



## Beetaloo Basin Drilling, Stimulation and Well Testing Program

### Velkerri 76 S2

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#### Environment Management Plan

#### EP76

##### Review record

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# Environment Management Plan

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## Executive Summary

Origin Energy B2 Pty Ltd (Origin's) is a registered holder and the operator of exploration permit (EP) 76 which is located in the Beetaloo sub-basin. This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) forms the basis of Origin's application to the Northern Territory (NT) Minister for Environment and Natural Resources for the drilling, hydraulic fracture stimulation (HFS) and well testing of the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well on EP 76.

The overall objective of the EMP is to ensure that the activities, the subject of this EMP, are carried out in a manner by which the environmental impacts and environmental risks will be reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable.

This EMP covers the activities required to enable Origin to drill, stimulate, test, maintain and decommission a horizontal petroleum exploration well within the 2019-2024 period. This includes all ancillary activities required to undertake the exploration activities proposed under this plan.

The activities pertaining to this EMP will occur within the subject land area which has been approved by the Native Title custodians and the Northern Land Council (NLC) and covered by AAPA Certificate C2019/039. A map of the location of the activity is provided in Figure 1 and Table 2.

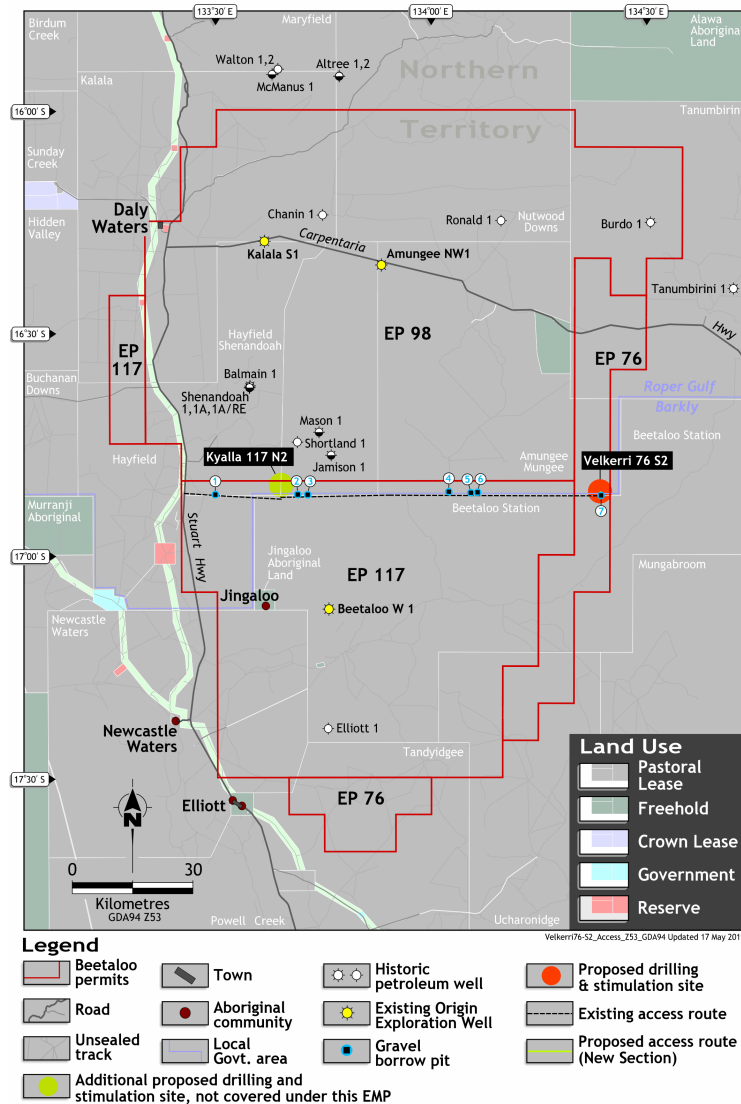


Figure 1 Location of proposed activities





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The purpose of the exploration activity proposed under this EMP is to increase Origin's understanding of the prospectively of the EP 76 permit area, taking into account technical and commercial considerations. When carrying out the stated exploration activities, Origin's objective is to ensure compliance with the *NT Petroleum (Environment) Regulations*, Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory and the Exploration Agreements between Origin, Native Title holders and the Northern Land Council (NLC).

To meet this purpose, exploration activities in the 2019-2024 period will include:

- Access to the pre-cleared areas covered under the previous groundwater Monitoring bore and Civil Construction EMP's including:
  - Exploration well lease pad (4.5 ha) and wet weather laydown yard (1 ha)
  - Camp lease pad (1.2 ha)
  - Stockpile storage area (0.2 ha)
  - Existing four (4) gravel pits
  - Existing access tracks to the Velkerri 76 S2 site and gravel pits
- Installation of an additional two groundwater extraction and monitoring bores
- The drilling of the Velkerri 76 S2-1 exploration well;
  - Drilling of a vertical well section to 2000-3000m below ground level
  - Drilling of a horizontal well section up to 3000m in length
- Hydraulic fracture stimulation of a horizontal exploration well, with up to 20 stages completed;
- Exploration well completion and testing including:
  - Completion of up to 12 months of well testing
  - Storage and treatment of up to 12 ML of flowback onsite;
- Exploration well suspension and decommissioning of an exploration well;
- Construction and operation of a temporary camp;
- Helicopter operations
- Asset maintenance and monitoring activities;
- Site decommissioning and rehabilitation; and
- All activities ancillary of the above.

No additional land clearing is proposed under this EMP.

For the preparation of this EMP, a Land Condition Assessment was completed in August 2018 to review the physical, natural and cultural heritage environment of the Velkerri 76 S2 activity area.

The Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad is located within *Corymbia* low woodland with a tussock grass understorey. This vegetation type is widespread in the tropical savannas of the Northern Territory and may provide habitat for some threatened species such as the Crested Shrike-tit and Gouldian finch (DoTEE, 2014, Ward, 2008). A summary of the existing environment is provided in Table 1.



Field weed surveys have been completed for the activity with no evidence of weeds observed during the survey. This suggests the primary controls for this program will focus on preventing the introduction of weeds and managing weeds promoted through site disturbance.

The archaeology assessment did not identify culturally sensitive landforms or artefacts within the vicinity of the Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad. In addition, a sacred site clearance survey coordinated by the Northern Land Council (NLC) and carried out by the Native Title holders in September 2018, was led by their anthropologist and included site visits and consultations with the Native Title holders / custodians. The Sacred Site Avoidance Survey Report / Anthropological Report has been provided to the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and informed the issuing of AAPA Certificate C2019/039.

A chemical risk assessment has been completed for all chemicals to be used in hydraulic fracturing. The list of chemicals, as well as the result of the assessment are provided in Section 3.6. All chemicals were considered of low concern when appropriate chemical handling, storage and disposal practices were utilised.

The environmental, heritage and social risks associated with drilling, stimulation and well testing activities have been assessed utilising the Origin risk assessment framework. The detailed risk assessment presents the range of potential impacts, corresponding mitigation measures and residual risk ratings based on their assessed worst-case consequence and likelihood of occurrence.

**Table 1 summary of the existing environment**

Site ID	Velkerri 76 S2	Surrounding habitat photos at Velkerri 76 S2 site	
Location	-16°50' 29.01, 133°39' 0.16		
Landform and soil	Plains and rises associated with deeply weathered profiles (laterite) including sand sheets and other depositional products; sandy and earth soils.		
Habitat type	<i>Corymbia</i> low woodland.		
Vegetation Community	<i>Corymbia</i> low woodland/ <i>Terminalia</i> (mixed) sparse shrubland/ <i>Chrysopogon</i> (mixed) low tussock grassland. This vegetation community is considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing.		
Dominant flora species	Canopy dominated by <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus setosa</i> . Shrub layer including <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> , <i>Alphitonia pomaderoides</i> , <i>Brachychiton paradoxus</i> . Ground layer species include <i>Triodia bitextura</i> .		
Habitat condition	No core habitat for threatened fauna was identified at the sites. Habitat was in good condition with evidence of recent grazing. Vegetation appeared to have been heavily burnt in recent years. No evidence of hollow bearing trees and logs. The habitat contained moderate to high refuge opportunities in the form of dense leaf litter, tussock grass cover, and woody debris. Good continuous cover adjoining adjacent woodland habitat and regionally extensive. No evidence of weeds or feral animals.	<p><b>Hydrogeology</b></p>	
Potential Listed Threatened Species	Some species may possibly occur and are known to occur in the wider landscape. Threatened species that may possibly occur including the Grey Falcon, Northern Shrike-tit, Plains Death Adder, Gouldian Finch. The activity is not anticipated to impact upon these species.	Groundwater resources and use is primarily from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifers (the Anthony Lagoon and Gum Ridge Formation) with the shallower undifferentiated Cretaceous or perched alluvium systems being unsaturated.	
Weeds	No <i>Weeds of National Significance</i> present.		



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Key environmental risk mitigation areas covered in the program include:

- protection of groundwater through sustainable resource use and exploration well zonal isolation
- the assessment and management of chemicals
- the generation and management of wastewater, including prevention of spills
- managing the risk of bushfire in the area
- mitigating the introduction and spread of weeds

It was considered that with the appropriate controls implemented to mitigate the impacts, there were no residual risks above a rating of Medium, with 69 out of 80 risks identified as being considered Low. The Medium risks identified were consistent with standard project and pastoral activities completed across the NT, being the potential for the spread of weeds, erosion and sediment control and the ignition of bushfires from the proposed activities. The assessment provided in section 6, demonstrates that the risks associated with drilling and stimulation-related activities have been reduced to as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable. This ensures the environmental outcomes, as described in Section 6.5, protect the environmental factors as published by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

At completion of activities, and once a determination has been made in relation to decommissioning, a site-specific rehabilitation plan will be developed for each site. Where the site is not able to be handed over to the pastoralist for beneficial use, the site will be rehabilitated back to a safe, stable landform consistent with surrounding land use.

Due to the limited nature of the future exploration activities, community engagement for the 2019/20 exploration installation project has focused on the host Traditional Owners via the Northern Land Council (NLC) and host pastoralists directly affected by the proposed activity. Detailed community and stakeholder engagement is ongoing and covers Origin's activities on a broader level. Further information on stakeholder engagement is provided in Section 5.7.



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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Origin holds three petroleum exploration permits in the Barkly region under the Beetaloo Joint Venture with Falcon Oil and Gas. These permits consist of EP76, EP98 and EP117 which cover 18,512 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) of largely pastoral leases on the Sturt Plain, part of the Barkly Tableland, within the Northern Territory (Figure 2) and were originally granted by the NT Minister for Mines and Energy under the *Petroleum Act*.

Since becoming Operator of the exploration permits in 2014, Origin Energy B2 Pty Ltd (referred to herein as “Origin”) has drilled three vertical wells (Kyalla S-1, Amungee NW-1, Beetaloo W-1) and one horizontal well (Amungee NW-1H). A successful hydraulic fracture stimulation and production test was undertaken on the Amungee NW-1H well in 2016, highlighting the potential of the Beetaloo Sub-Basin as a future unconventional shale gas development. Upon completion of the 2016 work program, Kyalla S-1 and Beetaloo W-1 were suspended and a pressure build up monitoring program commenced at Amungee NW-1H.

New exploration activity was ceased in September 2016 when the Northern Territory Government (NTG) introduced a moratorium on hydraulic fracture stimulation of unconventional reservoirs pending the outcome of an independent scientific inquiry.

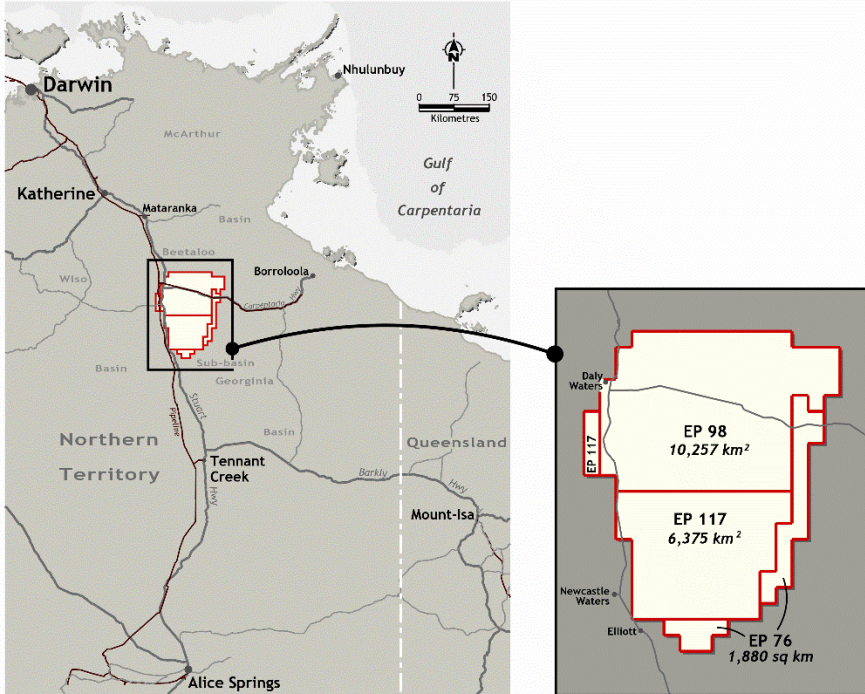
The Inquiry handed down its Final Report to the Northern Territory Government (NTG) on Tuesday 27 March 2018. The Inquiry concluded that the risks associated with unconventional onshore shale gas extraction in the NT could be appropriately managed provided all the recommendations were adopted and implemented. The NTG subsequently accepted all 135 recommendations and announced the lifting of the moratorium on 17 April 2018. Of the 135 recommendations, 35 were required to be implemented prior to the commencement of exploration, with the remaining recommendations required to be implemented prior to the commencement of production.

This EMP forms the basis of Origin’s application to the DENR for the drilling, stimulation and well testing of the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well on the Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad within EP 76. Exploration activities which Origin will undertake as apart of these works in the 2019-2024 period include:

- Access to the pre-cleared areas covered under the previous groundwater Monitoring bore and Civil Construction EMP’s including:
  - Exploration well lease pad (4.5 ha) and wet weather laydown yard (1 ha)
  - Camp lease pad (1.2 ha)
  - Stockpile storage area (0.2 ha)
  - Existing four (4) gravel pits
  - Existing access tracks to the Velkerri 76 S2 site and gravel pits
- Installation of an additional two groundwater extraction and monitoring bores
- The drilling of the Velkerri 76 S2-1 exploration well;
  - Drilling of a vertical well section to 2000-3000mm below ground level
  - Drilling of a horizontal well section up to 3000m in length
- Hydraulic fracture stimulation of a horizontal exploration well, with up to 20 stages completed;
- Exploration well completion and testing including:
  - Completion of up to 12 months of well testing
  - Storage and treatment of up to 12 ML of flowback onsite;
- Exploration well suspension and decommissioning of an exploration well;
- Construction and operation of a temporary camp;
- Helicopter operations
- Asset maintenance and monitoring activities;
- Site decommissioning and rehabilitation; and
- All activities ancillary of the above.

This EMP provides a detailed description of how Origin proposes to manage the environmental impacts and risks associated with its activities, including how it will address its regulatory obligations and relevant Inquiry recommendations that have underpinned the Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the NT (referred to herein as the Petroleum Code of Practice).

Figure 2: Location of Origin Permit Area.



## 1.2 Project Proponent

The proponent for the project is Origin Energy B2 Pty Ltd as the Operator. Origin representatives can be contacted on 1800 052 630 or [origin\\_nt\\_beetaloo@originenergy.com.au](mailto:origin_nt_beetaloo@originenergy.com.au).

## 1.3 Project Boundary

Origin is proposing to drill, stimulate and test the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well on the nominated lease area within EP 76. This well is anticipated to target the Velkerri Shale; however an alternative target may be chosen based upon the site specific geological conditions encountered.

The boundary of this EMP is defined as the area which may be affected by exploration activities. This includes:

- Access tracks to and from the Velkerri 76 S2 lease from the Stuart Highway
- Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad, helipad, camp pad and stockpile area
- Velkerri 76 S2-1 exploration well

The proposed locations of the infrastructure are provided in in Table 2 and Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5.

Table 2: Velkerri 76 S2

Exploration Permit	Infrastructure Name	Station	Zone*	Approx Easting	Approx Northing
EP76	Velkerri 76 S2 well pad and wet weather laydown	Amungee Mungee	53	435557	8137497
EP76	Camp lease pad	Amungee Mungee	53	435882	8136267
EP76	Stockpile laydown	Amungee Mungee	53	435632	8136163
E76	Helipad	Amungee Mungee	53	435632	8136246

\* Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) geographic coordinate system is Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 94.

## 1.4 Purpose

Origin is required to provide a site-based Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Velkerri 76 S2 drilling, stimulation and well testing program to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in accordance with the NT *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016*.

This EMP has been prepared with reference to the *NT Petroleum (Environment) Regulations*, NT Petroleum Codes of Practice and the Exploration Agreement(s) between Origin, Native Title Holders and the Northern Land Council (NLC).

The overall objective of the EMP is to ensure that the activities are carried out in a manner by which the environmental impacts and environmental risks will be reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable.

More specifically, this EMP aims to:

- address regulatory requirements
- provide site-specific impact management strategies to assist Origin in maintaining a positive position in the local community throughout its program
- align with the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) through the adoption of responsible development practices that are designed to maximise social benefit, whilst minimising the level of impact on the surrounding ecosystems
- provide a description of site-specific aspects of the existing environment (physical, biological, social and cultural)
- provide site-specific plans for review, monitoring and rehabilitation
- be a practical and usable document, with environmental management principles that are easily implemented and effective

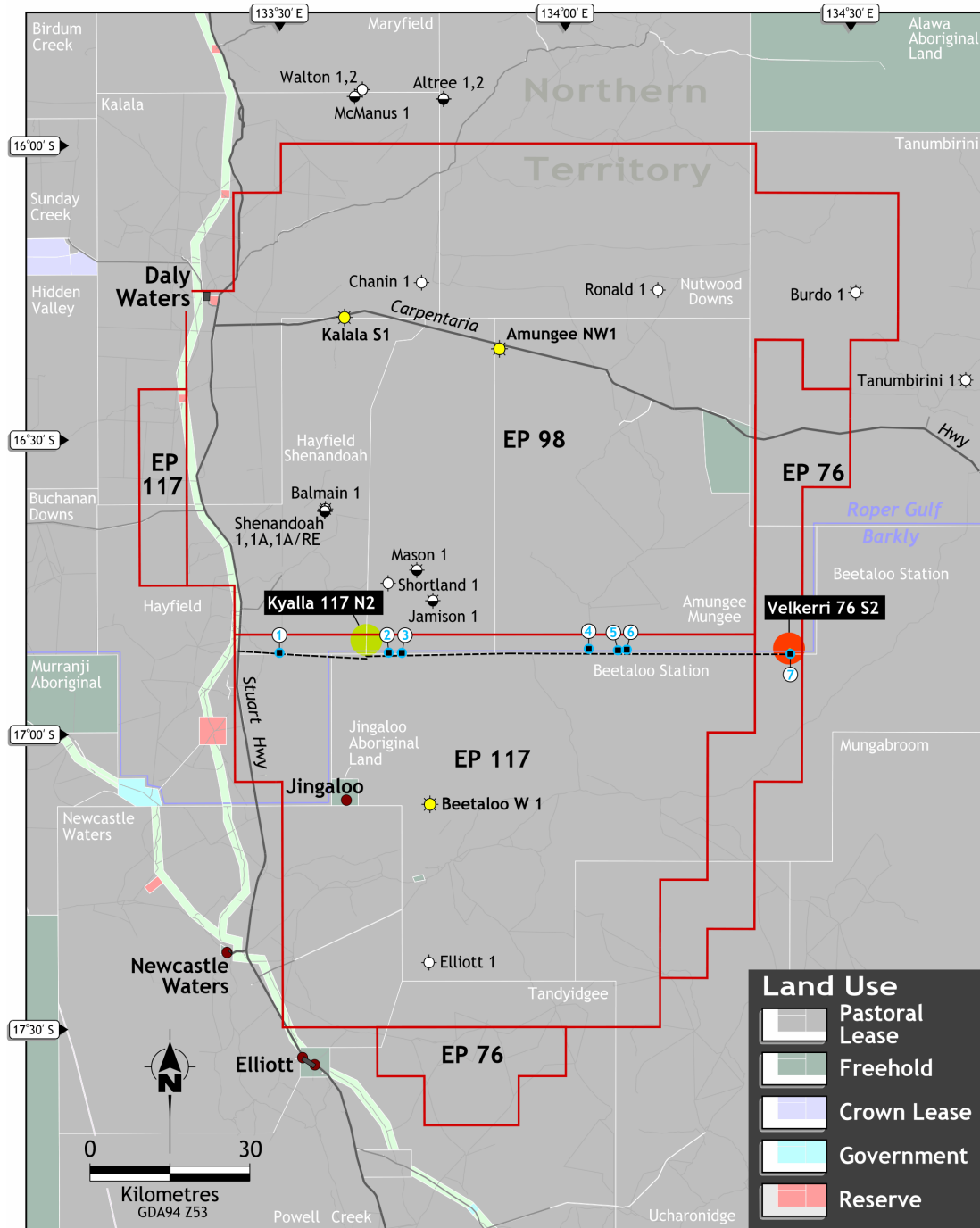
The 'site' is defined as all the work areas including the exploration camps, well pads and access tracks within the cleared subject land area.

