survey Soft start procedure (prior to the firing of the air gun for the VSP) Delay start-up procedures and shut down any operating acoustic source if whales are observed within 3 km of the survey vessel.
Anchors and moorings	Highly likely	Very small area of soft- sediment benthos disturbed temporarily	Slight	Low	Minimise the amount of seabed disturbance by utilising normal operating procedures.



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Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of consequence	Environmental risk	Management action
Drill cuttings disposal	Highly likely	Cuttings will settle and modify grain size. No cuttings pile likely. Minimal impact on or modification of benthos.	Slight	Low	Disposed of to sea in accordance with normal operating procedures.
Non-toxic water-based mud will be disposed of to the marine environment.	Highly likely	Minor leaching of hydrocarbons and mud chemicals into the water column. Uptake by marine microbes but of low toxicity and not bioaccumulative.	Minor	Medium	<p>Minimise volume disposed of by optimisation of the solids control equipment (shale shakers); by the application of sound drilling fluid engineering practices; by the recovery of SBM for use in future drilling programs.</p> <p>MODU shale shaker to be tested and operational to design specifications during drilling program.</p> <p>Warning alarms for shale-shaker shutdown operational throughout drilling.</p> <p>Fixed and portable mud recovery pumps located around the MODU to recover accidental spills.</p> <p>Target of <10% dry weight fluid on cuttings discharge.</p> <p>Auditable record of volume of drilling fluids discharged overboard maintained (through mass balance at end of well).</p>



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Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of consequence	Environmental risk	Management action
Deck washdown	Highly likely	Localised oil/chemical contamination of water around the MODU	Slight	Low	<p>Spill kits distributed on the MODU. At least one placed at each of the following areas: engine room, shakers, port and starboard main deck, and pipe deck.</p> <p>Drill-string cleaning and pipe doping to occur onshore to minimise spills of pipe dope.</p> <p>Songa to ensure that MODU personnel are adequately trained to contain spills that occur and to ensure that significant accumulations of oil, grease and other contaminants are collected and removed from the decks prior to every washdown.</p>
Sewage, grey water and putrescible waste management	Highly likely	Localised low-level contamination of water around MODU by sewage and/or grey water and food scraps	Minor	Medium	<p>Sewage and food scraps will be discharged via direct overboard drain after being macerated and pulverised in accordance with <i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i> (Cwlth) and the requirements of MARPOL 73/78 (the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978).</p> <p>Domestic wastewater treatment apparatus to be tested and checked to be operational during drilling program.</p>



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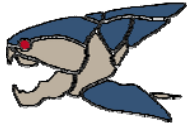
Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of consequence	Environmental risk	Management action
Natural gas combustion (well testing)	Likely	Small output of greenhouse gases	Slight	Low	Ensure all release of recovered gas is via flare combustion. No release if flame out condition exists.
Accidental					
Gas and condensate blow-out with large loss of gas into the water column	Remote	Widespread short-term impact on pelagic productivity; potential for localised impacts on fish	Major	Medium	Use of correctly designed drilling fluids based on known formation pressures Testing of the blow-out prevented prior to commencement and at no greater than three-weekly intervals during operations. Pressure-testing of casing strings. Continuous monitoring for abnormal pressure parameters during drilling.



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Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of Consequence	Environmental Risk	Management action
Condensate loss during well-testing	Unlikely	Localised oil contamination of water around the MODU. Possible localised impact on marine life.	Minor	Medium	<p>Efficient operation of the test equipment and evergreen burners to be monitored by the INPEX Drilling Supervisor during the test.</p> <p>Initiating tests only during daylight hours so that any problems can be immediately identified and rectified.</p> <p>Directing the early flow to tanks while there is a possibility of drilling fluids contaminating the oil and extinguishing the flame.</p> <p>Selection of evergreen burners to match the expected oil type.</p> <p>Visual observations for sheen on water surface.</p> <p>Kill-switch to shut down the inventory in the event of a flame out or significant drop out.</p>
Vessel collision and large fuel spill (500 m ³)	Unlikely	Contamination of local waters—threat to local marine life.	Moderate	Medium	<p>Establish a 500-m exclusion zone around MODU.</p> <p>Songa to inform Australian Safety Maritime Authority of MODU position to facilitate the issuing of a “notice to mariners”.</p> <p>Ensure lighting of MODU and supply vessels to be “fit for purpose”.</p> <p>Use radar and radar reflectors, in addition to implementation of a 24-hour radio watch.</p>



