



CONSOLIDATED APPROVAL NOTICE

Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Facility, Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia (EPBC 2008/4146)

The attached notice (Attachment A) is provided to consolidate the approval conditions for the above project, approved on 12 November 2010. The approval conditions were subject to variation at various times during the post approval phase. These decisions are publicly available on the Department's website at http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=4146

The publication of this notice does not alter the dates of: effect for the approval; the variations to conditions; the expiry date of the approval; or any other dates mentioned in conditions. The consolidated approval notice is for ease of reference only.

Name and position

S. Gaddes

Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

Date of Consolidated Approval Notice

8 / 9 / 2015

**Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Facility, Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia (EPBC 2008/4146)**

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted	Shell Australia Pty Ltd
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proponent's ACN	ACN: 009 663 576
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proposed action	Shell Development (Australia) Pty Ltd proposes to develop and operate a Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Facility within Petroleum Permit WA-371-P. The facility will be moored to the seabed and extract gas from the Prelude Gas Field as described in the referral submitted 8 April 2008 (EPBC 2008/4146).
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Approval

Controlling Provision	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approved
Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)	Approved
Commonwealth marine areas (sections 23 & 24A)	Approved

conditions of approval

This **approval** is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 15 November 2045.

Decision-maker

name and position	The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
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signature	SIGNED
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date of decision	12 November 2010
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Conditions attached to the approval

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1. The person taking the action must submit, for the **Minister's** approval, a plan (or plans) for managing the offshore impacts of the action. The plan (or plans) must include measures for:
 - a) **Production drilling activities**
 - i. well locations;
 - ii. drilling fluid type and disposal method;
 - iii. drill cuttings disposal method;
 - iv. fuel and chemical handling and transfer procedures;
 - v. cetacean interaction procedures for supply vessels and aircraft that are consistent with Part 8 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*; and
 - vi. cetacean sightings reporting.
 - b) **Offshore construction and installation**, including:
 - i. design and construction that allows for the complete removal of all structures and components above the seafloor during **decommissioning**;
 - ii. details of the anchor type and placements, methods for connection of mooring lines, installation of the risers and flowline paths;
 - iii. measures to minimise seabed disturbance;
 - iv. hydrotest fluid type, handling and disposal methods;
 - v. cetacean interaction procedures for supply vessels and aircraft that are consistent with Part 8 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*;
 - vi. cetacean sightings reporting; and
 - vii. measures for reporting environmental incidents.
 - c) **Operations**, including:
 - i. offtake tanker vetting procedures;
 - ii. produced formation water and naturally occurring radioactive materials monitoring and management;
 - iii. measures to reduce artificial lighting and noise associated with operation;
 - iv. cetacean interaction procedures for supply vessels and aircraft that are consistent with Part 8 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*;
 - v. cetacean sightings reporting; and

vi. measures for reporting environmental incidents.

The plan (or plans) must be submitted at least two months prior to the commencement of these activities. Individual offshore activities, as defined within these conditions, may not commence until the plan (or plans) for that specific activity have been approved. The approved plan (or plans) must be implemented.

2. Note: Condition 2 was revoked on 9 April 2013.

3. Note: Condition 3 was revoked on 9 April 2013.

4. The person taking the action must develop and submit to the **Minister** for approval, an Oil Spill Contingency Plan that demonstrates the response preparedness of the person taking the action for any hydrocarbon spills, including the capacity to respond to a spill and mitigate the environmental impacts. The Plan must include, but is not limited to:

- a) Oil spill trajectory modelling for potential spills from the action. This should include consideration of a well blow out or uncontrolled release. The modelling should be specific to the characteristics of the hydrocarbons contained in the Prelude gas field, the likely volumes released in a worst case scenario spill, and the potential time over which the oil may be released in a worst case scenario spill, including a scenario of eleven (11) weeks uncontained spill;
- b) A description of resources available for use in containing and minimising impacts in the event of a spill and arrangements for accessing these;
- c) A demonstrated capacity to respond to a spill at the site, including application of dispersants, if required and appropriate, and measures that can feasibly be applied within the first 12 hours of a spill occurring;
- d) Identification of sensitive areas that may be impacted by a potential spill, in particular, Browse Island, specific response measures for these areas and prioritisation of these areas during a response;
- e) Training of staff in spill response measures and identifying roles and responsibilities of personnel during a spill response;
- f) Procedures for reporting oil spill incidents.

The Oil Spill Contingency Plan must be submitted at least three months prior to the commencement of drilling activities. The person taking the action must not commence Prelude production drilling activities until the Oil Spill Contingency Plan is approved. The approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan must be implemented.