## 1.5 The Inquiry

On 17 April 2018, the NT Government announced the lifting of the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs within the NT. The lifting of the moratorium was made with the endorsement of the 135 recommendations handed down by the Inquiry. Of these recommendations, 35 were required to be implemented before the commencement of further exploration activities. The remainder are required to be implemented prior to production approvals being granted.

One of the key recommendations of the Inquiry was the development of a series of *Codes of Practice* that prescribe minimum requirements for undertaking onshore unconventional gas activities.

These Petroleum Codes of Practice have been drafted and have been considered in the development of this EMP.



Velkerri76-S2\_Access\_Z53\_GDA94 Updated 17 May 2019

Figure 3: Location of proposed activities within Origin's exploration tenure.

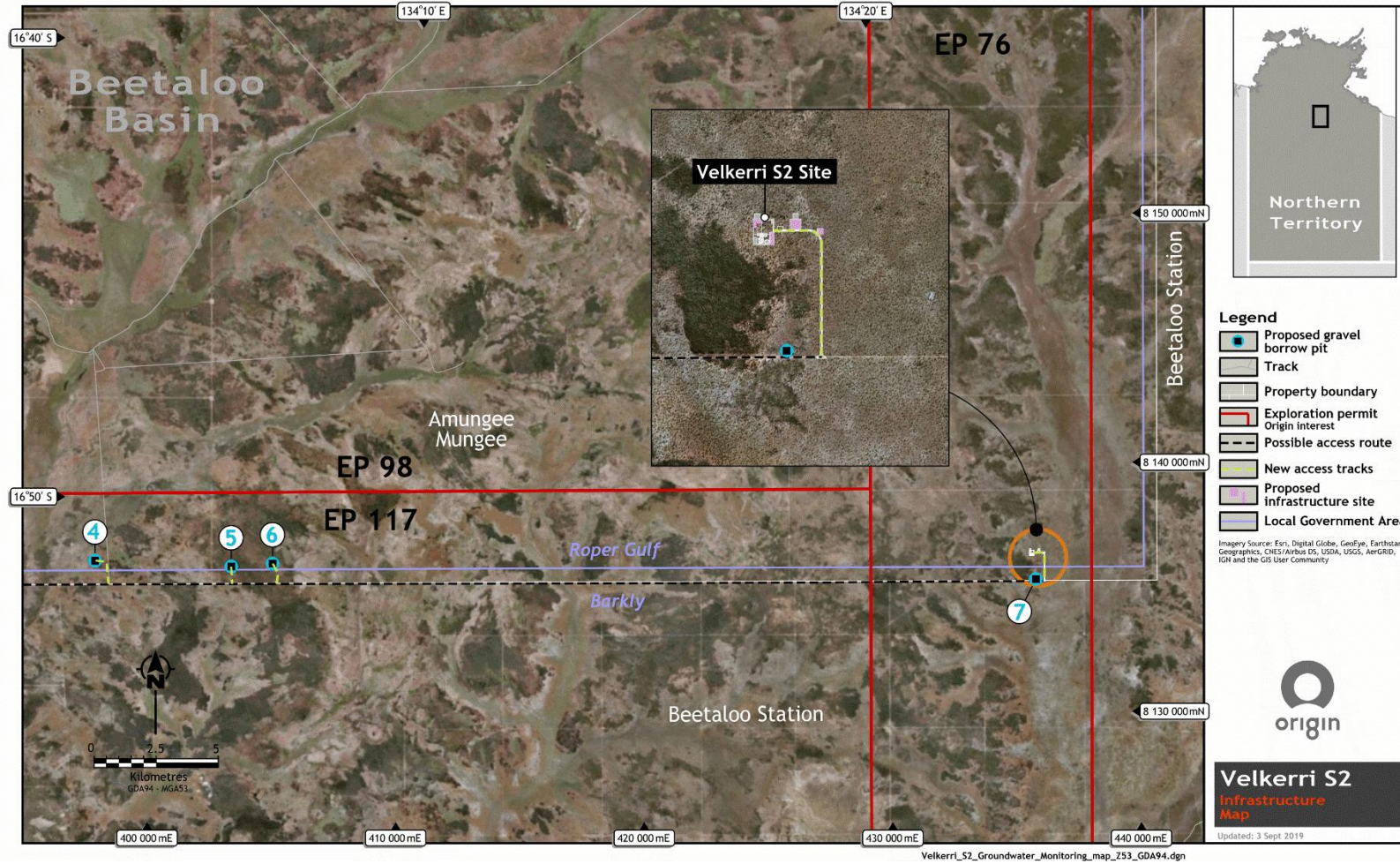
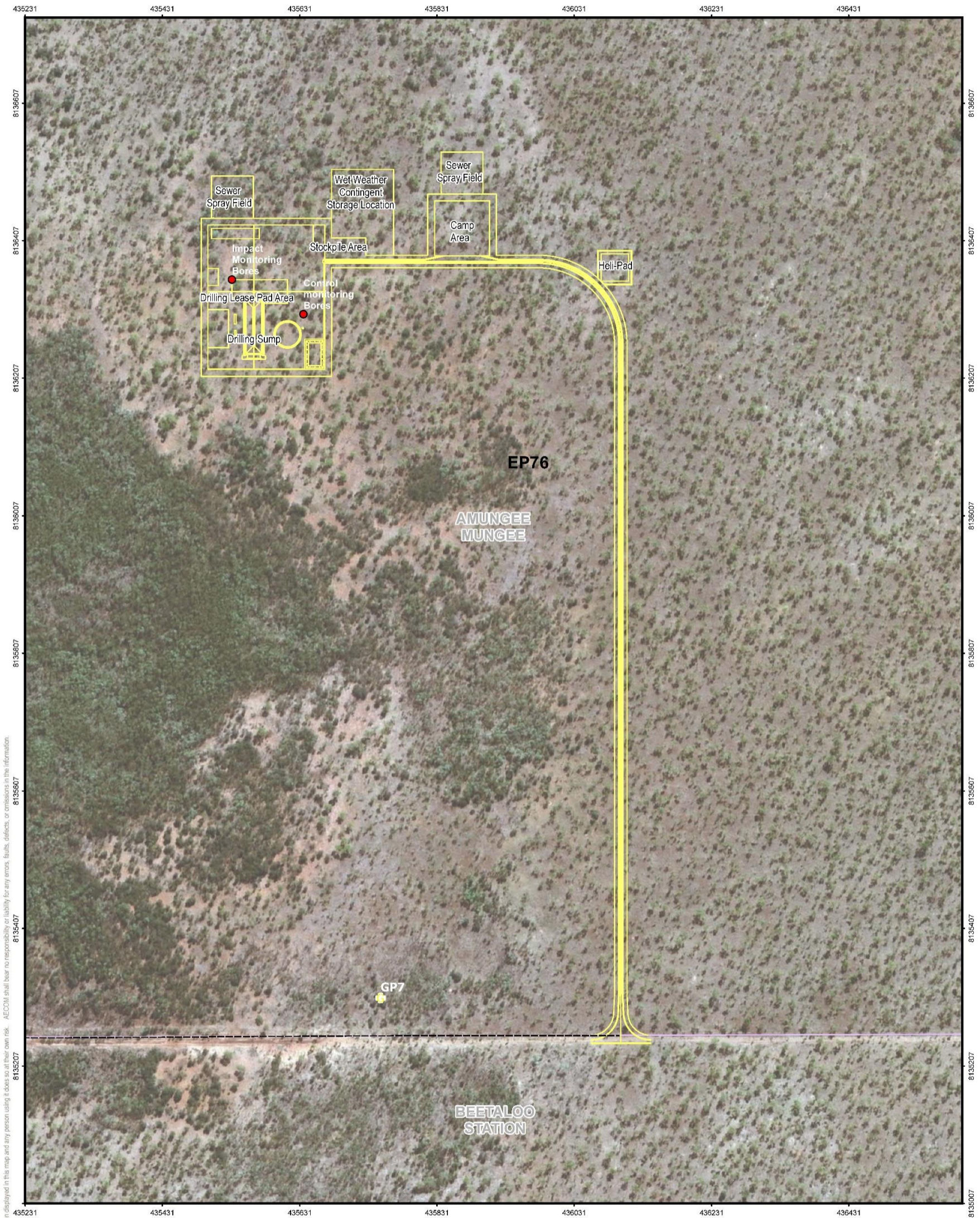


Figure 4 Velkerri 76 S2 Site and associated infrastructure





<p>www.aecom.com</p> <p>Projection: GDA94 MGA Zone 53</p> <p>0 25 50 100 150 200 Meters</p> <p>1:5,000 (when printed at A3)</p>	<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed orange; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Permit Areas</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Cadastre</li> <li><span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">●</span> Bore_Sites</li> <li><span style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">G</span> Gravel Pits</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Access_Tracks</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 2px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Velkerri76_S2_Layout</li> </ul>	<p>LOCATION</p> <p><small>Data sources: Co-ordinate system: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 53 Kerni Area Cadastre - NT Gov 2016 Places_Vegetation - Aus: Gov 2019</small></p>	<p><b>ORIGIN ENERGY RESOURCES LIMITED</b> <b>2019 Environmental Management Plan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Velkerri 76 S2</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>PROJECT ID</td> <td>60480548</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CREATED BY</td> <td>jace.emberg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAST MODIFIED</td> <td>08-Aug-2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VERSION</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	PROJECT ID	60480548	CREATED BY	jace.emberg	LAST MODIFIED	08-Aug-2019	VERSION	1
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A3 size

Figure 5 Schematic of Velkerri 76 S2 Lease pad and associated infrastructure

## 1.6 Structure of EMP

The EMP is structured to meet the requirements of an environmental management plan, as per Schedule 1 of the NT *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016*. This EMP is divided into the following sections

- Section 1- provides background information to Origin's exploration program and the purpose of the EMP
- Section 2—provides a summary of the relevant environmental legislation and other requirements
- Section 3- Provides a detail description of the activities proposed to be carried out under this EMP
- Section 4- Describes the existing environment in detail, including the site location, site history and the physical, natural and social environment of the permit area and specifically the area of EP 76
- Section 5- provides detail on stakeholder engagement
- Section 6- outlines the environmental risk management summary for the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration activities. This section describes the environmental objectives/values of the area to be maintained, potential impacts and risk associated with the activities proposed to be carried out under this EMP, key risk mitigation controls, performance standards, measurement criteria, records, residual risk rating and ALARP statement.
- Section 7- outlines the implementation strategy
- Appendices- additional information referenced within the EMP.

## 1.7 Broader Exploration Project

Origin's Beetaloo Basin Project is in the early stages of exploration and appraisal. Future activities are focused on proving the technical and commercial viability of the resource through the strategic placement of wells within the most prospective areas and / or formations.

As illustrated in Figure 6, Origin is in the early stages of its nine-well exploration program which is intended to better understand the potential of the resource including the technical and commercial viability of the underlying source rocks. The Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well will target the Velkerri shale and is the second exploration well planned to be drilled during the 2019/2020 program (the first being Kyalla 117 N2). The drilling of future exploration wells within Origin's Beetaloo Exploration tenure will be informed by the well results of the 2019/2020 campaign.

In addition to the potential environmental risks covered under this plan, broader considerations of the cumulative impacts and emergency conditions associated with future drilling and stimulation activities have been included in this assessment.

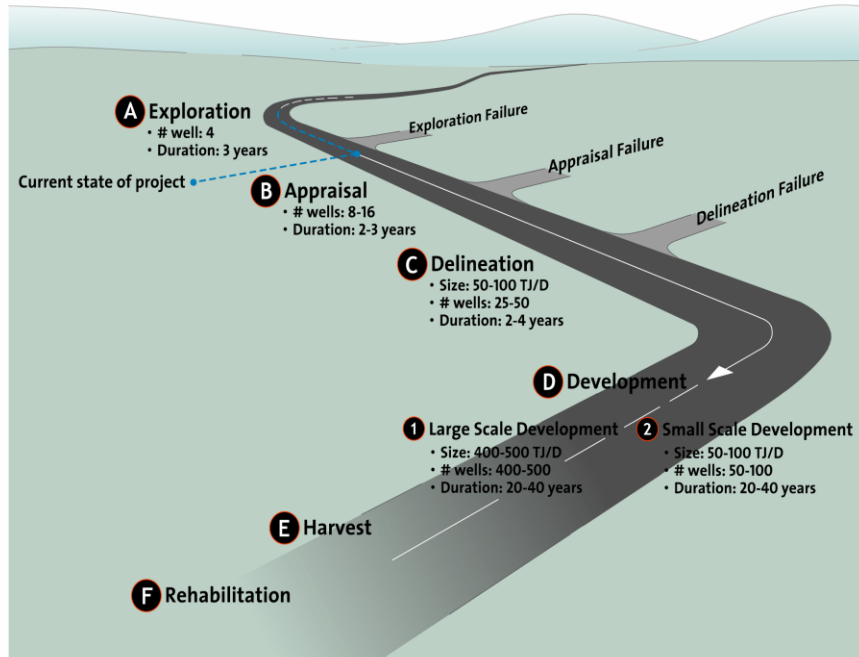


Figure 6: Conceptual Beetaloo Basin project pathway from exploration to development.

## 2 Environmental Legislation and other Requirements

In the NT, the granting and administration of exploration permits and associated petroleum activities rests with the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources under the Petroleum Act. In order to commence an activity or a stage of an activity which is carried out, or proposed to be carried out, in connection with a technical work program for a petroleum interest and that has, or will have, an environmental impact or environmental risk (a regulated activity), an EMP must be approved by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources in accordance with the *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016*.

Alongside the EMP assessment and approval process under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016, the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) administers the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982*; which allows for proposals to be assessed as to whether a proposal has the potential to have a significant effect on the environment and if so, whether assessment by way of Public Environmental Report or Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Key Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation, agreements, operating consents, guidelines and codes of practice are relevant to the activities described in this EMP are summarised in Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5. This EMP has been prepared having regards to these.

Table 3: Key Legislation.

NT Legislation	Administered By:
<p><b>Petroleum Act 1984, Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides a framework for petroleum exploration and development to occur within the Territory.</li> <li>- Requires that petroleum activities are carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner and the environmental impacts and environmental risks of the activities are identified and reduced to an acceptable level.</li> <li>- Sets out the requirements for environmental management plans, which includes the Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory.</li> <li>- Considered when developing this EMP.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Primary Industry and Resources (Petroleum Act) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Petroleum (Environment) Regulations</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal Land Act 1978</b></p>	<p>Land Council established by or</p>

NT Legislation	Administered By:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for access to Aboriginal land, certain roads bordered by Aboriginal land and the seas adjacent to Aboriginal land.</li> <li>- Provides that a person shall not enter onto or remain on Aboriginal land or use a road unless he has been issued with a permit to do so in accordance with <i>Part II Entry onto Aboriginal land</i> of the Act.</li> <li>- The Land Council for the area in which Aboriginal land or a road is situated may issue a permit to a person to enter onto and remain on that Aboriginal land or use that road subject to such conditions as the Land Council thinks fit.</li> </ul>	<p>under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 of the Commonwealth</p>
<p><b><i>Bushfires Management Act 2016 and Associated Regulations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the protection of life, property and the environment through the mitigation, management and suppression of bushfires, and for related purposes.</li> <li>- Considered when preparing management plans.</li> </ul>	<p>Bushfires NT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b><i>Control of Roads Act 1953</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The use of any road bores or construction within road corridors will require a permit to work within a road reserve from the Department of Transport.</li> <li>- The increase in traffic will need to be assessed in accordance with this instrument to ensure the impacts to the Territory road network are minimised.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</p>
<p><b><i>Environmental Assessment Act 1982 and Associated Regulations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the assessment of the environmental effects of development proposals and the environment.</li> <li>- Ensures to the greatest extent practicable that each matter which could reasonably have a significant effect on the environment is fully examined and considered.</li> <li>- Defines environment as being “all aspects of the surroundings of man including the physical, biological, economic, cultural and social aspects”.</li> </ul>	<p>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b><i>Heritage Act 2011 and Associated Regulations</i></b> Protects the Northern Territory’s cultural and natural heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sets out the process for getting permission to do work to heritage places.</li> <li>- Declares classes of places and objects of heritage significance to be protected.</li> <li>- Provides for heritage agreements to encourage the conservation, use and management of heritage places and objects.</li> <li>- Regulates work on heritage places and objects.</li> <li>- Potential heritage places are identified in desktop assessments and field scouting during site selection.</li> </ul>	<p>Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism and Culture</p>
<p><b><i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 and Associated Regulations</i></b> AAPA certificates for all exploration activities must be obtained prior to approval on an EMP. The Legislation establishes a procedure for the protection and registration of sacred sites, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing entry onto sacred sites and the conditions to which such entry is subject</li> <li>• procedures for avoidance of sacred sites when developing and using land</li> <li>• establishing an Authority for the purposes of the Act</li> <li>• procedures for the review of decisions of the Authority by the Minister, and for related purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA); Minister for Environment and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b><i>Public and Environmental Health Act 2011 and Associated Regulations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outlines requirements for camps, specifically waste and wastewater (sewage and greywater) management.</li> <li>- Provides conditions preventing pollution of watercourses and water supplies in the Northern Territory. Wastewater treatment systems may be subject to requirements under the Public Health Act and regulations.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Health</p>
<p><b><i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 and Associated Regulations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the protection, conservation and sustainable utilisation of wildlife.</li> </ul>	<p>Parks Wildlife and Heritage Division of the Department of</p>