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Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of Consequence	Environmental Risk	Management action
Diesel, synthetic-based mud (SBM) or base oil spill during bunkering	Possible	Contaminating local waters and posing a threat to marine life within close proximity of the MODU.	Minor.	Medium	<p>Fluid transfers to be undertaken during calm weather and daylight hours, as far as practicable.</p> <p>Fluid transfer operations to be overseen by the barge captain and AHSV's Master or First Officer.</p> <p>An observer will monitor fluid transfer operations from the MODU and will remain in radio contact with the supply vessel.</p> <p>Ensuring that all fluid transfer activities are undertaken in accordance with Songa procedures.</p> <p>Weak-link and dry-break coupling for fluid transfer lines in case of breakage.</p>
Solid wastes and hazardous waste management (excluding drill-cutting and mud)	Unlikely	Contamination of ocean around MODU with hazardous substance. Possible localised impacts on marine life.	Minor	Medium	<p>All solid waste segregated and stored on board the rig.</p> <p>Wastes will be backloaded with</p>



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Activity	Likelihood	Consequence	Measure of Consequence	Environmental Risk	Management action
Accidental spill of SBM	Possible	Localised low-level contamination of water and seabed around MODU.	Slight	Low	Shale-shaker alarms to warn of shutdown. Shale-shaker run lights at the drilling controls to ensure that shakers are running before circulation commences SBM transfer procedures to be implemented by Songa Mud recovery pumps at strategic locations. Automated backup system for energising the slip joint


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Conclusions:

The conclusions of the environmental effects appraisal and risk assessment are as follows:

- The proposed wells are located in areas of low environmental and socio-economic sensitivity.
- Routine drilling operations pose low to moderate environmental risks.
- Where moderate risks do occur, detailed management measures, procedures and appropriate technology are in place to minimise risks to as low as reasonably practicable.
- The use of low-toxicity, rapidly biodegradable synthetic-based drilling fluids ensures that minimal impact will be experienced from drilling discharges on the marine environment.
- The implementation of a comprehensive waste management program will result in no significant environmental impact from waste disposal.
- The risk of a significant oil spill occurring is considered to be extremely small, given the following:
 - INPEX has a good understanding of the reservoir from seven previous wells.
 - Drilling will take place adjacent to a discovered gas basin, therefore representing a low risk of significant accidental releases of oil to the marine environment
 - Technology and standard practices will be implemented to minimise such risk.
 - The results of spill trajectory modelling for the 2007 drilling period indicate that it would be highly unlikely that there would be an impact on the sensitive resources within the region as a result of a spill.

Therefore, the proposed 2008–2010 drilling program is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental impacts or to adversely affect matters of national environmental significance as defined by the EPBC Act.

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5 CONSULTATIONS

The following companies, organisations and individuals were consulted during the preparation of this Environment Plan or its predecessor upon which this has been based:

Mr Pierre Achour, Department of Industry and Resources

Dr John Bannister, Western Australian Museum

Mr James Bond, Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Mr Graham Cobby, Department of Industry and Resources


Mr Chris Done, Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

Mr Dale Harvey, Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

Mr Lindsay Joel, Department of Fisheries

Mr Mike Lapwood, Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

Mr Paul Revell, Department of Industry and Resources

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6 CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about the proposed exploration drilling program in Permit Area WA-285-P, please contact:

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