

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 – Section 42

Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS) Proposed 'Ironbark' Project

Origin Energy ATP 788P Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Origin Energy Limited) proposes to develop coal seam gas (CSG) resources within Authority to Prospect (ATP) 788P, also known as 'Ironbark', near Tara in southern Queensland. The Ironbark Project comprises the development of the CSG field within ATP 788P by the installation of up to 600 CSG wells, construction of up to two gas plants with field compression, and a gas pipeline to connect gas plant infrastructure to the existing Darling Downs Pipeline to supply domestic customers, including the Darling Downs Power Station near Dalby. Gas may also be supplied to proposed liquefied natural gas ventures. First production of sales gas from the Ironbark Project is targeted for 2014.

Water extracted from the coal seams (CSG water) is proposed to be treated at a central location before beneficial use (agriculture, urban, industrial), discharge to streams, or reinjection into suitable aquifers. Options proposed for disposal of salt in brine from CSG water treatment include salt recovery, brine injection into saline aquifers, or brine injection into depleted gas wells.

The gas field is proposed to be developed over a period of up to 40 years, requiring a peak construction workforce of approximately 200 people and peak operational workforce of around 40 people. A construction camp is proposed to be established on ATP 788P to service well development activities and to provide accommodation for the various construction teams. A permanent camp to accommodate the operational workforce is proposed to be located in the vicinity of a gas plant.

The project is a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The State's EIS process has been accredited for the assessment under Part 8 of the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland (2004). The controlling provisions are sections 16 and 17B (wetlands of international importance), 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities), and 20 and 20A (migratory species).

In accordance with section 41 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, Origin Energy ATP 788P Pty Ltd has prepared and submitted to the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) a draft terms of reference (TOR) for carrying out an EIS for the proposal.

A copy of the draft TOR may be viewed at:

Department of Environment and Resource Management
Level 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Western Downs Regional Council Miles Library
Corner Dawson and Murilla streets
MILES QLD 4415

Department of Environment and Resource Management
203 Tor Street
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Western Downs Regional Council Dalby Library
1 Stuart Street
DALBY QLD 4405

Western Downs Regional Council Chinchilla Library
80-86 Heeney Street
CHINCHILLA QLD 4413

Western Downs Regional Council Tara Library
31 Day Street
TARA QLD 4421

This public notice, the draft terms of reference, and an initial advice statement describing the project, are also available on the DERM website <www.derm.qld.gov.au> or by contacting the Ironbark Project EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Copies can also be obtained from <www.origintogether.com>, or by calling 1800 526 369.

Written submissions

DERM's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR from **Monday 21 November 2011 until Friday 20 January 2012**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Attention: The EIS Coordinator (Ironbark Project)
GPO Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001
Level 8, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

or by email to <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.

Please note that it is a statutory requirement that all submitted comments be forwarded to the proponent for consideration and provision of a response to DERM.

When the draft EIS is complete, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for the Ironbark Project, contact the EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.

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www.derm.qld.gov.au



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