NT Legislation	Administered By:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides protection of listed threatened species for which Origin must consider whether its activities have the potential to impact directly or indirectly on a listed threatened species or place covered under this Act.</li> </ul>	Tourism Sport and Culture.
<p><b><i>Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulations stipulating the transportation requirements for dangerous goods by road and rail.</li> <li>- Includes licencing, signage, spill management and reporting requirements during chemical transportation.</li> <li>- Any chemical transported for drilling and stimulation activities will need to comply with this instrument.</li> </ul>	NT Worksafe, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
<p><b><i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 and Associated Regulations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the protection of the environment through encouragement of effective waste management and pollution prevention and control practices and for related purposes.</li> <li>- Provides classification of listed wastes under Schedule 2 of the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations 1998</i></li> <li>- Provides for licencing requirements for the transport, storage and disposal of listed wastes</li> <li>- The transport and disposal of wastes during drilling and stimulation activities will be undertaken by licenced transporters and disposed of in accordance with this Act.</li> </ul>	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<p><b><i>Water Act 1992 and Water Regulations 1992</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection, management and administration of water resources, including extraction of groundwater, waste water management and water pollution.</li> <li>- Provides for water allocation plans, beneficial uses within Water Control Districts, drilling licences, bore construction permits, water extraction licences, waste discharge licences, fees and charges, and penalties for offences against the Act.</li> <li>- Prohibits the disposal of petroleum exploration wastewater to surface waters and reinjection.</li> <li>- Water extraction licence must be obtained prior to using groundwater for drilling, stimulation and all other ancillary activities.</li> </ul>	Water Resources Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<p><b><i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protects the Northern Territory's economy, community, industry and environment from the adverse impact of weeds.</li> <li>- Identifies declared weeds (those which must be controlled) and provides a framework for weed management.</li> <li>- Weed Management Plan are developed with the reference to this Act.</li> </ul>	Weed Management Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<p><b><i>Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for a balanced and nationally consistent framework to secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces.</li> <li>- Includes requirements for hazardous chemical assessments, hazardous chemical register, access to safety data sheets, labelling, and the use, handling, generation and storage of hazardous chemicals at a workplace.</li> </ul>	NT WorkSafe, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Commonwealth Legislation	Administered By:
<p><b><i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the preservation and protection of places, areas and objects from injury or desecration of particular significance to Aboriginal people in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.</li> </ul>	Department of the Environment and Energy

NT Legislation	Administered By:
<p><b>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the granting of Traditional Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory for the benefit of Aboriginal people, and for other purposes.</li> </ul>	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
<p><b>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity, particularly species and places of national significance.</li> <li>- Invoked only if a development is likely to have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).</li> <li>- During the development of this EMP, an assessment is undertaken to determine the potential impact on MNES.</li> </ul>	Department of the Environment and Energy
<p><b>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Act to provide for the reporting and dissemination of information related to greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas projects, energy consumption and energy productions of corporations.</li> <li>- All energy consumption and Greenhouse data used/generated as a result of this activity must be reported in accordance with this act.</li> </ul>	Department of the Environment and Energy
<p><b>Native Title Act 1993</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the recognition and protection of native title for Indigenous peoples.</li> <li>- Establishes ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings</li> <li>- Exploration activities on land subject to Native Title must obtain approval prior to commencement.</li> </ul>	Prime Minister and Cabinet

Table 4: Codes of Practice and Relevant Guidelines.

Codes of Practice
<p><b>Code of Practice for on-site Wastewater Management (NT Department of Health, 2014)</b></p> <p>Stipulates the approved sewage and sullage treatment devices and practices within the NT. Sewage and sullage <b>produced</b> and disposed of from the camps must be undertaken in accordance with the Code.</p>
<p><b>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandatory Code of Practice for the petroleum industry to ensure that petroleum activities in the Northern Territory are managed according to minimum acceptable standards to ensure that risks to the environment can be managed to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and acceptable.</li> </ul>
Guidelines
<p><b>API Guidance Document – HF1, Hydraulic Fracturing Operations- Well construction and Integrity Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guidance document providing recommended industry practices for well construction and integrity for wells that will be hydraulically fractured so that shallow groundwater aquifers and the environment are protected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AS 1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids, 2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides guidance for the operation and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (International Erosion Control Association, 2008)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitates the identification of those issues that should be considered when formulating and evaluating strategies for best practice erosion and sediment control.</li> <li>- Facilitates best practice stormwater management.</li> <li>- Facilitates active avoidance or minimisation of soil erosion resulting from construction activities.</li> <li>- Facilitate best practice soil and sediment control management on sites.</li> <li>- Erosion and sediment Control Plan covering petroleum exploration activities are developed in accordance with these guidelines.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Bores, drilling and dams</b> Provides information on water drilling licences, bore construction permits, licensed drillers and other information regarding drilling water bores in the NT.</p>
<p><b>Guideline for Groundwater Monitoring Bores for Exploration Petroleum Wells in the Beetaloo sub-basin (DENR 2018)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical guidance for the onshore gas industry establishing the minimum expectations in relation to groundwater monitoring requirements.</li> <li>- Requires the establishment of control and impact monitoring bores prior to undertaking stimulation activities.</li> <li>- Provides requirements to complete monitoring prior to and post stimulation.</li> <li>- 6 months of groundwater baseline monitoring data prior to commencing stimulation activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commonwealth Workplace Health and Safety Act model Codes of Practice</b> Various codes of practice covering the use and management of hazards associated with chemical handling. These provide a minimum level of controls to minimise the exposure of workers to chemicals in the workplace. These guidelines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Model Code of Practice: Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals</li> <li>- Model Code of Practice: Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace</li> </ul> <p>These codes are referenced in the NT Work Health and Safety Legislation. All Origin's contractors undertaking drilling and stimulation activities will be required to comply with these codes of practice.</p>
<p><b>ISO 31000 Risk management- Principles and guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This international standard provides a standardised to identify, assess and manage risk.</li> <li>- Assessment of risk in EMP's shall be undertaken in alignment with this guideline</li> </ul>
<p><b>ISO 19011: Guidelines for auditing management systems, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides guidance on environmental auditing to a certifiable standard.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia (National Water Commission, 2012)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed by the National Uniform Drillers Licensing Committee, this document outlines the minimum requirements for constructing, maintaining, rehabilitating, and decommissioning water bores in Australia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Territory Noise Management Framework Guideline (NT EPA, 2018)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides guidance to the community and industry about the noise regulatory framework as it applies in the NT.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Territory Non-urban water metering code of practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Code of practice outlining the requirements for water meters on ground water bores in the Territory.</li> <li>- All groundwater take must be measured and recorded in accordance with this code of practice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority- guidance for Proponents- Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides guidance for proponents on best practice stakeholder engagement for environmental impact assessments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weed Management Planning Guide - Onshore Shale Gas Development Projects (DENR, 2018)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides guidance to the industry about the weed management planning required to undertake Onshore Shale Gas Developments in the NT.</li> </ul>

**Table 5: Relevant agreements and operating consents.**

Agreements	Administered By:
<p><b>Native Title Petroleum Exploration Agreement (between the Host Traditional Owners and Origin Energy [Falcon Oil and Gas])</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes clauses for the protection of sacred sites, objects and sensitive areas related to Aboriginal activities in the area, including cultural, hunting and foraging activities. Site clearance will occur prior to any on ground activities. The Native Title Agreement also includes clauses for the protection of the environment and rehabilitation.</li> </ul>	Northern Land Council
<p><b>AAPA Certificates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The most current clearance certificates issued for the Origin exploration program as referenced within this EMP.</li> </ul>	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
<p><b>Apply for permit to work within a road reserve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road bores are usually used for road construction and maintenance work, however, application to access water in the bores can be made to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for approval. All take would require a Water Extraction Licence under the <i>Water Act 1992</i>.</li> <li>- Approval to access the bore will be dependent on the bore having sufficient capacity to meet future needs for road construction and maintenance.</li> </ul>	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)
<p><b>Water Extraction licence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under the NT Water Act 1992, a water extraction licence is required for the use of groundwater for petroleum exploration activities within the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District.</li> </ul>	Department of environment and Natural Resources Water Resources Division

### 2.1.1 NT Environmental Assessment Act

In the NT, proposed actions that have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Environmental Assessment Act. In such cases, a Notice of Intent (NOI) is required to be submitted to the NT Environment Protection Agency outlining the relevant information to allow a decision on whether the proposed action requires a Public Environmental Report (PER) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Where the environmental impacts of the proposed activity are not significant, a PER or EIS will not be required.

An assessment of whether the proposed activity requires a NOI was undertaken in accordance with the NT *Referring a Proposal to the NT EPA* guideline. A summary of the relevant environmental factors is included in Table 6.

No significant impacts on any of the NT environmental factors and objectives are anticipated. Origin does not believe the activity is required to be assessed under the Environmental Assessment Act.

### 2.1.2 Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

Under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1997* (EPBC) an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment (the Minister) for assessment. A self-assessment in accordance with the EPBC Act was undertaken under this EMP. The environment and heritage assessment confirmed that no significant impacts to EPBC-listed threatened species, threatened ecological communities or migratory species were likely. The proposed program will not require referral under the EPBC Act.



**Table 6: Assessment against environmental factors and objectives.**

Environmental Factors	Project Specific Environmental Factors	Environmental Objectives at Risk	Receiving Environment	Impact Description	Applicable Code of Practice	Mitigation Measures	Potential significant effect on an environmental factor?	Assumptions
Land	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	Protect NT's flora and fauna so that biological diversity and ecological integrity are maintained.	Corymbia spp open woodland with mixed Terminalia spp. shrubland over low tussock grassland (Triodia bitextura).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clearing of vegetation proposed.</li> <li>Potential increased risk from bushfire and weed introduction, typical of any construction project.</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>Terrestrial systems are intact and generally have limited current or future planned disturbance.</li> <li>Wastewater is saline, with vertebrates (including birds) unlikely to access due to fencing and vertical tank walls</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated from limited exploration activities.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site Selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.5 Biodiversity protection A.3.6 Weed management A.3.7 Fire management A.3.9 Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field ecological surveys completed.</li> <li>Location selected to avoid impacts to high conservation areas.</li> <li>Site to be bunded to prevent off-site releases.</li> <li>Covered tanks to be utilised to store wastewater, with designated evaporation tanks used to reduce wastewater volumes</li> <li>All equipment to be washed-down and to have valid weed hygiene certificates.</li> <li>Weed Management Plan implemented.</li> <li>Bushfire Management Plan implemented.</li> </ul>	No  Activity unlikely to result in significant impacts on high valued vegetation communities or threatened flora and fauna or areas essential habitat.	Assessment based upon field surveys. Threatened fauna may be present in the area which were not identified during the surveys.
	Terrestrial Environmental Quality	Maintain the quality of land and soils so the environmental values are protected.	Corymbia spp open woodland with mixed Terminalia spp. shrubland over low tussock grassland (Triodia bitextura).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant erosion impacts or risks are anticipated.</li> <li>No releases of drilling and stimulation wastewater to the surrounding environment.</li> <li>Site to be rehabilitated.</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>Vegetation is largely intact and soils in good condition.</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated from limited exploration activities.</li> <li>All sewage and sullage to be disposed of in accordance with the Department of Health Code of Practice.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.4 Erosion and sediment control and hydrology A.3.9 Rehabilitation Part C- Well site water management C.4.2 Management of produced water and flowback fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion and sediment control plan implemented to prevent, detect and remediate erosion and sediment releases.</li> <li>Wastewater Management Plan implemented to prevent, detect and respond to weed outbreaks.</li> <li>Spill Management Plan.</li> <li>Secondary containment will be implemented for all chemical storage and handling areas.</li> <li>All disturbed areas to be rehabilitated.</li> <li>All sewage and sullage to be disposed of in accordance with the Department of Health code of practice.</li> <li>Dedicated sewage treatment area to be sized appropriately to manage the occupancy and fenced-off to prevent access.</li> </ul>	No  Assessment indicates activity unlikely to result in significant impacts from increased erosion and sediment releases.	Assumes internationally accepted erosion and sediment controls are sufficient to manage risk of erosion within the NT.
	Landforms	Conserve the variety and integrity of distinctive physical landforms so that environmental values are protected.	Low relief area, <1% slope on tertiary lateritic red sands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No impacts to landforms anticipated.</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated from limited exploration activities.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.4 Erosion and sediment control and hydrology A.3.9 Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All disturbed areas to be rehabilitated back to a safe stable state consistent with the surrounding landform.</li> </ul>	No  No major modification to the surrounding landform is predicted.	Assessment is based upon field ecology scouting.
Water	Aquatic Ecosystems	Protect aquatic ecosystems to maintain the biological diversity of flora and fauna and the ecological functions they perform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located ~200km from any Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs).</li> <li>Activity not located within close proximity to any major flow paths,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant impacts or risks anticipated.</li> <li>No material impacts to drainage or overland flow</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>Limited pressure on existing systems.</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated from limited exploration activities.</li> <li>All sewage and sullage to be disposed of in accordance with the</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.4 Erosion and sediment control and hydrology Part C- Well site water management C.4.2 Management of produced water and flowback fluid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater extraction assessed by DENR under the Water Extraction Licence application to ensure no unacceptable impacts</li> <li>No surface water extraction.</li> <li>No surface water discharge.</li> <li>Location of lease pad away from GDEs, wetlands, permanent streams or major watercourses and flow paths.</li> <li>Lease pads to be bunded, with secondary containment used on all chemical and waste storages.</li> </ul>	No  Activities are not anticipated to impact on the environmental factor.	Modelling based on known and assumed properties of aquifer. Assumes internationally accepted erosion and sediment controls are sufficient to manage risk of

Environmental Factors	Project Specific Environmental Factors	Environmental Objectives at Risk	Receiving Environment	Impact Description	Applicable Code of Practice	Mitigation Measures	Potential significant effect on an environmental factor?	Assumptions
			wetlands or permanent watercourses.	Department of Health Code of Practice.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion and sediment control plan implemented to prevent, detect and mitigate erosion.</li> <li>Spill Management Plan implemented to prevent, detect and respond to spills.</li> <li>All sewage and sillage to be disposed of in accordance with the Department of Health Code of Practice.</li> <li>Dedicated sewage treatment area to be sized appropriately to manage the occupancy and fenced-off to prevent access.</li> </ul>		erosion within the NT.
	Inland Water Environmental Quality	Maintain the quality of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values including ecological health, land uses, and the welfare and amenity of people are protected.	Cambrian Limestone Aquifer- Gum Ridge Formation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38ML extraction of groundwater from the Gum Ridge formation.</li> <li>No significant impacts or risks on pastoralist bores from groundwater extraction anticipated.</li> <li>Camp sewage and grey water to be irrigated to adjacent areas is accordance with Department of Health Code of Practice.</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>Limited pressure on existing systems.</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated from limited exploration activities.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.8 Containment of contaminants Part B Well operations B.4.1 Well integrity management B.4.2 Aquifer protection B.4.3 Well design and barriers B.4.10 Drilling fluids B.4.12 Hydraulic stimulation and flowback operations B.4.17 Groundwater Monitoring B.5 BTEX Limits Part C- Well site water management C.4.2 Management of produced water and flowback fluid C.5 Monitoring mandatory requirements C.7 Mandatory requirements for management plans for wastewater and spills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All groundwater take to be licenced with yield within sustainable recharge levels.</li> <li>Groundwater take will be monitored using an approved water flow meter.</li> <li>Control and impact monitoring bores located surrounding the exploration lease.</li> <li>All chemical and wastewater storages to have secondary containment.</li> <li>Spill Management Plan implemented to prevent, detect and respond to spills.</li> <li>Wastewater Management Plan ensure the appropriate management and disposal of all wastewater generated by the activity.</li> <li>Lease pads to be bunded.</li> <li>All camp sewage and grey water disposal to be undertaken in demarcated irrigation areas in compliance with Department of Health guidelines.</li> </ul>	No  Assessment indicates activity unlikely to result in significant impacts to groundwater.	Assessment based on hydrological information collected during water bore drilling and assumed transmissivity and storage values.
	Hydrological processes	Maintain the hydrologic regimes of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values are protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambrian Limestone Aquifer- Gum Ridge Formation</li> <li>Activity not located within close proximity to any major flow paths, wetlands or permanent watercourses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38ML extraction of groundwater from the Gum Ridge Formation.</li> <li>No significant impacts or risks anticipated.</li> <li>Regional industries are low intensity and mainly grazing.</li> <li>No cumulative impacts anticipated.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements A.3.4 Erosion and sediment control and hydrology Part B Well operations B.4.1 Well integrity management B.4.2 Aquifer protection B.4.3 Well design and barriers B.4.17 Groundwater Monitoring C.4.2 Management of produced water and flowback fluid C.5 Monitoring mandatory requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater extraction modelled within sustainable yields.</li> <li>All groundwater take to be licenced with yield within sustainable recharge levels.</li> <li>Groundwater take will be monitored using an approved water flow meter.</li> <li>No surface water extraction.</li> <li>Location of lease pad away from GDE's, wetlands, permanent streams or major watercourses and flow paths.</li> <li>Design of lease pads to avoid impacts to overland flow.</li> <li>Lease pads to be bunded.</li> </ul>	No  Assessment indicates activity unlikely to result in significant impacts to groundwater or surface water.	Modelling based on known and assumed properties of aquifer.
Air	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	Maintain air quality and minimise emissions and their impact so that environmental	Rural environment with minimal industrial or urban inputs.	No significant impacts or risks anticipated.	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection Part D- Methane emissions monitoring, leak management, detection and reporting D.4 Regional methane monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity intensity low, with no local sensitive receptors within 50km.</li> <li>Dust suppression to be utilised to minimise dust generation.</li> <li>Equipment to be compliant with relevant pollution control device requirements and maintained to minimise emissions.</li> </ul>	No  Assessment indicates activity unlikely to result in significant impacts to air quality of	Estimates of greenhouse gas generation using estimates from Transport Authorities Greenhouse Group.

Environmental Factors	Project Specific Environmental Factors	Environmental Objectives at Risk	Receiving Environment	Impact Description	Applicable Code of Practice	Mitigation Measures	Potential significant effect on an environmental factor?	Assumptions
		values are protected.			D.5 Emissions detection and management D.6 Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Methane Emissions Management Plan implemented to prevent, detect and respond to natural gas leaks.</li> <li>A reduced emission completion to be implemented as per NT Code of Practice.</li> <li>All flaring and venting to be reported as per the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme and Petroleum Codes of Practice.</li> <li>Limited regional sources likely to cause cumulative impacts.</li> </ul>	greenhouse gas generation.	
People and communities	Social, economic and cultural surroundings	Protect the social, economic, cultural and heritage values of the Northern Territory.	Rural communities, pastoralists and Traditional Owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited impact on regional communities due to limited nature of exploration activities.</li> <li>NLC and AAPA clearances obtained prior to undertaking activities.</li> <li>Activities located away from communities, with workers based at camps on-site; limited competition with tourism operators.</li> <li>Short (days) increased traffic during equipment mobilisation consistent with existing regional transport (freight) and mining industries.</li> <li>Prioritisation of use of local employment and services.</li> <li>Labour competition with local pastoralists minimal due to limited activities proposed and specialised nature of drilling and stimulation activities.</li> <li>Engagement with local accommodation providers to inform them of future work programs and potential accommodation demand.</li> </ul>	Part A- Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of NT businesses and Indigenous employment has been prioritised.</li> <li>Stakeholder Engagement Plan implemented.</li> <li>Land access approvals.</li> <li>NLC clearances and AAPA certificates for activities.</li> <li>Activity is limited in scope and nature with no booms or busts anticipated.</li> <li>Traffic impact Assessment Completed and submitted to DIPL.</li> </ul>	No  Low intensity activity not anticipated to have significant impacts to the local community or tourism.	All relevant Traditional Owners are engaged by NLC.
	Human health	Ensure the risks to human health are identified, understood and adequately avoided and /or mitigated.	Remote rural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No impact to human health anticipated from activities from drilling, stimulation and well testing activities.</li> <li>A reduced emission completion to be used to minimise GHG and pollutant generation.</li> <li>Limited regional sources unlikely to cause cumulative impacts.</li> </ul>	Part D- Methane emissions monitoring, leak management, detection and reporting D.4 Regional methane monitoring D.5 Emissions detection and management D.6 Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low intensity activity with nuisance (dust) likely to be the main issue associated with vehicle and equipment movement.</li> <li>Closest receptor 50km from activity.</li> <li>Flaring used to reduce pollutants associated with venting.</li> <li>Chemical risk assessment completed</li> </ul>	No  Low intensity activity with limited receptors.	None

## 2.2 Alignment with the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)

This EMP is consistent with the principles of ESD through the adoption of responsible practices that are designed to maximise social benefit, whilst minimising the level of impact on the surrounding ecosystems. The ESD principles as defined in the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations are as follows:

- Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations;
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- The principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making; and,
- Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.