5. The person taking the action must develop and submit to the **Minister** for approval, an Operational and Scientific Monitoring Program that will be implemented in the event of an oil spill to determine the potential extent and ecosystem consequences of such a spill, including, but not limited to:

- a) Triggers for the initiation and termination of the Operational and Scientific Monitoring Program, including, but not limited to, spill volume, composition, extent, duration and detection of impacts;
- b) A description of the studies that will be undertaken to determine the operational response, potential extent of impacts, ecosystem consequences and potential environmental reparations required as a result of the oil spill.
- c) Inclusion of sufficient baseline information on the biota and the environment that may be impacted by a potential hydrocarbon spill, to enable an assessment of the impacts of such a spill;
- d) A strategy to implement the scientific monitoring plan, including timelines for delivery of results and mechanisms for the timely peer review of studies; and
- e) Provision for periodic review of the program.

The Operational and Scientific Monitoring Program must be submitted at least three months prior to the commencement of drilling activities. The person taking the action must not commence Prelude production drilling activities until the Operational and

Scientific Monitoring Program is approved. The approved Operational and Scientific Monitoring Program must be implemented.

6. Note: Condition 6 was revoked on the date of this consolidated notice.
7. The person taking the action must submit a Decommissioning Plan to the **Minister** for approval one year prior to the **decommissioning** of the Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas Facility or any subsea wells, flowlines or associated infrastructure. The Decommissioning Plan must consider the complete removal of all structures and components above the sea floor. The approved Decommissioning Plan must be implemented.
8. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records of activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, and make them available on request by the **Department**. Such documents may be subject to audit by the **Department** and used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval.
9. Note: Condition 9 was revoked on the date of this consolidated notice.
10. Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The independent auditor must be approved by the **Minister** prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the **Minister** and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister**.
11. The person taking the action may choose to revise a management plan approved by the **Minister** under conditions 1, 4, 5 and 7 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**. If the person taking the action makes this choice they must:
 - i. notify the **Department** in writing that the approved plan has been revised and provide the **Department** with an electronic copy of the revised plan;
 - ii. implement the revised plan from the date that the plan is submitted to the **Department**; and
 - iii. for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the person taking the action considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**.
- 11A. The person taking the action may revoke their choice under condition 11 at any time by notice to the **Department**. If the person taking the action revokes the choice to implement a revised plan, without approval under section 143A of the Act, the plan approved by the **Minister** must be implemented.
- 11B. If the **Minister** gives a notice to the person taking the action that the **Minister** is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would be likely to have a **new or increased impact**, then:
 - i. Condition 11 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan; and
 - ii. The person taking the action must implement the plan approved by the **Minister**.

To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 11 and 11A in the period before the day the notice is given.

At the time of giving the notice the **Minister** may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 11 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.

- 11C. Conditions 11, 11A and 11B are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the Act which allows the person taking the action to submit a revised management plan to the **Minister** for approval.

12. Note: Condition 12 was revoked on the date of this consolidated notice.

13. If the action has not been substantially commenced to the satisfaction of the **Minister** within 5 years of the date of this approval, the action must not commence without the written agreement of the **Minister**.

Note. The date stated in condition 13 relates to the date of the approval decision (12 November 2010).

14. A plan or program required by condition 1, 4, 5 or 7 is automatically deemed to have been submitted to, and approved by, the **Minister** if the measures (as specified in the relevant condition) are included in an **environment plan** (or **environment plans**) relating to the taking of the action that:

- a) was submitted to **NOPSEMA** after 27 February 2014; and
- b) either:
 - i) is **in force** under the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**; or
 - ii) has ended in accordance with regulation 25A of the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**.

- 14A. Where a plan or program required by condition 1, 4 or 5 has been approved by the **Minister** and the measures (as specified in the relevant condition) are included in an **environment plan** (or **Environment Plans**) that:

- a) was submitted to **NOPSEMA** after 27 February 2014; or
- b) either:
 - i) is **in force** under the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**; or
 - ii) has ended in accordance with regulation 25A of the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**.

the plan or program approved by the **Minister** no longer needs to be implemented provided the **environment plan** remains **in force**.

- 14B. Where an **environment plan**, which includes measures specified in the conditions referred to in conditions 14 and 14A above, is **in force** under the **OPGGS Environment Regulations** that relates to the taking of the action, the person taking the action must comply with those measures as specified in that **environment plan**.

Definitions

Department: the Australian Government Department or any other agency administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) from time to time.

Decommissioning: means the permanent removal of production equipment and facilities at the completion of the Prelude Field life.

Environment Plan: an environment plan as existing from time to time which has the meaning given in the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**.

In force: in relation to an **environment plan**, has the meaning given in the **OPGGS Environment Regulations**.

Minister: the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and includes a delegate of the Minister.

New or increased impact: A new or increased impact on any matter protected by the controlling provisions for the action, when compared to the plan that has been approved by the **Minister**.

NOPSEMA: the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority or any other agency that administers the **OPGGS Environment Regulations** from time to time.

Offshore Construction and installation: means all activities related to the installation and commissioning of the Prelude gas field development conducted in Australia.

Operations: means the commencement of gas extraction and transfer from subsea wells to the floating liquefied natural gas facility and liquefied natural gas tankers.

OPGGS Environment Regulations: Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Cth) as in force or existing from time to time.
