

**Environmental Impact Classification
Pursuant to Section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000***

**Drilling Pad and Access Road Construction on Private Land, Otway
Basin – South Australia**

14th May 2001

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000* (the Act) the Minister must classify the regulated activities covered by a prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as either low, medium or high impact.

The classification must be made on the basis of:

- The prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
- Criteria established for classifying the level of environmental impact of regulated activities, a copy of which is found on the PIRSA Petroleum Group web page:
(<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=437&templD=8>);
and
- Comment received from Planning SA, Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and Department for Water Resources (DWR) in accord with established administrative arrangements between these respective departments and PIRSA.

This document summarises the classification made by PIRSA on Drilling Pad and Access Road Construction on Private Land in the Otway Basin in South Australia. This classification is based on the information provided in the EIR and draft Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) both dated May 2001 as submitted to PIRSA by Origin Energy Ltd on the 7 May 2001.

SUMMARY OF CLASSIFICATION

- 1) From an analysis of the environmental significance of the various potential impacts associated with this operation – summarised in attachment #1 against the classification criteria – this regulated activity has been classified as **low impact**.
- 2) Comments received from DEH concur with this classification.

- 3) Therefore pursuant to delegated powers dated 25 September 2000, gazetted 28 September 2000, I hereby classify this regulated act as low impact.

R A LAWS

Director Petroleum Group

Office of Minerals and Energy Resources

Delegate of the Minister for Minerals and Energy

EIR for Drilling Pad and Access Road Construction on Private Land Otway Basin - Significance Assessment											Attachment #1								
			ABBREVIATIONS: H = High certainty; M = Medium							MANAGEABILITY									
			PREDICTABILITY																
REF	TYPE OF IMPACT	EVENT(S)	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	SIZE	SCOPE	DURATION	FREQUENCY	STAKEHOLDERS	SIGNIFICANCE	AVOIDANCE	PROBABILITY	DURATION	SIZE AND SCOPE	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	STAKEHOLDERS	SIGNIFICANCE	COMMENTS	Environmental significance	
	<i>Native Fauna Impacts</i>																		
2.1.5, 2.2.4, 3.1.3, table 2		Construction of drilling pads and access tracks	Fauna injured or killed	M	H	H	H	H	2	No	Low			Small	Low	1	Due to the clearance that has been undertaken on most private land the incidence of fauna traversing the sites should be low, and the construction activity is expected to deter most, including birds.	Low	
	<i>Social Environment Community Resource Impacts</i>																		
1.4.1, 2.5, 3.2.2		Vehicle movement to and from construction site	Degradation of local roads	H	H	H	H	H	1	No	Low	Short	Small	Small	Low	1	Local roads will be utilised for a short period of time only, so the risk of degradation is very low.	Low	
	<i>Cultural & Heritage Impacts</i>																		
1.2, 2.1.1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 4.2, table 2		Construction of drilling pads and access tracks	Impact on or loss of aboriginal or European heritage sites	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes						1	The Kungari Aboriginal Association will inspect all sites for any cultural heritage sites. No sites of European heritage are expected where drilling pads and access tracks will be located, so will not be impacted on.	Low	
	<i>Community Health & Safety</i>																		
1.1, 2.5, 3.2.2, 4.3.2, table 2		Vehicle movement to and from construction site	Accident resulting in injury or death	M	M	M	M	H	2	No	Low	Short	Small	No	Low	1	Transport activities will be scheduled to avoid periods of high public usage of public roads. Local authorities will be notified of heavy vehicle movements. There will still be a risk to third party road users.	Low	
1.2, 4.3.2		Construction of drilling pads and access tracks	Accident resulting in injury or death	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes						1	Precautions will be taken to restrict third party access to the construction site. As this is private land, and subject to the laws of trespass this is expected to be a further deterrent to third party access.	Low	
3.2.2, 4.3.4, SEO		Dust generation	Accident resulting in injury or death	H	H	H	H	H	1	No	Low	Short	Small	No	Low	1	Higher risk of dust generation to other road users because the activities will be undertaken predominantly in drier periods. There is an undertaking to spray roads with water to minimise dust and for vehicles to drive at reduced speed limits to minimise risk.	Low	
2.1.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, table 2		Fire from equipment use, vehicles or smoking	Injury or death, loss of social amenities, wildfire	M	M	M	M	H	2	Yes						1	Procedures are in place to prevent the onset of wildfire, such as clearing around designated work areas.	Low	
1.2, 4.3.5, SEO		Noise and visual impact	Discomfort to local community	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes						1	All precautions to be taken to minimise noise and visual impact on the local community. This will be done through undertaking activities during the day and locating well pads away from public view, where possible.	Low	
	<i>Economic Environment Existing Land Use Impacts</i>																		
3.1.3, 3.2.1, table 2, SEO		Introduction of weeds/diseases	Loss of productivity, loss of income	M	M	M	M	H	2	Yes						1	Transport SA advice indicates that material sourced from borrow pits in the region, that will be used in access track and drill pad construction, is of relatively low risk provided that the topsoil is removed. Topsoil is considered the element that creates the highest risk of the introduction of weeds. All vehicles entering the region will be assessed for risk and treated accordingly. Plus landowners will be consulted on procedures.	Low	
		Fire from equipment use, vehicles or smoking	Loss of productivity, loss of income	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes						1	Procedures will be in place to ensure that fire is not initiated by any operations to do with access road and drill pad construction.	Low	
SEO		Construction of drilling pads and access tracks	Injury to livestock	H	H	H	M	H	2	Yes						1	Where livestock are present during construction, fencing will be provided to isolate the work site and staff will be briefed on animal behaviour. Landholders will be consulted where stock are an issue.	Low	

RECEIVED
11 MAY 2001

BY:.....

10-May-01

Chief Executive
Department of Primary Industries and
Resources
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Sir,

The Department for Environment and Heritage has considered the application described below by consulting with the various groups within the Department.
The following comments are offered:

DME reference: 1581/99

type: SEOprelim

locality: Otway Basin

applicant: Origin Energy Resources Limited

comments:

In accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement between PIRSA and DEH, we are in agreement with PIRSA's assessment that the proposal is one of low impact, and have only a few comments to make on the draft Environmental Impact Report and Statement of Environmental Objectives.

It is noted that the proponents intend consulting the Kungari Aboriginal Association to help identify sites of significance. It is suggested that the Department of State Aboriginal Affairs should also be consulted in this regard, as sites may not be obvious.

It is not entirely clear what 'scouting' for threatened species entails - it is suggested that this include consulting with the relevant officers of the Department for Environment and Heritage in regard to location and identification of threatened species.

Consultation with the Heritage Branch of Department for Environment and Heritage should be mentioned in relation to avoiding sites of European historical significance.



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