Origin's exploration activities align with the principles of ESD through the following:

- The exploration activities are an essential step in defining a potential future commercial resource which can generate sustainable, long-term benefits to the local community, to the Barkly region generally and more broadly into the rest of the NT.
- Complying with Petroleum Codes of Practice and industry best practice to reduce any risk to the environment and communities to an acceptable level. Noting the Inquiry Panel's Final Report Statement that "provided that all of the recommendations made in this Report are adopted and implemented in their entirety, not only should the risks associated with an onshore shale gas industry be minimised to an acceptable level, in some instances, they can be avoided altogether." (Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory 2018);
- The activities that are the subject of the EMP do not constitute threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage and there is no impact on the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity;
- Beyond royalty payments to the NT Government (as owner of the natural resource), and payments to Native Title Holders (as per Exploration Agreements) and host pastoralists (as per Access and Compensation Agreements), Origin seeks to maximise broad-based local participation in education, training, employment and enterprise opportunities engendered by its presence;
- Prioritising the use of local employment to deliver exploration activities;
- Obtaining sacred site clearances from host Traditional Owners through open engagement with custodians and the Statutory Representative body - the Northern Land Council (NLC); and,
- Obtaining Land Access Agreements with host pastoralists.

## 3 Description of the regulated activity

The following section provides a description of the activities associated with the drilling, stimulation and well testing of the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well. This is provided in detail in section 1.1 and includes:

- exploration well drilling
- water bore drilling
- hydraulic fracture stimulation
- well completion and testing
- well suspension and decommissioning
- construction and operation of a temporary camp
- maintenance and monitoring works

Additional land clearing is not proposed under this EMP. All activities will be undertaken in existing disturbed areas covered under the Velkerri 76 S2 Civil Construction EMP NT-2050-15-MP 031.

The proposed location of the infrastructure is within the NLC and AAPA cleared subject areas and is provided in Table 2 and Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5. An overview of the activity schematics and engineering detail is provided in Appendix A.

A description of each of the proposed activities is provided in the following section along with the management strategies for certain environmental aspects.

## 3.1 Site Selection Process

Each year, Origin will identify multiple prospective exploration sites to be assessed and ranked for future exploration activities. These sites are chosen based upon their assessed chances of exploration success and are ranked as either a priority site (highly prospective) or a contingent site (if a priority site is unavailable due to a constraint). The selection of a site from a subsurface point of view, is often based upon existing exploration information (or lack of), such as seismic data, inferred resource depth (within the oil generating window for example) and previous drilling results. It also includes an assessment of geohazards, such as known major faults or structural features.

Once a location has been proposed, each site is assessed for suitability using a multi-criteria analysis. This analysis covers a number of disciplines, including cultural, environmental, leaseholder, regulatory and constructability requirements.

Once proposed sites have been identified, each site is assessed using a desktop screening process covering the following:

- **Cultural constraints** based upon previous AAPA certificates or heritage mapping- proximity to known sacred sites, heritage areas, aboriginal communities or other sensitive areas
- **Environmental constraints-** proximity to sensitive ecological features such as water courses, flood heights, high conservation areas, threatened species and habitats and sensitive soil units
- **Leaseholder constraints-** proximity to existing pastoral infrastructure and activities, such as cattle yards, fence lines, access tracks, water supply networks, water bores, homesteads and laneways. At this stage, leaseholders are engaged to ensure early input into the location of potential exploration sites. Activities also considers timing constraints such as mustering.
- **Regulatory constraints-** proximity to water bores, well pad spacing, landscape amenity and proximity to roads and communities.

The number of sites are re-ranked and potentially eliminated based upon their constraints assessment. A revised list of sites will then undergo field "scouting", to further assess their suitability. Scouting involves assessment by a number of different specialists with a "scouting party". Scouting activities include:

- **NLC field clearance-**Origin submits its proposed work program to NLC annually and then initiates field clearance surveys. Traditional owners are then engaged by the NLC and inspect all sites to determine the potential for sacred sites or other areas of cultural significance in the vicinity of the activity. A final report is submitted to AAPA by NLC to generate AAPA certificates which outline the activity constraints and no-go areas.
- **Environmental-** areas are inspected by ecologists to ground truth for areas of potential high conservation, evidence of threatened flora and fauna, overland flow paths, drainage lines, soil erosion susceptibility, areas of high habitat value (such as large hollow bearing trees) buffer zones (from high conservation value areas) and future rehabilitation constraints, . The infrastructure (including access tracks, lease pads and associated infrastructure) is orientated to minimise clearing (such as picking open woodland rather than dense Bullwaddy or Lancewood communities) and impacts on overland flow. A land condition assessment is completed for the proposed sites.
- **Archaeological** scouting- detailed scouting is completed by a qualified archaeologist to identify any artefacts (such as spear tips, axes, stone workings etc.), scar trees or potential heritage features at the proposed sites. This is generally undertaken in greater detail than the NLC Traditional Owner clearances.
- **Constructability assessment-** Constructability constraints are identified including geotechnical assessments, cut/fill requirements, soil types, rig operational requirements (orientation) and access

construction constraints (such as access track design, water course crossings etc.). This often includes preliminary pegging of the proposed location

Once the location of infrastructure has been proposed, the leaseholder is re-engaged to confirm the location of the activity. This includes the provision of maps and a site walk through with leaseholder to go through the proposed location. Once finalised, the final location is pegged and surveyed. The engineering designs are updated and issued for construction.

## 3.2 Velkerri 76 S2 Site setting

The site is located in *Corymbia* low woodland/*Terminalia* (mixed) sparse shrubland/*Chrysopogon* (mixed) low tussock grassland. The vegetation community is regionally extensive, not threatened and does not have any material level of pastoral or industry vegetation clearing proposed (evidenced through a lack of clearing approvals). A copy of the Land Condition Assessment that was prepared during ecological scouting of the site and is provided in Appendix B.

Approximate separation distances to the nearest environmental and community receptors are illustrated in Figure 7 and include:

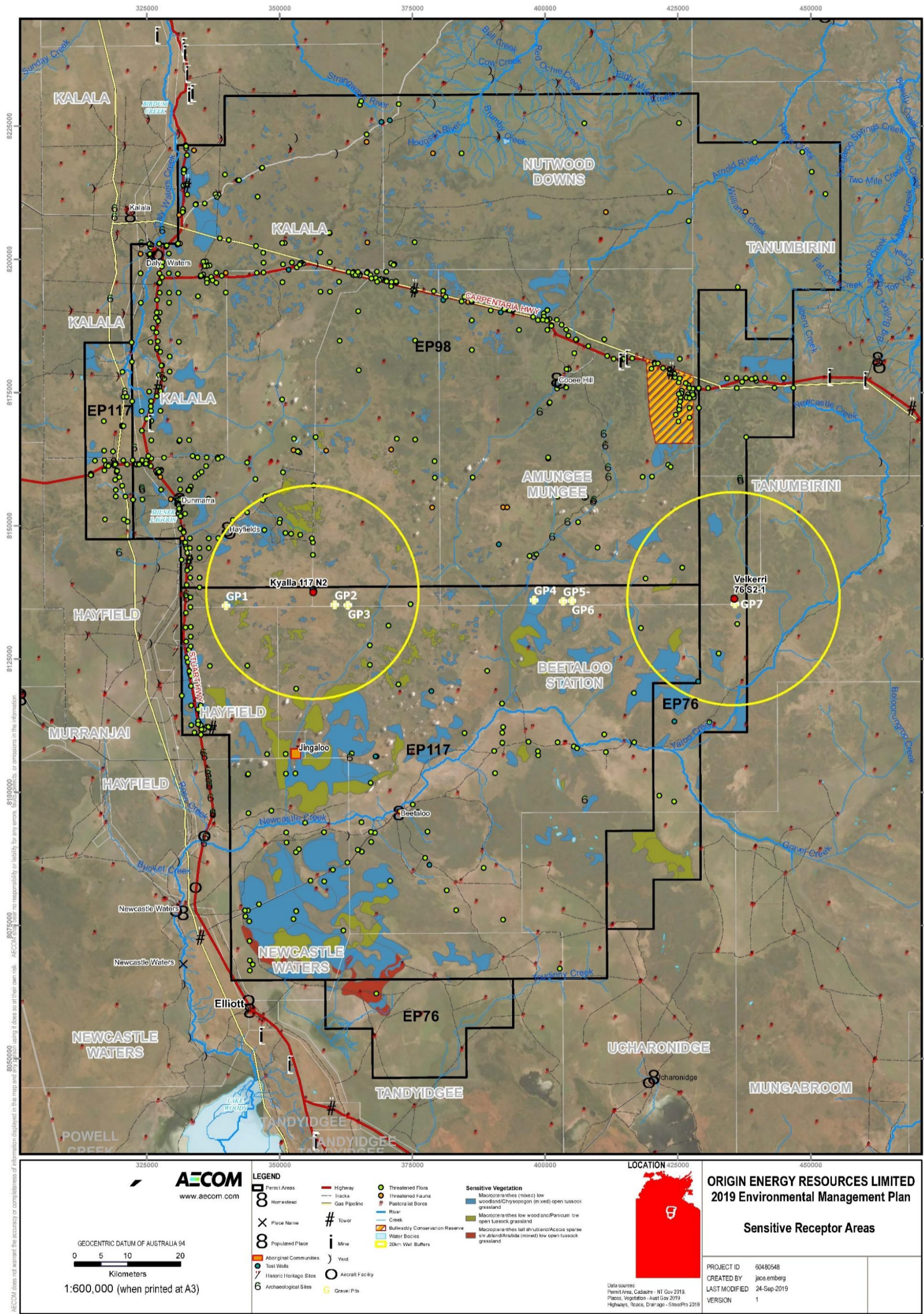
- 100km from the Stuart Highway
- 40km from Carpentaria Highway
- 50km from the nearest homestead
- 100km from the nearest community (Jingaloo)
- 30km from the closest conservation area (Bullwaddy Conservation area)
- 100km to Frew Ponds
- 13km from the closest major watercourse (Newcastle Creek)
- 11.4km from the closest pastoralist bore
- 7km from any Aboriginal Protected Areas
- 125km to lake Woods

The separation distances and legislated controls implemented through the Codes of Practice ensure that the risk of impact to sensitive receptors through aquifer contamination, surface spills and emissions are as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable. Impacts to these receptors are not anticipated, with monitoring and assurance activities implemented to ensure any deviations from the codes of practice are detected and remediated.

### Controls:

- ✓ Multi-criteria assessment undertaken on all proposed exploration sites
- ✓ Land Condition Assessment completed to identify and avoid constraints, including field ecology and cultural heritage surveys.
- ✓ Disturbance restricted to smallest area required to undertake activities safely.
- ✓ Infrastructure located to avoid:
  - Areas of high conservation or habitat value, along with areas of cultural significance.
  - Interfering with surface water flow pathways, drainage lines and water courses.
  - Impacts to visual amenity.
  - Impacts on pastoral leaseholders and Traditional Owners.
  - Pastoralist groundwater extraction bores.

Figure 7 Origin's 2019/20 exploration sites in proximity to sensitive receptors



## 3.3 Exploration well drilling

### 3.3.1 Well design

Well design is the first step in ensuring the integrity for a proposed well. Origin's subsurface team, (geologists, geophysicists and petroleum engineers) summarise the key information and data required by the drilling engineers to design the well. This forms the Basis of Well Design (BOWD).

Critical inputs into the BOWD include:

- downhole formations that need to be isolated (i.e. aquifers) or hydrocarbon-bearing zones that could be encountered during drilling operations.
- the subsurface well objective (production and / or reservoir evaluation).
- the fracture gradient, which describes how much pressure is required to fracture a specific formation.
- the pore pressure, which is the in-situ fluid pressure within a reservoir.
- other conditions that may affect the integrity of the well (formation fluid composition, salinity, corrosion risk, stress regime etc.).

The BOWD is used in combination with the requirements outlined in the NT Petroleum CoP, Petroleum Regulations and Origin's internal standards to develop an appropriate well design that ensures well integrity is maintained throughout the life of the well and addresses all regulatory and risk management requirements.

The design process includes the definition of Well Acceptance Criteria (WAC). WAC are critical thresholds that are tested during well construction and typically form components of the well barrier envelope. The barrier envelope is the combination of one or more well barrier elements that are combined to prevent uncontrolled flow of fluids and hydrocarbons into another formation, or to escape at surface. The WAC must be met or exceeded to confirm well integrity before proceeding to the next phase of well construction or operation. If a well WAC is not achieved, an approved remedy and / or risk assessment must be in place prior to moving forward with operations.

The well design and WAC form a critical part of the Well Operations Management Plan (WOMP) which is a regulatory document that summarises how each well will comply with the required standards from the design to decommissioning of a well. This document is prepared and submitted to DPIR for approval prior to the commencement of any drilling and stimulation activities.

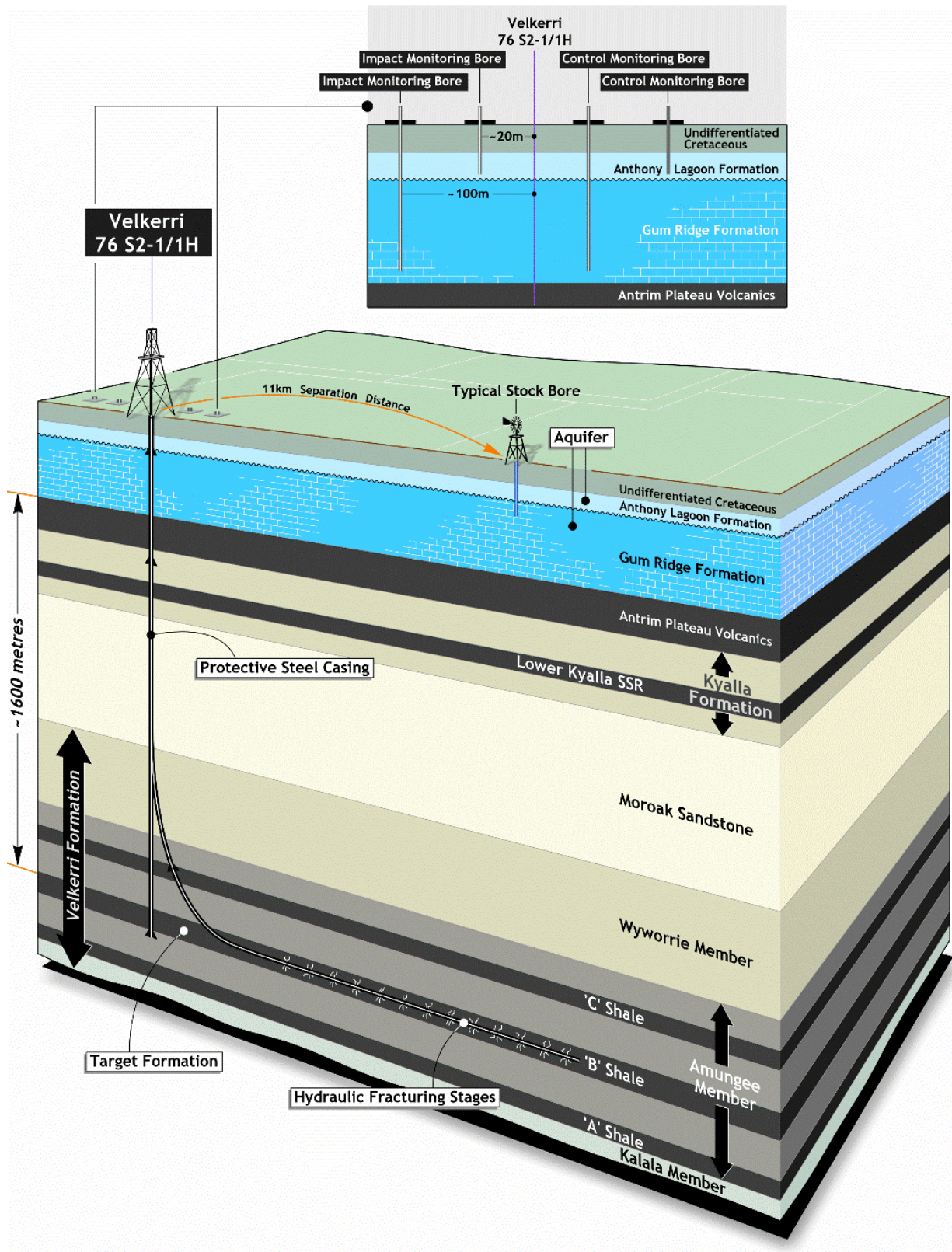
An overview of the proposed design of the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well is provided in Figure 8 and Figure 9.

#### Controls:

- ✓ Each well is designed in accordance with the NT Petroleum Code of Practice and Origin Standards to ensure well integrity is maintained. This includes the design rating of casing, connectors, tubing, valves, well heads and cement
- ✓ Well Acceptance Criteria is in place to verify all well barriers
- ✓ Wells are designed to meet the anticipated physical and chemical conditions likely to be encountered.
- ✓ A WOMP is prepared and submitted to DPIR prior to undertaking drilling activities. The WOMP summarises how the wells maintain integrity for the life of the well, including aquifer protection.
- ✓ Casing and cement designed to resist corrosion. Corrosion inhibitors and biocides may be used within suspended wells to prevent corrosion and microbial attack.
- ✓ The lack of hydraulic head and the density of the fluid within the Moroak sandstone prevents fluids mixing with surface aquifer in the extremely unlikely event of multiple barrier failures.



Figure 8: Proposed Velkerri 76 S2--1 well schematic



### 3.3.2 Site Preparation

A drilling rig package comprises the main rig, as well as the supporting vehicles, equipment and facilities outlined below:

- Drilling rig, comprising a rig floor, a mast or derrick, rig engine, Blow Out Preventer (BOP) system and cat walk
- Pipe rack for storing drill pipe and casing and potentially a pipe arm, which is a piece of equipment designed to bring the pipe and casing up to the drill floor
- Rig fluid system, including tanks (water and mud), shakers, mud treatment system and pipes for storing and pumping fluids down the drill string
- Storage trailers and racks for equipment
- Bunded chemical storage areas for mud chemicals, diesel and wastes
- Workshop
- Portable on-site offices
- Temporary accommodation housing approximately 60 persons
- Diesel power generators
- Third-party equipment such as cementing trucks, fuel trucks and wireline evaluation units

Throughout the drilling operations there will be ongoing vehicle movements, from the initial rig mobilisation to the regular interchange of drilling support services or delivery of equipment. Drilling operations are generally a 24-hour per day operation.

