

MARINE TURTLE EXPERT PANEL

SUMMARY OF MEETING #9

Date: 14th August 2009, 9.00pm to 5.00pm
Location: QV1 Building, Level 15 – Conference Room 15:32
Subject: Gorgon Marine Turtle Expert Panel (MTEP) – Meeting #9
Attendees: All panel members other than those for whom apologies are noted. Mr Shane Waldeck from Chevron attended as a guest.
Apologies: Dr Scott Whiting, Dr Julia Martin and Mr David Humphreys

Review of Revised Conditions/New Ministerial Statement

At the last MTEP meeting the Panel was given an overview of the proposed draft conditions within Ministerial Statement No. 800. Since this meeting, the draft conditions have been finalised and take into consideration the comments provided by the Panel. An overview of the new Conditions relevant to marine turtles and the MTEP was provided.

Lighting Management

Following MTEP meeting #7 the MTEP wrote to Chevron Australia providing observations, recommendations and requesting further information on lighting, dredging and vessels in relation to turtles. Chevron Australia has prepared a response to the request for information and during this meeting presented these to the Panel. The responses have been prepared in consultation with the Project engineers, marine specialists, external consultants etc. who were given a directive from Senior Management to ensure a high level of consideration be given to the Panel's requests. The principals and measures taken to address the Panel's requests outlined during the meeting have also been incorporated into the Long Term Marine Turtle Management Plan (LTMTMP) where appropriate.

The MTEP had a discussion following Chevron's response to the MTEP's request for further information on lighting matters in relation to turtles, including:

- Responsibilities for ship safety and lighting in BWI Port
- Light spill modelling and minimisation of light spill from buildings
- Lighting of the MOF and Jetty

Review of LTMTMP (Rev E) and Panel Discussion

The MTEP received Rev E of the LTMTMP prior to the meeting. The Chair asked for the Panel to identify the main issues considered to be outstanding or requiring further clarification in the LTMTMP. Issues and observations were discussed by the MTEP, including:

- Monitoring parameters
- Scope of studies to be included in LTMTMP
- Potential effects of the MOF/Jetty on turtle behaviour
- Use of control charts, performance standards and management triggers

Review and Revise Draft Panel Advice to Minister and Proponent

The Chair provided that Panel with a presentation on what is proposed for inclusion in the Advice to the Minister and Proponent and how the Advice will be structured to include all of the Conditions of Statement No. 800 that the MTEP is required to provide advice. The Panel reviewed the draft Advice and discussed the content in preparation for its finalisation. The Chair agreed to include the additional information discussed and circulate to the panel for their review prior to the next meeting. The Chair reiterated the need to finalise the Advice to the Minister and Proponent at the next Panel meeting.

Dredging Spoil Disposal Management and Monitoring Plan (DSDMMP)

Chevron representatives provided the MTEP with an update on the engagement with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). The engagement was held over three meetings scheduled on 21 July, 28 July and 4 August 2009. Further engagement is expected in the form of a visit by USACE representatives to the Gorgon Project at a later date. Chevron representatives understand that the USACE are supportive of an adaptive approach to managing the best procedures in preventing entrainment of turtles, rather than an approach that is set in stone. The DSDMMP has been updated to include the advice of the USACE and relevant recommendations to be implemented.

Marine Turtle Expert Panel Members

The Gorgon Marine Turtle Expert Panel comprises the following Panel Members:

Panel Member's Role	Panel Member	Panel Member's Alternate
Independent Chairperson	Mr Simon Woodley	
Independent Expert	Dr Mark Hamann	
Independent Expert	Dr Scott Whiting	
Independent Expert	Dr Col Limpus	
Agency Subject Matter Expert - DEWHA	Dr Kirstin Dobbs	
Agency Subject Matter Expert - DEC	Mr Keith Morris	Mr Kevin Crane
Proponent Representative	Mr Russell Lagdon	Dr Julia Martin
Proponent Representative	Dr Dorian Moro	Dr Stephanie Turner
Proponent Representative	Dr Kellie Pendoley	