The rig will be mobilised to a prepared lease pad, which has been cleared, compacted, fenced and all pits and cellars installed ready for the commencement of drilling. The lease preparation scope is covered under the Velkerri 76 S2 Civil Construction EMP NT-2050-15-MP 031. An overview of the Drilling rig lease layout is provided in Appendix A.

#### Controls:

- ✓ All equipment is washed-down and certified free of weeds prior to mobilising to site.
- ✓ Assessment of traffic impacts has been completed.
- ✓ Ongoing engagement with DIPL is underway discussing the Stuart Highway intersection and traffic from the proposed work program.
- ✓ Lease pads compacted to an average 100kpa with the lease pad containing a mixture of silt, clay and gravel. Predicted permeability (based on type of material present) exceeds  $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{m/s}$

### 3.3.3 Drilling

The drill rig is initially mobilised to site and rigged-up over the cellar with a pre-installed stove pipe (non-pressure rated casing to prevent sloughing of top soil). Once functional, the top-hole section will be drilled to a depth which isolates the shallow aquifers (undifferentiated cretaceous (if present) and the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer units [Anthony Lagoons & Gum Ridge formations]) in this region. Defining the contact between the Anthony Lagoons formation and Gum Ridge Formation is critical to ensure the appropriate conductor casing setting point to isolate the two units. Data used to identify the conductor casing setting point includes:

- Offset geological data from the control water monitoring bore installed 100m from the proposed exploration well (to be drilled under the Groundwater Monitoring Bore Installation EMP NT-2050-15-MP-0017).
- The Gum Ridge Formation will be identified with a gamma ray signature, measured during drilling and correlated with the basin wide Gum Ridge gamma ray signature.
- On-site cutting analysis from the operational geologist on-site.
- Monitoring and verification of drilling parameters such as rate of penetration and torque.

The top-hole section will be split into two separate sections, each individually cased and cemented (with specifically engineered cement) to seal the aquifer off from the rest of the wellbore to prevent fluid crossflow between formations. The larger top-hole is referred to as the 'conductor' and smaller lower hole section is referred to as the 'surface casing'. These holes will be drilled with low toxicity, water-based mud systems with a density as low as possible.

In the event that cementing of either the conductor casing or the surface casing is unsuccessful (i.e. the cement does not return to surface) Origin will undertake the following:

- For the conductor casing: top up cement job will be undertaken. This process involves spotting cement from surface in the annulus of the conductor casing and formation.
- Surface casing: the use of an External Casing Packer (ECP) and a two-stage cement job will be utilised to provide hydraulic isolation between the casing and formation.

Once the surface casing is cemented in place, the BOP is installed on top of the casing string. A BOP contains a series of rams and elements that may be closed to prevent a release of pressure and isolate the well at surface. Once installed, the BOP is function and pressure tested to confirm its integrity.

Drilling will then progress down to the target reservoir as part of the intermediate hole section. A vertical pilot hole will be drilled down to below the target reservoir to enable coring and wireline logging analysis. Further testing may involve running a series of special tools to measure the various aspects of the reservoir fluids and rocks. These may include Drill Stem Tests (DST) or Modular Formation Dynamics Test (MFDT) used to assess formation permeability. An Open Hole Diagnostic Fracture Injection Test (DFIT) may be run to further investigate the rock properties. This test involves injecting small volumes (<10,000L) of water, with salts and biocide (assessed in the drilling chemical risk assessment Appendix C), into the formation to create small fractures, allowing the resulting pressure to fall naturally. The fluid contains no proppant; hence the fracture relaxes and closes naturally when the pressure is released. The pressure decline is monitored on-site and data is analysed to assist reservoir characterisation.

Prior to each new hole section being drilled, a Formation Integrity Test (FIT) or Leak Off Test (LOT) is performed to validate the integrity of each casing shoe and provide an operating envelope for drilling the next hole section. After formation evaluation operations are complete, the pilot hole is plugged back, cemented and side-tracked to commence the horizontal drilling. When the intermediate hole has reached its target depth, intermediate casing is installed and cemented in place to provide isolation between any potential hydrocarbon-bearing zones and the surface. Where cement is not returned to surface, a cement evaluation log is performed to analyse the cement quality in the annulus and determine the appropriate corrective actions.

A low toxicity water-based drilling mud is to be used as the base fluid for drilling, which primarily contain salts and polymers. Drilling mud is required to maintain well control, provide formation stability, lubricate and control the temperature of the drill bit and lift cuttings to the surface. The fluid system consists of water with a sodium or potassium-based salt (to prevent formation swelling) and a viscosifying agent such as bentonite. Other low toxicity chemicals such as barite, citric acid, sodium bicarbonate, and loss circulation material may also be used. The chemicals used for drilling are consistent with those used for water bore drilling. The details associated with the chemical used during drilling have been included in the Chemical Risk Assessment attached in Appendix C.

All waste drilling fluids, muds and cuttings will be managed in the lined drilling sump on-site. All waste drilling fluids within the sump will be managed and disposed of in accordance with section 3.11.1.

The final hole section (referred as the 'production hole section') covers the target hydrocarbon reservoir section and is drilled to the well Total Depth (TD). TD is likely to be reached at approximately 2000-3000m below the surface, depending on the stratigraphic depth and thickness of the zone of interest and may extend up to 3000m laterally within the reservoir. This hole section is again cased and cemented in place.

Overbalanced drilling will be utilised to prevent the influx of hydrocarbons into the well bore during drilling. The muds used are weighted to a level above the encountered formation to prevent pressure, water and hydrocarbons causing a "kick". In the event that a gas kick is encountered, the gas will be directed to a small vertical flare via a blooey line and combusted. The flare will have a constant flare pilot with a dedicated propane source and automatic ignition system.

The design of the various casing strings is illustrated in Figure 9. It should be noted that the production casing in this diagram is vertical, whereas the actual production casing orientation is horizontal.

Once drilling has ceased, the drill rig and associated temporary infrastructure are demobilised from site.

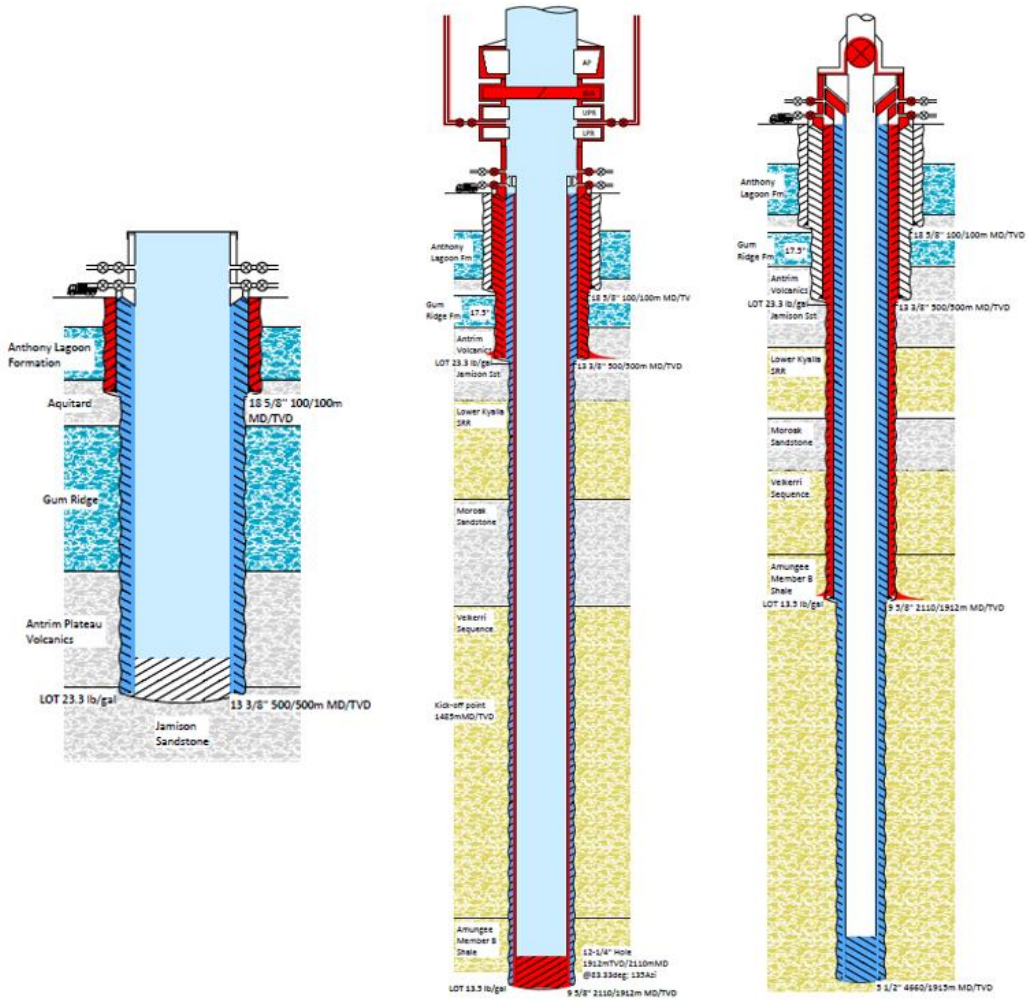


Figure 9: Proposed well sections - Surface, Intermediate and Production casing strings.

## Controls:

- ✓ Drilling will be undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP & Origin Standards.
- ✓ Multiple barriers are in place to prevent cross-flow of formation fluids between the permeable zones and to isolate any hydrocarbon zones.
- ✓ Overbalanced drilling to suppress formation pressure, gas and water influx into the well bore
- ✓ The cement is specifically-engineered to ensure compatibility with the anticipated formation fluid composition, temperature and pressure conditions.
- ✓ Intermediate and production strings will have premium casing connections to ensure redundancy in the unlikely case of a leak from the production casing. Premium casing threads seal metal on metal and provide a positive long-term seal against any leakage.
- ✓ BOP in place to maintain well control during pressure events.
- ✓ Low toxicity drilling fluids, with no long-term residual toxicity, will be used.
- ✓ All drilling fluids will be contained within a lined sump.
- ✓ A Chemical Risk Assessment covering all drilling fluids is included in Appendix A.
- ✓ All drilling chemical safety datasheets to be provided to DENR prior to undertaking drilling, with chemical use figures reported to DPIR.
- ✓ Drilling activities will have a Spill Management Plan, with secondary containment used for all areas where chemicals are stored and handled.
- ✓ All fluids and additives utilised in the drilling process will not contain Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene (BTEX).
- ✓ All drilling fluids will be handled under an approved Wastewater Management Plan.
- ✓ All waste muds will be tested by a qualified individual and either disposed of on-site or trucked off-site to a licenced waste disposal facility.
- ✓ All flares will be designed to meet the requirements of the NT Petroleum CoP including:
  - Continuous ignition systems.
  - 98% combustion efficiency as per USEPA standards.
  - Bushfire risk management plan implemented.
  - 45m separation distances from sensitive places and combustible material (such as vegetation).
- ✓ Control and impact monitoring bores will be installed in the vicinity of each exploration well to monitor ground quality.
- ✓ Aquifer protection risks managed as per Section 10.4 of the corresponding WOMP summarised in Appendix T.

## 3.4 Groundwater water extraction bore installation

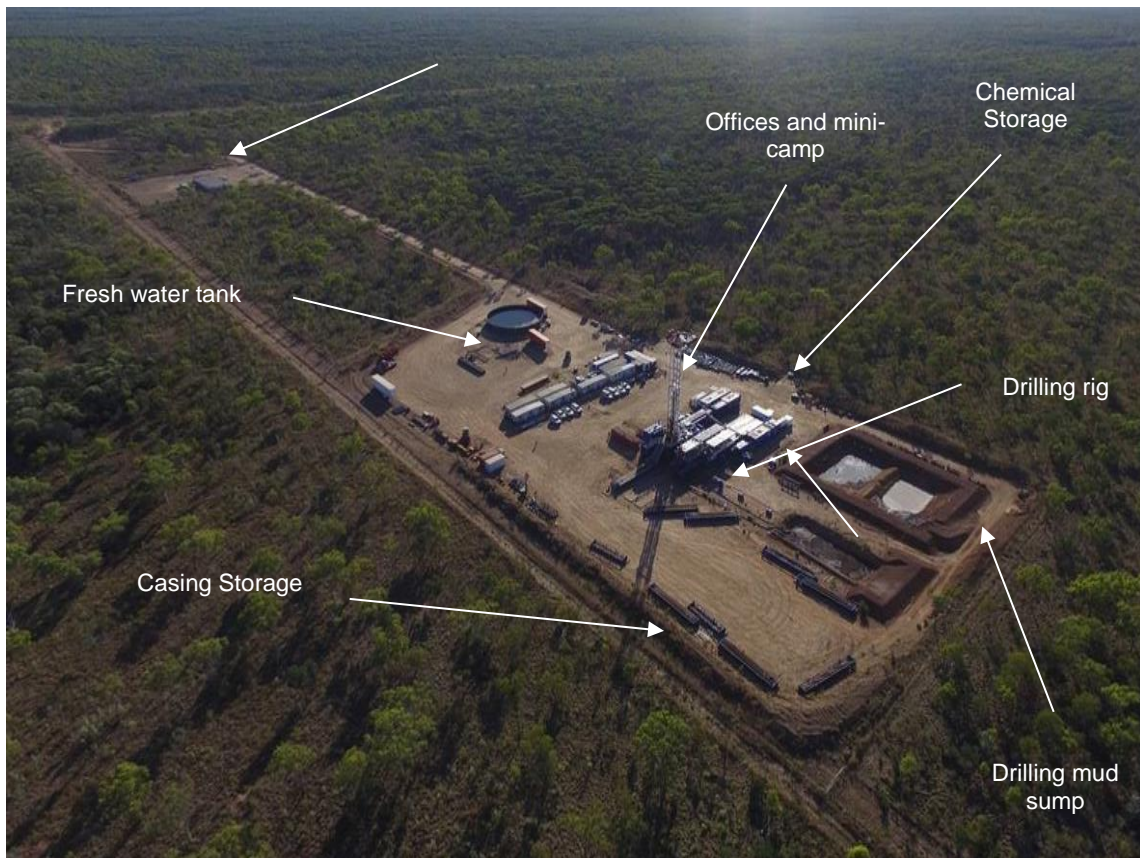
An additional two contingent groundwater water extraction bore may be drilled on the existing lease pad prior to the commencement of stimulation activities. The extraction bores will only be required where the existing supply points (the Impact and control monitoring bores as described in section 3.16) are unable to supply the full drilling and stimulation campaign due to insufficient yield. These bores will target the Gum Ridge Formation and will be added to Origin's water Extraction licence GRF 10285.

A bore construction permit will be obtained for each bore and any groundwater take will be licenced in accordance with the NT Water Act 1992. On completing the construction of each water bore, the relevant statement of bore and gamma log will be provided to DENR.

Once completed, the bore will be 'developed' by either purging or airlifting the residual drilling muds and fluids from the borehole.

**Controls:**

- ✓ Bores will be constructed in accordance with the current version of the Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia and any other guidance provided by the NT Government relating to groundwater extraction and monitoring for onshore gas projects.
- ✓ In addition to constructing water bores in accordance with the Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia, each water bore must be completed with a self-draining concrete block centred on the bore casing constructed at the surface, with dimensions 1m<sup>2</sup> area, 75mm above the final ground surface and 25mm below final ground surface. This provides further protection of the underlying aquifer from any surface spills.
- ✓ All bores (extraction) will be isolated from overlying aquifers with a cemented casing string.
- ✓ Drilling will be undertaken with air or mud rotary techniques. If mud rotary techniques are employed, the circulation fluid will be water-based and will utilise standard water bore drilling polymer or bentonite-based density and viscosity modifying additives.



**Figure 10: Example drilling rig setup in the Beetaloo. Note: This is a historic photo for illustrative purposes only.**

### 3.5 Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation activities

Upon completion of drilling operations, the horizontal exploration well will undergo Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation (HFS). The hydraulic fracturing process is a series of operations designed to increase the available surface contact area of the shale formation. This enhances the amount of hydrocarbons that migrate into the wellbore and flow to surface.

The process of a hydraulic fracturing is conducted in the following sequential stages:

- i. Well integrity verification
- ii. Site Setup
- iii. Stimulation activities

### 3.5.1 Well integrity validation

Prior to the commencement of any stimulation activity, the wellbore will be assessed to ensure that sufficient well integrity is in place to withstand hydraulic fracturing pressures as per the NT Petroleum CoP.

The assessment will include:

- Cement evaluation logs are run to ensure that at a minimum 150mTVD of good quality cement is present from the target reservoir to the nearest aquifer to ensure zonal isolation as per Origin Barriers Standard INT-1000-35-TS-002.
- Confirmation of geological barriers and assessment of geological hazards.
- Mechanical integrity evaluation of the production casing via a casing pressures test to the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) of 10,000psi. The pressure test will consist of:
  - o 10-minute low pressure (300 psi) leak test
  - o 20-minute high (10,000 psi) pressure strength test

Origin's pressure test acceptance criteria is 1% pressure drop per 5 minutes over a stabilised test duration with a decreasing dP/dT trend as per Origin Barriers Standard INT-1000-35-TS-002.

Pressure tests will be undertaken using fresh water which will be re-used.

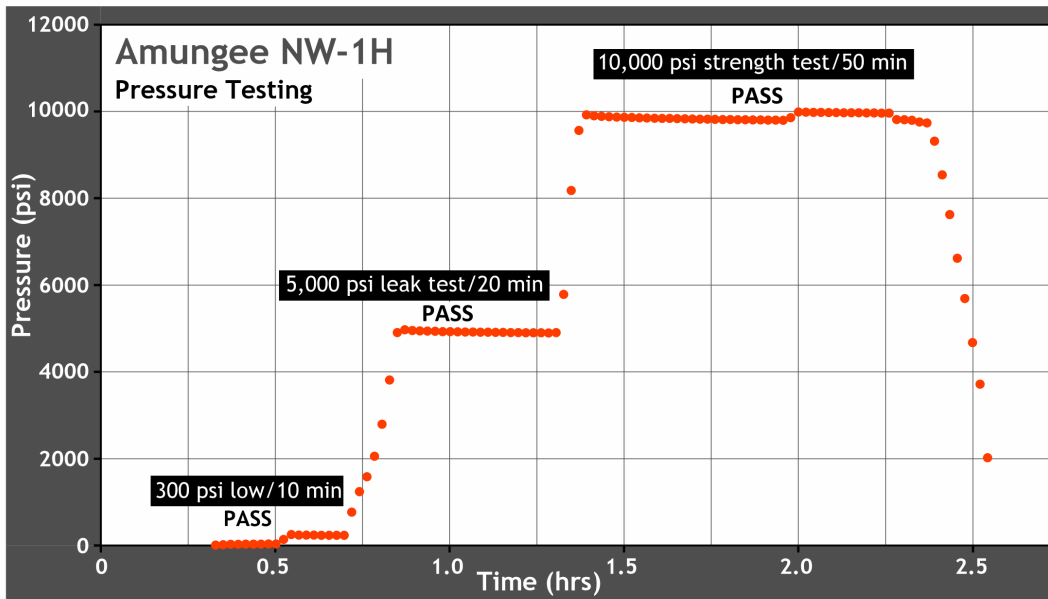


Figure 11: Data from pressure testing at Amungee NW-1H prior to HFS. The mechanical integrity of the production casing is confirmed by the extended interval at 10,000 psi.

#### Controls:

- ✓ Stimulation activities will be undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP.
- ✓ Well barrier integrity tests to be outlined in the WOMP and approved by DPIR prior to stimulation; this includes confirming the cement evaluation logs and casing pressure tests to verify the integrity of the barrier prior to stimulation.
- ✓ Stimulation activities will not occur until the integrity of a well has been confirmed.

### 3.5.2 Site Setup

The hydraulic fracturing operation requires various pieces of equipment, this will include:

- Data Van – on-site office to execute stimulation activities
- Water Storage - tanks will be constructed on-site, capable of managing 20-30ML of both make-up water and flowback water. Tanks will be double-lined with leak detection capable of monitoring any leaks between the primary and secondary liner
- Proppant Trailer - a large sand storage and delivery trailer that holds the proppant
- Hydration Unit – used to add stimulation additives and viscosifying fluids
- Blender Unit – used to mix proppant and fluid additives, prior to its injection into the well
- High Pressure Pumps – pumps which inject the hydraulic fracturing fluid mixtures from the Blender Unit down the well, via the surface lines and hydraulic fracturing wellhead or coiled tubing unit
- Coiled Tubing Unit – a large length of coiled steel pipe that can be temporarily installed in the well to perform various downhole operations
- Wireline unit – plug and perforation deployment
- Ancillary support buildings – offices, workshop, cranes, chemical storage area, equipment storage, laydowns and all other activities required to support stimulation activities.

The anticipated lease layout for the hydraulic fracture operation is provided in Appendix A, with an indicative illustration of the hydraulic fracture spread provided in Figure 12.

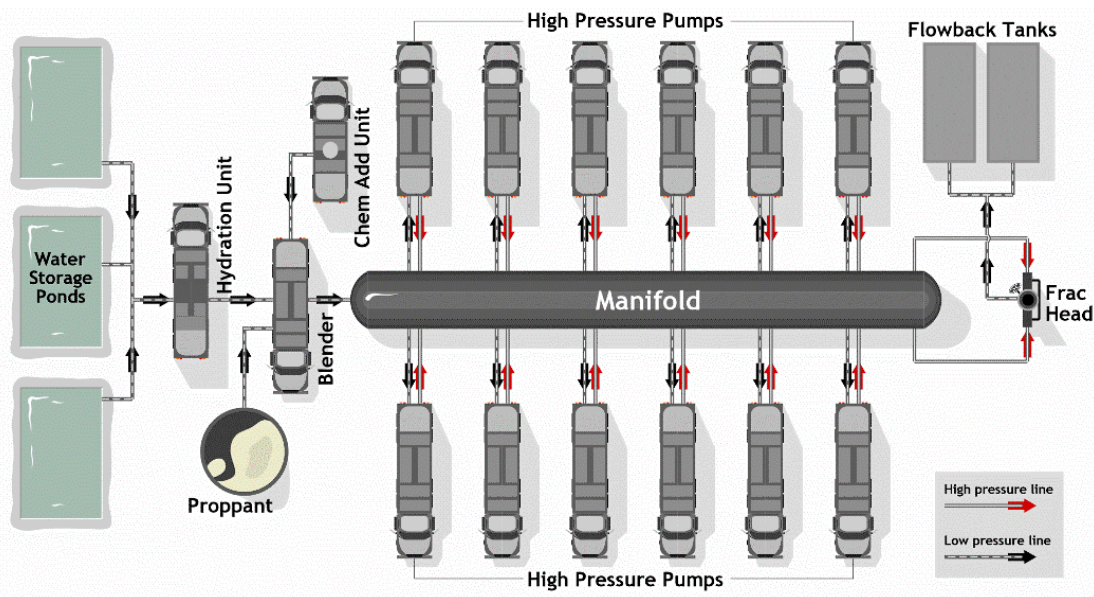


Figure 12: Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation Spread.

### 3.5.3 Wastewater Tank Set up

Wastewater tanks will be constructed onsite to store stimulation make-up water and wastewater. Approximately 13.5ML of wastewater storage will be onsite, consisting of the following tank makeup:

- 2x 3.2ML enclosed tanks
- 2x3.2ML open tank

Two (2) of the four (4) wastewater storage tanks will be enclosed, with covers installed above the tank to prevent rain ingress. The remaining two (2) wastewater tanks will be sused for wastewater treatment and will be open for evaporation.

The tanks will be constructed initially to hold freshwater extracted from the Gum Ridge control bore, with the stored water used in the stimulation process.



Wastewater storage tanks will be constructed in accordance with following steps, as illustrated in Figure 13:

- The site is flattened to a maximum slope of <0.5% and compacted to above 120kPa
- Tank panels are transported to site in flat-packs
- Panels are assembled using a simple pin-type set up, with each tank panel lifted into place using a telehandler. No cranes or suspended overhead loads required.
- Each panel is free standing and capable of withstanding 100km/hr winds on their own. They are connected to the adjacent panel using engineered steel pins, which increase the wind rating to above the cyclonic wind load requirements. The structure is engineered to a level that can withstand up to 70% erosion of the panel length, without causing any structural damage. This means the risk of water erosion during rainfall events is low.
- A geomembrane is installed under the tank to prevent rock/root penetration
- The first 0.5mm HDPE liner is installed and fixed to the structure. Liners are pre-fabricated, welded and tested offsite, preventing the need for onsite welding.
- A moisture and pressure probe is installed between the primary and secondary liner to detect moisture and water pressure.
- The second liner is installed and fixed to the structure.
- Level sensors are installed within the tanks
- For the enclosed tanks, the covers are installed. The covers have built in vents and rainwater collection system as illustrated in Figure 26.
- Tanks are filled with freshwater and are testing for leaks over a 24 hour period. If moisture and pressure is detected via the leak detection system, the tank is drained to an existing storage tank onsite and leakage point repaired.

## Controls:

- ✓ All wastewater tanks will be double lined with real-time leak detection and level monitoring.
- ✓ Tanks will not be interconnect to prevent multiple tank failure in the event 1 tank begins to drain.
- ✓ Wastewater tank locations will be flattened, compacted and geomembrane liner installed to prevent rock and root penetrations.
- ✓ Lease pads compacted to an average 100kpa with the lease pad containing a mixture of silt, clay and gravel. Predicted permeability (based on type of material present) exceeds  $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{m/s}$
- ✓ All tanks and liners will be designed and operated to meet the required climatic and environmental conditions of the Northern Territory. This includes:
  - Structure Wind rating as per AS1160.2:2011- Designed to withstand cyclonic wind conditions
  - Structure integrity through deformation caused by tank panel base erosion- Capable of withstanding base erosion of up to 70%
  - Liner Temperature- Designed to be operated at temperatures well above expected (60 degrees)
  - Liner tear resistance- 49 newtons (N)
  - Liner puncture resistance- 120N
  - Liner seam peel adhesion strength 4.3N/mm
  - Liner permeability  $<10^{-9} \text{m/s}$
- ✓ Tanks will be installed with vents to reduce the risk of vapour build up
- ✓ Liners are pre-fabricated offsite, with QA/QC completed on the seam welds to ensure integrity
- ✓ Wastewater tanks will be filled with freshwater as a part of the QA/QC program, with any leaks remedied prior
- ✓ QA/QC program to be implemented by contractors to ensure each tank has been constructed as per manufacturers requirements.
- ✓ Collected rainwater on top of enclosed tank covers will be released from the tank cover as per section 3.11.5



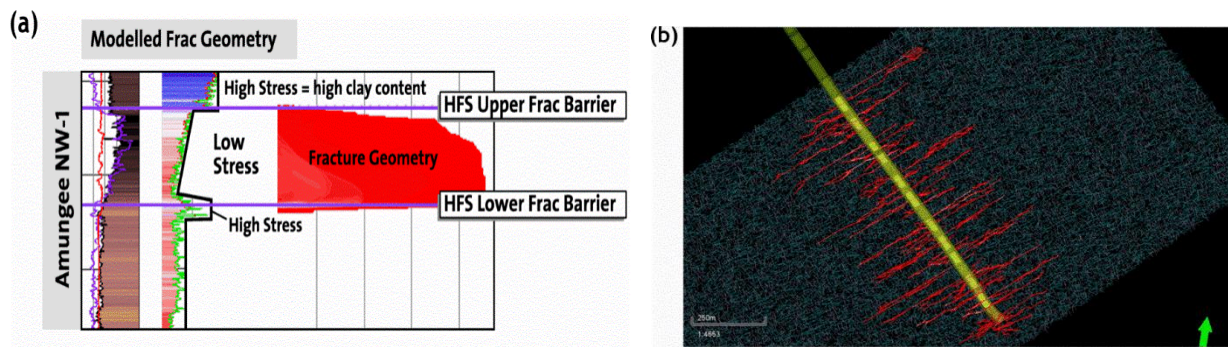
Figure 13 Wastewater tank construction process

### 3.5.4 Stimulation Activities

It is anticipated that Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation (HFS) will be undertaken on the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well. Stimulation is generally conducted during daylight hours, with wireline and coiled tubing support activities operating on a 24-hour basis.

HFS involves the injection of a slurry, primarily consisting of water and sand (proppant), plus a small percentage of chemicals at high pressure into the target section of the horizontal wellbore approximately 2000m – 3000m below ground level. Typically, 95% or higher of the total volume in stimulation fluids is a combination of fresh water and sand (~4%), with the remainder as fluid-conditioning additives (~1%). Chemicals used in HFS are designed to optimise stimulation outcomes and are commonly found in food and other household domestic products. The chemical composition of stimulation fluid is discussed further in Section 3.6.

All fluid additives (water and chemicals) and sand is mixed on surface through the hydraulic fracturing equipment. The mixture and pumping schedule (rates, volume and proppant) are based on an HFS model which determines the desired fracture attributes. The HFS model is completed prior to the commencement of stimulation activities and is underpinned by a Mechanical Earth Model (MEM). The MEM is generated from data collected during drilling, wireline logging, core analysis and DFIT tests. The stimulation fluid mixture and pumping schedule is continuously updated during and after each stage to ensure optimal outcomes are achieved. An example of the modelled fracture geometry for the Amungee NW-1 well is illustrated in Figure 14.



**Figure 14: Modelled Fracture Geometry of Amungee NW-1.**

The stimulation fluid is pressurised by the high-pressure pumping units and directed downhole via a manifold to the discrete target intervals along the horizontal wellbore (referred to as 'stages'). Up to 20 stages are proposed, with the most probable number of stages being between 10 and 15. Each stage will be isolated and perforated using a plug and perforation gun assembly deployed via wireline. As the pressure is sustained, the fractures propagate radially from the well, through the target rock. Once optimal fracture propagation has been achieved, the proppant (sand) is pumped down the well and into the open fractures. This process is repeated for each stage. The final number of stages pumped in each well is dependent on the useable length of the horizontal wellbore and in-situ geological conditions. Once all stages are complete, the well is suspended awaiting completion and well testing activities.

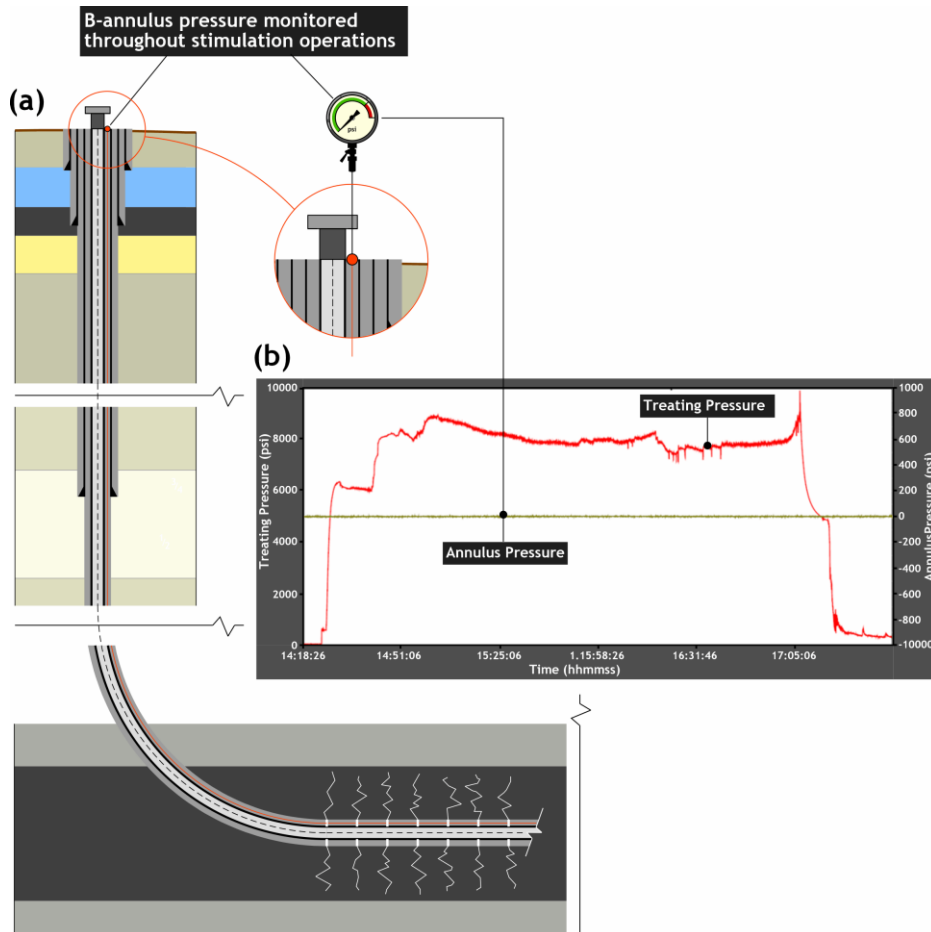
It is anticipated that approximately 1.3ML of water and 180 tonnes of proppant (sand) will be used for each stage. Water will be sourced from the Gum Ridge formation, as described in section 3.16. Proppant will be sourced from locations within Australia (such as South Australia) or imported from international sources.

Wellbore pressures are monitored during each stimulation, to ensure the operations have not compromised the integrity of the production casing or the cement barriers. A Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) is an important parameter used to define the operating envelope. The maximum allowable pumping pressure (MAPP) is set below the MAOP to allow for uncertainty and provide an additional safety margin. The anticipated MAPP is 9200psi and the MAOP is 10,000psi. Two additional safety measures are set in place to ensure treating pressures do not exceed the MAOP of the system:

1. Each HFS pumping unit has an automated high-pressure shut-off control set at the MAPP or lower, and
2. A pressure relief valve will be installed on the surface treating line to instantaneously bleed-down pressures if the pressure exceeds the MAPP.

A coiled tubing unit is on standby on location in the event of contingent wellbore intervention operations, such as a wellbore screen-out. A screen-out occurs when the proppant in the stimulation fluid blocks the perforations or

fracture network, creating a sudden and significant restriction to fluid flow, resulting in a premature termination of the stimulation operation.



**Figure 15: Well and wellhead schematic showing the “B Annulus” monitoring process, and an example from Stage 1 of the observed pressure of the B Annulus (0 psi) while high-pressure HFS operations were underway.**

## Controls:

- ✓ Stimulation activities will be undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP and relevant NT and Federal Government legislation and regulations as outlined in Table 3 and Table 4.
- ✓ Activities will be undertaken in accordance with the WOMP, which will be approved by DPIR.
- ✓ Chemicals used in the stimulation process are risk assessed and are made public.
- ✓ A Spill Management Plan will be implemented, with secondary containment used for all chemical storage and handling areas.
- ✓ The HFS model is completed prior to the commencement of stimulation activities. Modelling assesses potential fracture growth, to confirm aquifers (1,600m above the fracture stimulation activity) will not be affected. Typically, fractures no longer than 300m horizontal are expected.
- ✓ A MAPP and MAOP will be introduced to ensure pumping pressures do not compromise the integrity of a well.
- ✓ Real-time monitoring of pressure during stimulation to detect anomalous pressure behaviour.
- ✓ Stimulation operations can be ceased immediately to prevent any potential fluid or proppant migration into an adjacent formation or aquifer.
- ✓ Annular pressures are monitored during every HFS stage and subsequent flowback operations.
- ✓ Well barriers are tested and pressures monitored regularly to ensure their performance over the lifecycle of the well.
- ✓ All fluids and additives utilised in the drilling process will not contain Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene (BTEX).
- ✓ An Emergency Response Plan will be in place.



Amungee NW-1 / 1H Wellsite  
Fracture Stimulation Operations  
2016

Figure 16: Example of stimulation lease layout.

## 3.6 Chemical Risk Assessment

Origin is required to disclose all chemicals that are proposed to be used prior to undertaking any drilling and stimulation activities. The list of chemicals, along with a risk assessment and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are provided to DPIR and DENR for review and approval.

The CAS number of all chemicals, including proprietary chemicals, is included in the risk assessment which is undertaken by an independent third-party consultant. The final chemical risk assessment report, along with each chemical is also provided to DENR as a part of the EMP assessment process. The proprietary chemical CAS numbers are excluded from the final public submission to protect the intellectual property of chemical manufacturers. This approach ensure that all chemicals can be appropriately assessed and protects chemical company reduces from releasing commercially sensitive information.

All chemicals added to stimulation fluid perform a specific purpose, including:

- **Acids and bases:** controls pH and clears perforations prior to stimulation
- **Biocides:** controls or eliminates bacteria in the fluid to prevent introduction to target formation
- **Viscosity regulators:** increases or reduces the thickness of a fluid
- **Clay control:** prevents clays from swelling
- **Friction reducers:** reduces friction between the stimulation fluid and piping allowing the fluid to be injected further without pressure drop
- **Corrosion inhibitors:** prevents equipment from rusting
- **Chemical inhibitors:** such as iron or scale prevention
- **Surfactants:** reduces surface tension of the hydraulic fracturing fluid

Origin will potentially utilise up to three different stimulation fluid designs which include:

1. Friction-reduced slick water design
2. High-viscosity friction reducer design
3. Hybrid (slick water + cross-linked gel) design

All chemicals used in Australia must be approved for use by the Federal Government Department of Health and be listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) which is maintained under the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). In addition, there are a range of other specific regulatory controls governing the transportation, storage, handling and disposal of chemicals with the NT and Australia (as summarised in section 2). These include:

- **Transportation:** Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (National uniform Legislation)
- **Storage:** NT Dangerous Goods Act, Work Health and Safety Act and NT Petroleum codes of Practice
- **Use:** NT Dangerous Goods Act, Work Health and Safety Act and NT Petroleum codes of Practice
- **Disposal:** NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.

The list of chemicals within the proposed drilling and stimulation fluid mixtures are summarised in Appendix C. This table also contains the following additional information:

- 1) Name of chemical
- 2) Chemical purpose
- 3) Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) number
- 4) Total mass (in kg)
- 5) Approximate down-hole concentration for that chemical (expressed in mg/L)
- 6) Appropriate ecotoxicity (aquatic and oral values) data including for acute LC50/EC50 and chronic No Observable Effects Concentration (NOEC) data
- 7) Information on the biodegradation and bioaccumulation potential of any organic chemicals
- 8) Results of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessment

Additionally, the full list of chemicals and volumes are also included in the Spill Management Plan (Appendix D).

A description of the chemical assessment process is provided in the following sections.

### 3.6.1.1 Risk Assessment Methodology

A chemical risk assessment has been completed to evaluate the potential human health and environmental health effects on all compounds to be used during drilling and stimulation. The assessment methodology is based upon the following guidance documents:

- Northern Territory Department of Environmental and Natural Resources - Draft Guideline for the Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations, 2019 (herein referred to as NT 2019)
- Department of the Environment and Energy, Exposure Draft - Chemical Risk Assessment Guidance Manual: for chemicals associated with coal seam gas extraction, 2017 (herein referred to as DOE 2017)
- National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), National Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction in Australia, 2017 (herein referred to as NICNAS 2017)
- enHealth “Environmental Health Risk Assessment, Guidelines for Assessing Human Health Risks from Environmental Hazards”, 2012
- National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (ASC NEPM); Schedule B4, Site-specific health risk assessment methodology, 2013

The chemical risk assessment comprised the following tasks:

- Hazard assessment. An evaluation of the environmental and human health hazard of the chemical additives in the hydraulic fracturing fluid, based on their environmental persistence, bioaccumulation and aquatic toxicity properties.
- Exposure assessment. The exposure assessment comprises an evaluation of surface and sub-surface exposure pathways and reviews the effectiveness of the proposed controls in preventing a complete pathway.
- Screening and validation processes via Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessments to determine chemicals known to be of low concern and identify chemicals for further risk assessment.
  - Tier 1: Using published information about each chemical proposed to be used in the hydraulic fracturing activity.
  - Tier 2: A quantitative evaluation of the risks using toxicity values and quantitative estimates of chemical intake to provide an estimate of potential human health and environmental risk associated with the hydraulic fracturing activities, based on the identification of complete exposure pathways and hazard identification.

### 3.6.1.2 Results of Risk Assessment

A chemical hazard and exposure analysis has been completed using the ecotoxicity assessment guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013). The summary is provided in Appendix C.

A Tier 1 assessment was undertaken on all chemicals with the exception of light petroleum distillate (CAS# 64742-47-8). Certain chemicals (14 from Slick Water, 17 from Hybrid and 15 from High Velocity Friction Reduced) require standard flowback water and wastewater disposal controls to ensure the risk of management is low. These controls are consistent with the requirements outlined in the Petroleum Codes of Practice and summarised in Section 6.4 of this plan. It is to be noted that none of these chemicals were identified to be persistent and bioaccumulative.

An assessment of the potential valid environmental and human health exposure pathways is summarised in Table 7. This pathways exposure assessment considered the:

- properties of the chemicals;
- site setting and physical separation distances between receptors (environmental and human) and the activity (Section 3.1);
- lack of protected flora and fauna and high conservation value areas in the vicinity of the activity as outlined in Section 4.2; and
- description of the activity and summary of controls as provided in Section 3 and Section 6.4

The exposure pathway assessment identified only one partially complete exposure pathway; the on-site release of particulates and vapour during chemical mixing and flowback evaporation. The limited number of valid pathways is consistent with the limited size and duration of the proposed activities.

A Tier 2 assessment was conducted on hydrotreated light petroleum distillate, which was classified as a bioaccumulative and toxic substance. As per NICNAS 2017 and DOE 2017 guidance, the Margin of Exposure





# Environment Management Plan

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(MOE) approach was used to assess the health risk to workers. For each occupational activity scenario (i.e. transport and storage, mixing / blending of hydraulic fracturing chemicals, evaporation of flowback and cleaning and maintenance), an MOE was derived by comparing the point of departure (e.g. No Observed Adverse Effects Level [NOAEL]) for long-term health effects from the critical toxicological study to the estimated total human internal dose from all routes of exposure. Based on the calculated MOEs, the chemical is of low concern for workers (refer to individual toxicity profile for further detail). A summary of the Tier 2 risk assessment is provided in Appendix C.

**Table 7: Stimulation Chemical Exposure Pathways.**

Pathway	Controls	Regulatory controls/guidelines	Effectiveness of controls	Scientific certainty	Pathway assessment
Off-lease release via spills - water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compliance with the Petroleum Codes of Practice.</li> <li>2. All chemical storage and handling areas to have appropriate secondary containment.</li> <li>3. Lease pads are banded to contain any major spill of flowback chemicals.</li> <li>4. Offset distances from sensitive receptors (groundwater extraction bores, water courses, homesteads, culturally-sensitive areas and communities).</li> <li>5. Routine inspections are completed to ensure any leaks or spills are prevented or promptly identified.</li> <li>6. Spill Management Plan.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of Practice</b> Part A – Surface Activities A.3.1 Site selection and planning A.3.2 Well pad site selection requirements 3.8 Containment of Contaminants C.7.2 Spill Management Plan</p> <p><b>American Petroleum institute Standards</b> API RP Recommended Practice 100-2 Managing Environmental Aspects Associated with Exploration and Production Operations Including Hydraulic Fracturing Section 13.2: Storage and Management of Fluids and Materials for Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p><b>Australian Standards (AS)</b> AS/NZS 4452: The storage and handling of toxic substances AS1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids AS 3780:2008: The storage and handling of corrosive substances AS/NZS 3833:1998: The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods</p>	High - The use of secondary containment and bunding reduces the probability of an off-lease release via a spill down to 'remote'.	High - The certainty around the use of secondary containment and bunding to prevent spills is well recognised within international spill containment standards and legislation.	Incomplete - Controls in place unlikely to result in any off-site releases.
On-lease release via spill - water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compliance with the Petroleum codes of Practice</li> <li>2. All chemical storage and handling areas to have appropriate secondary containment.</li> <li>3. Routine inspections are completed to ensure any leaks or spills are prevented, promptly identified and rectified.</li> <li>4. Spill Management Plan.</li> <li>5. Lease pads are banded to contain any major spill of flowback chemicals.</li> <li>6. Offset distances from sensitive receptors (groundwater extraction bores, water courses, homesteads, culturally-sensitive areas and communities).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of practice</b> Part A – Surface Activities 3.8 Containment of Contaminants C.7.2 Spill Management Plan</p> <p><b>American Petroleum institute Standards</b> API RP Recommended Practice 100-2 Managing Environmental Aspects Associated with Exploration and production Operations Including Hydraulic Fracturing Section 13.2: Storage and Management of fluids and Materials for Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p><b>Australian Standards (AS)</b> AS/NZS 4452: The storage and handling of toxic substances AS1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids AS 3780:2008: The storage and handling of corrosive substances AS/NZS 3833:1998: The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods</p>	High - The use of secondary containment and bunding reduces the probability of releases.	High - The certainty around the use of secondary containment and bunding to prevent spills is well recognised within international spill containment standards and legislation.	Incomplete - Controls in place unlikely to result in any exposure.
Off-lease release via particulate during mixing and flowback evaporation - Air	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All chemical mixing on-site to comply with the Workplace Health and Safety guidelines for handling of chemicals.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of Practice</b> Part A – Surface Activities 3.8 Containment of Contaminants</p>	High - Legislation controlling the handling of chemicals is mature and standardised across Australia to limit exposure to	High - The certainty around the handling of chemicals is mature and standardised across Australia to limit	Incomplete - The deployment of standard chemical handling procedures to minimise

Pathway	Controls	Regulatory controls/guidelines	Effectiveness of controls	Scientific certainty	Pathway assessment
	<p>2. Chemical transfer and mixing procedures deployed to avoid the generation of dust.</p> <p>3. Chemical mixing location away from lease boundary, with a separation distance of 50m.</p> <p>4. Wind speed and direction sensors deployed with automatic cut-offs to prevent off-site drift from evaporation units.</p>	<p><b>American Petroleum institute Standards</b></p> <p>API RP Recommended Practice 100-2 Managing Environmental Aspects Associated with Exploration and production Operations Including Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p>Section 13.2: Storage and Management of fluids and Materials for Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p><b>Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace Code of Practices 2013</b></p> <p>Section 4- Controlling risk</p> <p><b>Australian Standards (AS)</b></p> <p>AS/NZS 4452: The storage and handling of toxic substances</p> <p>AS1940: The Storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids</p> <p>AS 3780:2008: The storage and handling of corrosive substances</p> <p>AS/NZS 3833:1998: The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods</p>	<p>employees and surrounding receptors.</p>	<p>exposure to employees and surrounding receptors.</p>	<p>dust, combined with separation distance from the lease boundary, is likely to limit off-site releases.</p>
<p>On-lease release via particulate - Air</p>	<p>1. All chemical mixing on-site to comply with the NOHSC guidelines for handling of chemicals.</p> <p>2. Chemical transfer and mixing procedures deployed to avoid the generation of dust.</p> <p>3. Chemical mixing location away from lease boundary, with a separation distance of at least 50m.</p>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of practice</b></p> <p>Part A – Surface Activities</p> <p>3.8 Containment of Contaminants</p> <p><b>American Petroleum institute Standards</b></p> <p>API RP Recommended Practice 100-2 Managing Environmental Aspects Associated with Exploration and production Operations Including Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p>Section 13.2: Storage and Management of fluids and Materials for Hydraulic Fracturing</p> <p><b>Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace Code of Practices 2013</b></p> <p>Section 4- Controlling risk</p> <p><b>Australian Standards (AS)</b></p> <p>AS/NZS 4452: The storage and handling of toxic substances</p> <p>AS1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids</p> <p>AS 3780:2008- The storage and handling of corrosive substances</p> <p>AS/NZS 3833:1998: The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods</p>	<p>High - Legislation controlling the handling of chemicals is mature and standardised across Australia to limit exposure to employees and surrounding receptors.</p>	<p>High - The certainty around the handling of chemicals is mature and standardised across Australia to limit exposure to employees and surrounding receptors.</p>	<p>Partially complete - On-site release of particulate chemicals during handling is potentially complete with human error.</p>
<p>On-lease, wildlife interaction with flowback stored onsite</p>	<p>1. compliance with codes of Practice</p> <p>2. Site fenced to prevent fauna and livestock access to mud sump and flowback tanks</p>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of practice</b></p> <p>Part A – Surface Activities</p> <p>3.8 Containment of Contaminants</p>	<p>High- Access to wastewater is likely to be limited to birds and bats. Literature confirms that birds and bats are unlikely to drink hypersaline wastewater.</p>	<p>Moderate-High- the literature regarding salinity tolerance of vertebrates is mature, with evidence supporting the reduction of bird interactions</p>	<p>Incomplete- likely exposure pathway does not exist as birds and other vertebrates are unlikely to drink hypersaline wastewater.</p>

Pathway	Controls	Regulatory controls/guidelines	Effectiveness of controls	Scientific certainty	Pathway assessment
	<p>3. Flowback stored in enclosed tanks, unless being treated via evaporation.</p> <p>4. Flowback tank wall vertical, with height (&gt;2m) preventing fauna and livestock access</p> <p>5. flowback storage depth and lack of perching areas make it extremely difficult for most birds (such as wading birds and the Gouldian finch) to drink or collect insects from.</p> <p>6. Wastewater is likely abiotic, with limited/no food source present (Griffiths et al, 2009).</p> <p>7. Most higher concern chemicals brought to surface (such as biocides, hydrocarbons and other organics, heavy metals etc.) are present in low concentrations and are likely to be degraded by natural process within the first few days of being brought to surface (through oxidation, UV degradation and microbial processes).</p> <p>8. Flowback is hypersaline and above the upper range for vertebrates (Bartholomew and Cade 1963; Ohmart and Smith, 1970; ANZECC, 1992; Griffiths et al, 2009 ). Literature indicates the salinity of effluent reduces risk of wildlife drinking and subsequent exposure (Smith et al, 2007; Adams et al, 2008; Griffiths et al, 2014).</p> <p>9. Origin has extensive experience with large brine ponds in QLD and has not recorded significant bird mortality despite daily monitoring (including for entrained fauna)7. Daily inspections of tanks and surrounding lease area and monthly inspections of surrounding area for the presence of birds</p> <p>10. use of bird deterrents or netting where monitoring confirms avian/bat interaction (significant bird interactions were not recorded during the Amungee NW-1 program)</p>		<p>Major risk associated with oil and gas pits is from oil, which is not proposed to be stored in open pits is significant quantities.</p> <p>Previous experience with the Amungee NW-1 flowback management did not identify any bird mortalities or activity during operation. No carcasses were identified during the decommissioning of the tank which would be expected if significant bird mortalities were encountered.</p> <p>Similarly, Origin has also not experienced bird mortalities associated with its Brine storages in QLD- which would represent a similar hazard.</p>	<p>with saline wastewater. Origin has experience in operating the Amungee NW-1 flowback tanks and multiple brine ponds within QLD.</p>	<p>Tank wall height will prevent fauna access, whilst lack of perches and depth of water will prevent birds such as Gouldian finches and wading birds from accessing.</p>
Off-site release via transport accident	<p>1. All chemicals and waste products to be transported by licenced contractors in accordance with the NT Dangerous Goods (Roads and Rail) Regulations and NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.</p> <p>2. Legislation, regulations and national standards set out the requirements for the safe transport of chemicals, including for packaging, driver training, safety equipment and vehicle standards. These measures reduce the risk of a spill</p>	<p><b>Petroleum Codes of practice</b> Part A – Surface Activities 3.8 Containment of Contaminants C.7.2 Spill Management Plan</p> <p><b>Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and rail (National Uniform Legislation) regulations 2011</b></p>	<p>High - Legislation controlling the transportation of chemicals and wastes is mature and standardised across Australia.</p>	<p>High - The certainty around the transportation of chemicals and wastes is mature and well understood across Australia.</p>	<p>Incomplete - The probability of exposure via a transport accident is limited via the mature legislative framework in place.</p>

Pathway	Controls	Regulatory controls/guidelines	Effectiveness of controls	Scientific certainty	Pathway assessment
	occurring, or of not being detected and cleaned up if it does occur. 4. Spill Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan				
Subsurface release of chemicals to aquifer	1.Code of Practice requiring multiple strings of casing and cement designed to protect aquifer. 2.Integrity validation of casing and cement barriers prior to completing stimulation. 3. Pressure monitoring during stimulation of both the formation and the B well annulus. 4. Physical separation distance of 1400m between aquifer and target formation prevents any migration of stimulation fluid to aquifer units. 5. 11.4km separation distance between exploration well and closest extraction bores.	<b>Petroleum Codes of practice</b> Part B Well Operations B.4.2 Aquifer protection B.4.3 Well design and well barriers B.4.6 Casing and tubing B.4.10 Drilling fluids B.4.13 Hydraulic Stimulation and flowback Operations B.4.7 Primary cementing B.4.17 Groundwater Monitoring B.5 BTEX Limit	High - The legislation and guidance notes relating to aquifer protection and well integrity are mature with extensive industry experience.	High - High certainty around the effectiveness of controls around the protection of aquifers using industry standard practice.	Incomplete - The probability of contamination of an aquifer from release of stimulation fluid during stimulation is remote and therefore incomplete.
Surface release of chemicals to aquifer	1. Secondary containment to be used to manage all chemicals and wastes handled on-site. 2. Code of Practice requires double-lined tanks with in-built leak detection. 3. Spill Management Plan and Wastewater Management Plan to be implemented. 4. Routine inspections to identify leaks 5. ~50m vertical separation between surface and underlying aquifer. 6. Closest groundwater extraction bore is 11.4km away.	Part A – Surface Activities 3.8 Containment of Contaminants C.7.2 Spill Management Plan  <b>American Petroleum institute Standards</b> API RP Recommended Practice 100-2 Managing Environmental Aspects Associated with Exploration and production Operations Including Hydraulic Fracturing  Section 13.2: Storage and Management of fluids and Materials for Hydraulic Fracturing	High - The controls managing the storage of chemicals and wastes are mature with secondary containment measures limiting potential pathways to receptors.	High - The certainty around the effectiveness of secondary containment in preventing groundwater contamination is mature.	Incomplete - The probability of contamination of an aquifer from release of stimulation fluid is remote and therefore incomplete.

## 3.7 Well Completion and Test Program

Upon finalisation of stimulation activities, the exploration well will be completed and the well testing phase initiated. The well testing program is used to determine the nature, quality and quantity of petroleum products within exploration licenses held by the Beetaloo Joint Venture.

The completion and well testing program for each exploration well proposed under this EMP consists of:

- Completion activities including:
  - o Preparing wellbore for downhole completion equipment
  - o Installation of a production packer and production tubing
  - o Installation of production wellhead
  - o Underbalance wellbore to initiate production of hydrocarbons
- Well Test activities including:
  - o Flowback of fluids and hydrocarbons
  - o Measurement and management of hydrocarbons
  - o Ongoing sampling of flowback and hydrocarbons
  - o Disposal of volatile hydrocarbons via flare
  - o Disposal of liquid hydrocarbons via flare or off-site transportation (including on-site temporary storage)

**Figure 17: Amungee NW-1 Well Testing image. Note, three of the 4 tanks will be enclosed with a working evaporation tank.**



### 3.7.1 Completion and well testing activities

The well site will consist of an exploration well and associated temporary facilities that will be brought onto site to assist in well completion and testing activities. This will include the following:

- Completion rig and associated equipment - installs the production tubing

- Well testing package including:
  - Test separator – separates hydrocarbons from flowback fluid
  - Flare - safe and accepted disposal method of hydrocarbons
  - Surface pipe work and manifolds
  - Emergency Shut Down (ESD) valves
  - Workshops / Storerooms
  - Communications and generator shacks
  - Condensate tanks (if required)
  - Bunded diesel and oil storage areas
- Wastewater (flowback) fluid storage (open-top and covered)
- Water transfer equipment
- Camp

The stimulated well will be 'completed' to enable the flow of hydrocarbons and fluids. Completion activities involve the installation of downhole and surface completion equipment, including production packers and tubing and a wellhead.

To initiate the well testing phase, the well will be underbalanced to allow hydrocarbon and fluid production. It is anticipated that the well will produce both gas and liquids / condensate (i.e. Gas C1-C4 and Liquids C5+). Initially, the flowback will primarily contain HFS fluid and sand utilised in the stimulation process. As the fluid and pressure within the reservoir is reduced, it is anticipated that gas rates will increase. To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the fluid recovery and gas production potential of the target reservoir, the well testing phase may extend from three to 12-months. The current base case for well testing is 3 months.

All flowback fluids and hydrocarbons will be directed through a fully-contained separator on-site. Flowback management is discussed further in Section 3.11.1. The separator will separate out the gases, fluids and solids so that they can be measured and managed.

Any liquid hydrocarbons (condensate) will be separated from the flowback fluid will be combusted in the on-site flare (default option) or sold/ transported offsite (were authorised). Any condensate stored on-site will be within designation double-lined storage tanks as per the relevant Australian Standards (Australian Standards 1692 Steel Tanks for flammable and combustible liquids).

After the well test, the well may be shut-in to complete a pressure build-up test to further characterise the respective reservoirs for a period of up to 12-months. Upon finalisation of the build-up test, the well will be suspended.

An overview of the well testing equipment layout is provided in Figure 18 and Figure 22.

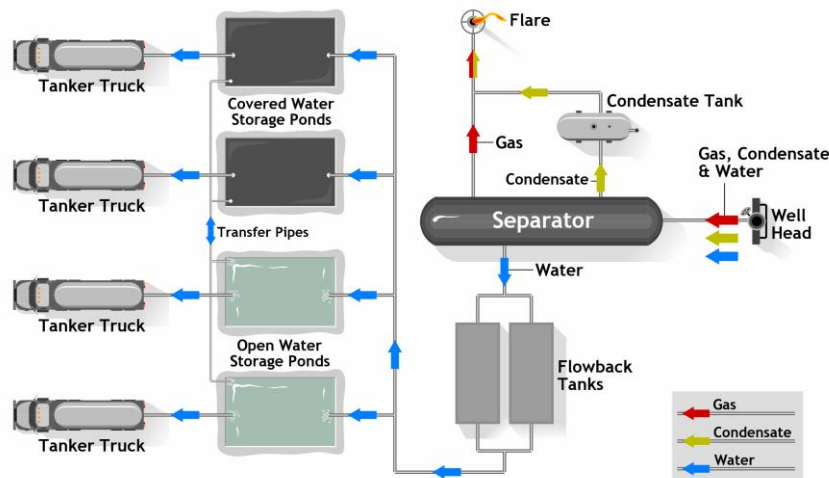


Figure 18: Sample well test schematic.

## Controls:

- ✓ All well testing operations will be undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP.
- ✓ The nearest receptor (homestead) is approximately 50km away from activity.
- ✓ All produced hydrocarbons will be measured and either flared or transported off-site for sale / disposal.
- ✓ A 'Reduced Emission Completion' will be utilised in accordance with the United States EPA New Source Performance Standards and NT Petroleum CoP.
- ✓ All flares will be designed to meet the requirements of the NT Petroleum CoP including:
  - Continuous ignition systems.
  - 98% combustion efficiency as per USEPA standards.
  - Bushfire risk management plan implemented.
  - Separation distances from sensitive places and combustible material.
- ✓ A Wastewater Management Plan will be developed and implemented.
- ✓ All flowback will be sent to hybrid tank systems with leak detection.
- ✓ Open tanks are to have enough freeboard in accordance with the NT Petroleum Code of Practice.
- ✓ Covered tanks with sufficient storage volume on location to be utilised during wet season.
- ✓ All flowback to be transferred to enclosed / covered tanks within 72-hours when a significant rainfall event is predicted.
- ✓ Flowback volumes are to be reduced by natural or enhanced evaporation.
- ✓ Flowback to be transported off-site by a licenced transport operator to an approved facility.
- ✓ A Spill Management Plan is to be developed and implemented.
- ✓ Condensate will be stored within designation double-lined storage tanks as per AS 1940.
- ✓ Any waste oil will be stored and transported off-site in accordance with the requirements in the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.
- ✓ A Methane Management Plan will be Implemented Appendix P.
- ✓ A Bushfire Management Plan (Appendix Q) and Emergency Response Plan (Appendix R) shall be developed and implemented.

### 3.7.2 Flaring

During well testing, all produced gas and liquids will be flared onsite. Two flares will be utilised, with a dedicated vertical flare used to manage gas and a horizontal flare used to manage condensate.

The vertical flare will be an American Petroleum Industry (API) 537 and a US EPA AP 42 compliant unit, with a 98% combustion efficiency. The vertical flare will have a constant pilot flame, with an autoignition system that provides electrical impulses to a spark plug continuously. If the flare was to go out, the spark would ignite the flare within 1.3 seconds. Refer Figure 19 for an overview of the vertical flare.



A separate horizontal flare will be utilised to combust condensate produced during well testing. The horizontal flare will be equipped with 3 independent nozzles, with a maximum flaring capacity of 3000 barrels/burner per day (see Figure 20) . The horizontal flare will be located in a 20mx 10m clay lined flume. Flares will be located at least 45m from the surrounding vegetation.

Condensate will be stored onsite within storage tanks and batch flared daily. Based on anticipated condensate production volumes, the flaring of condensate is likely to be restricted to 0.5 hours to 1 hour per day. During condensate flaring, a water curtain will be utilised to dampen the flare flame and reduce heat radiation. The water curtain water usage is anticipated to be between 7500- 15000L per day. All water collected during this period will be collected in the flare flume and either re-used or periodically transferred into wastewater storage tanks onsite. The flare flume will be designed to overflow into the adjacent drilling sump if necessary.

The horizontal flare unit will also have a continuous flare pilot burner and auto ignition system to ignite any condensate that is sent to the flare during well testing.

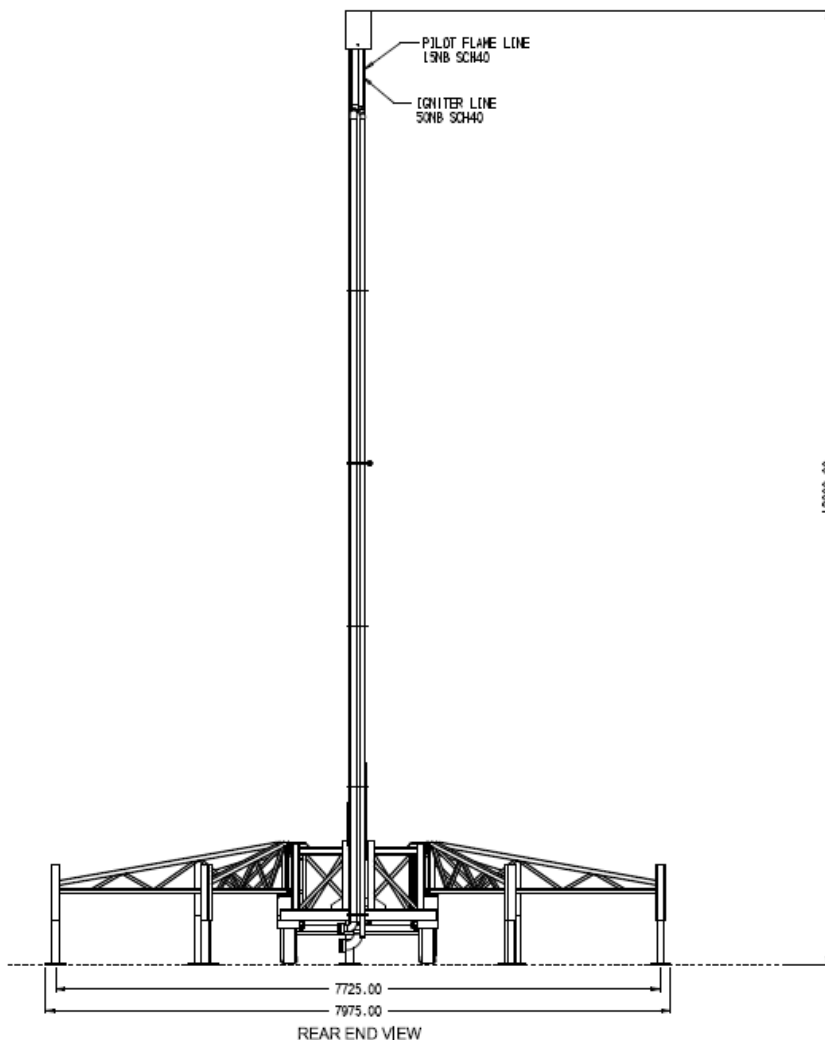


Figure 19 Vertical flare schematic



Figure 20 Horizontal flare set up

### Controls:

- ✓ All flares will be designed to meet the requirements of the NT Petroleum CoP including:
  - Continuous ignition systems.
  - 98% combustion efficiency as per USEPA standards.
  - Bushfire risk management plan implemented.
  - 45m separation distances from sensitive places and combustible material (such as vegetation).
- ✓ Flume to be clay lined with a 300mm compacted clay liner. A cement cloth liner under the clay liner may also be used to prevent water infiltration.
- ✓ Earthen berm located at the rear of the flare to contain flame and reduce heat radiation
- ✓ Any waste oil will be skimmed from the flare flume (if present) during condensate flaring will be removed and stored in waste oil tanks prior to off-site transportation to a licenced waste facility (in accordance with the Waste Management and Pollution control Act)
- ✓ All wastewater will be collected periodically and sent to an enclosed wastewater tank.
- ✓ The clay liner will be tested and removed from site and disposed of at a licenced facility This may include an interstate facility.
- ✓ The flare flume will be designed to overflow directly into the mud sump to ensure it has sufficient freeboard to manage a 1:1000 ARI wet season event. The design will not reduce the freeboard of the mud sump.
- ✓ The Bushfire Management Plan (Appendix Q) and Emergency Response Plan (Appendix R) will be implemented.
- ✓ All water collected from the flare flume will be captured and transferred to the wastewater tanks.

### 3.7.3 Condensate tanks

Any produced condensate will be separated and stored in double skinned tanks compliant with Australian Standards 1692 Steel Tanks for flammable and combustible liquids. It is anticipated that up to 4 x 500Barrel tanks will be utilised to store condensate onsite. All tanks will have vents designed to reduce the risk of over pressurisation.

An example of a condensate tanks is provided in Figure 21.



Figure 21 Example of condensate storage tanks (image provided for indicative purposes only)

#### Controls:

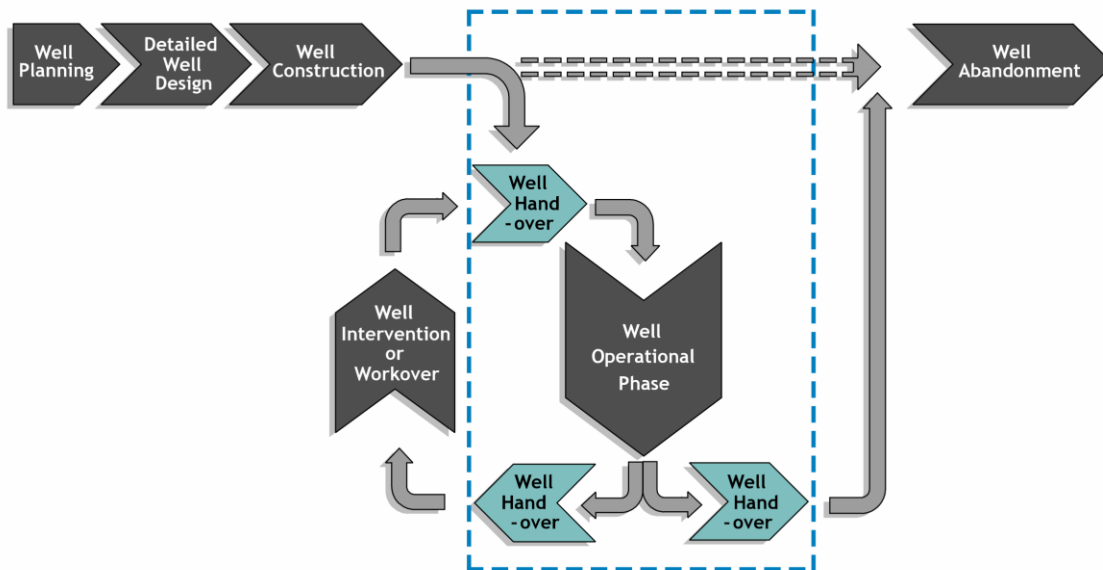
- ✓ Condensate will be stored within designated double-lined storage tanks prior to being flared in batches
- ✓ Any waste oil will be stored and transported off-site in accordance with the requirements in the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act.
- ✓ All tanks will be appropriately vented to eliminate over pressurisation and mitigate the risk of explosion due to vapour explosion
- ✓ Condensate levels will be monitored through flow meters from the triple phase separator and manually checked using a dip and site glass
- ✓ Waste oily water not suitable for flaring will be stored in separate double skinned tanks for offsite



**Figure 22: Amungee NW-1 Well Testing image. Note, three of the 4 tanks will be enclosed with a working evaporation tank.**

### 3.8 Ongoing monitoring and well integrity management

Following construction, a well enters its operational phase (Figure 23) and typically an Operations team would take accountability of the well at this point. The Operations Team have a separate, complimentary standard to manage integrity, known as the Well Integrity Management Plan (WIMP). The WIMP defines monitoring, maintenance and integrity testing requirements and frequencies, as well as well integrity assurance activities and ultimately forms a part of the WOMP. Well barriers are tested and pressures monitored regularly to ensure their performance over the lifecycle of the well.



**Figure 23: Well lifecycle with operational phase highlighted where well integrity monitoring is a key activity.**

Information from all Origin wells is gathered and stored in a database and made available to key technical staff via a software tool called a Well Integrity Management System (WIMS). WIMS contains information such as wellhead and production valve maintenance results, annular and tubing pressures, well operating windows, key well information and historical well integrity data and maintenance. WIMS is used in the identification and assurance of the integrity of each individual well and also outlines the well integrity status for each well.

Remediation of well integrity anomalies could include well integrity barrier replacements - i.e. valves, tubing, and / or barrier remediation, such as casing patches and cement squeezes to ensure pressure isolation. If remediation does not prove to be a feasible option, plugging and decommissioning operations will be considered to ensure well integrity.

**Controls:**

- ✓ All exploration wells are covered under a WIMS.
- ✓ All well integrity barriers are routinely inspected and verified.
- ✓ Remediation activities are initiated where the integrity of a barrier is jeopardised.

### 3.9 Well suspension and decommissioning

Once all drilling and testing has been completed, the exploration well will either be suspended or plugged and decommissioned. The fundamental difference between the two being that suspended wells can be re-entered later for further down-hole activities. If the well is decommissioned, cement plugs will be installed as permanent barriers to flow prior to cutting off the wellhead. The cement plugs will be set and tested as per Origin Standards and Section B.4.15.2 of the NT Petroleum CoP. If the well is suspended, the barriers are, at a minimum, cemented casing and a wellhead. Whilst the well is suspended, pressures on the well will be continuously monitored as per Origin's Well Integrity Management System (WIMS) to confirm well integrity is intact.

## Controls:

- ✓ All wells are covered under a WIMS.
- ✓ Each well will have an approved WIMP.
- ✓ Cement plugs will be utilised to isolate each aquifer unit as per Section B.4.15.2 of the NT Petroleum CoP.
- ✓ Pressure testing will be undertaken to confirm zonal isolation.

## 3.10 Well Operation Management Plan (WOMP)

The WOMP provides a key overview of how Origin plans to design, drill, stimulate, test and decommission the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well in a manner that ensures all risk to the environment are reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and acceptable. A summary for how Origin proposes to address the relevant requirements of the Code of Practice and WOMP are provided in Appendix T.

## 3.11 Wastewater Management

A project-wide Wastewater Management Plan (WWMP) has been developed to manage wastewater generated under this EMP. The WWMP has been developed in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP and covers the following wastewater streams:

- Drilling fluids, muds and cuttings
- Stimulation fluids
- Completion and kill fluids
- Produced fluids

The WWMP covers the following information on the management of wastewater during Origin's exploration activities:

- Storage, handling and disposal requirements for wastewater, including the requirement for flowback tanks
- Spill management and response requirements
- Prohibited reinjection or surface disposal of wastewater

The following section provides an overview of the wastewater management strategy, with further information provided in the Wastewater Management Plan attached in Appendix E.

### 3.11.1 Drilling fluids

All drilling fluids, including cuttings and muds, will be directed to the mud sumps on-site, constructed under the Velkerri S2 Civil Construction EMP NT-2050-15-MP-031.

It is anticipated that approximately 750m<sup>3</sup> of mud and cuttings will be generated from the proposed exploration well. Drilling fluids are saline, with sodium and potassium-based salts used as a weighting agent and formation inhibitor. Hydrocarbons and metals from the encountered formation may also be present.

Drilling muds and cuttings will be allowed to settle, with the fluid allowed to evaporate.

An overview of the anticipated sump design is provided in Appendix A. The sump surface will be rolled and compacted, with a Coletanche liner installed. Coletanche is a composite liner consisting of five different layers composing of:

- A highly-resistant anti-root film able to withstand puncturing by vegetation or rough substrates
- Glass fleece which ensures dimensional stability
- A non-woven geotextile reinforced structure which is highly-resistant to tearing, and puncturing
- An elastomeric bitumen binder ensures that the geotextile is waterproof and resistant to ageing

- A coating of sand ensures that workers can move on the surface in all weather conditions in order to carry out maintenance work. It also provides a rough surface which allows coverage of the membrane by soil

The Coletanche liner product data sheet is provided in Appendix A. Coletanche was selected based upon the following:

- Easily installed and shaped to fit sump geometry
- High resistance to tearing / puncturing and to hydrostatic pressures
- Low water permeability, with a  $6.10^{-14}$  m/s permeability
- Can withstand high temperature fluctuations

Upon the completion of drilling activities for each proposed well, the material within the sump will be dried out and disposed of prior to the onset of the wet season. The solid material will be tested, with an independent third-party determining whether the material is suitable to be disposed of on the lease pad using a 'mix-bury-cover' approach (as per the NT Petroleum CoP, NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 and National Environment Protection Site Contamination Assessment) measure. 'Mix, bury and cover' involves the mixing of dried drilling waste material with the soil located within the drilling sump batters, to reduce the concentration of any potential contaminants. The material is then track-rolled and approximately 300mm of clean material placed over the top. An additional 150mm of topsoil is added to the sump upon remediation of the entire lease site. DENR will be consulted if onsite disposal is proposed.

If the material is unsuitable for on-site disposal (such as the moisture content is too high or the material is incompatible with surrounding soils), the material may be left in-situ across the wet season to allow for the material to dry during the subsequent dry season or be transported off-site. Off-site disposal will be undertaken in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998. It is anticipated that if on-site disposal is not feasible, that all material will be transported off-site to a licenced facility prior to the 2020 wet season.

All fluids collected in the sumps will be evaporated to reduce the volume down to as low as possible. The residual concentrated liquid waste stream will be disposed of off-site at a licenced facility in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.

The sumps will be operated with sufficient freeboard available to accommodate the total rainfall anticipated based on a 1:1000-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) wet season for the duration the sump is in operation. As per the calculations within the WWMP (Appendix E), this equates to a 1.3M freeboard level. Any rainwater that has come into contact with contaminants in the sump will be collected and disposed of in accordance with the WWMP.

Wastewater volumes within the mud sumps will be monitored daily during operations. Once drilling has finished, sump levels will be monitored weekly during the dry season and daily during the wet season. The wastewater balance and storage curves will be updated to ensure sufficient freeboard in compliance with the Codes of Practice.

#### Controls:

- ✓ Mud sumps will be lined - based upon the site-specific geotechnical investigation.
- ✓ Drilling fluids will be segregated from drilling muds and cuttings to reduce chloride levels.
- ✓ Residual muds will be tested and mixed, buried and covered if deemed safe to do so.
- ✓ Mud sumps will be designed and operated with sufficient freeboard to accommodate the total rainfall anticipated for the duration and season) it is open (based on a 1:1000-year ARI over that period).

#### 3.11.2 Flowback

Production from the Velkerri formation is anticipated to be composed of formation reservoir hydrocarbons only, with an absence of movable indigenous water from the reservoir due to a combination of the extremely low reservoir permeabilities and clay adsorption effects. Origin anticipates that a potential load fluid recovery of between 20-80% of injected stimulation fluid over the well testing duration. This may equate to 4-16 ML of flowback fluid to be recovered.

The quality of flowback is expected to be similar to that encountered during the Amungee NW-1 well test. It is likely the flowback will be saline, which is directly influenced by the chemical composition of the shale formation. A summary of the anticipated water quality of the wastewater is provided in Table 8. Geogenic chemicals requiring careful management include salts (predominantly sodium chloride, metals (primarily boron and barium)

and hydrocarbons. BTEX, phenolic compounds, radionuclides and Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are either not anticipated, or likely to be present at low concentrations.

**Table 8: Anticipated flowback quality based on Amungee NW-1H flowback results.**

Parameter	Flow back levels
BTEX compounds	BTEX levels are anticipated to be low. Total BTEX levels in the Amungee NW-1H flowback ranged between 2 and 15 µg/L.
Total nitrogen (as N)	Maximum value of 62.1mg/l observed within flowback.
Salinity (TDS)	Saline with total dissolved solids level exceeding 49,000mg/L.
pH	Slightly acidic with a median value of 6.74.
Major ions	Amungee NW-1H flowback predominantly Na and Cl dominated.
Dissolved metals	All detected dissolved metal concentrations within the Amungee NW-1H well were low with the exception of Barium and Boron which were reported at a maximum level of 54.5mg/l and 80.1 mg/l respectively.
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	All values in Amungee NW-1H flowback below laboratory Limit of Detection (LOD).
Petroleum Hydrocarbons	All fractions of TPH are anticipated to be elevated.
Phenolic Compounds	Low level of phenolic compounds detected in Amungee NW-1H flowback.
Radionuclides	Maximum Gross Alpha Activity and Gross Beta Activity of 12.4Bq/L and 18.3Bq/L encountered in the flowback. The primary component being Radium-226.

All flowback fluids will be stored in above-ground enclosed tanks and managed in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP. These tanks will be:

- The primary wastewater storage tank with enough enclosed storage onsite to manage all current and predicted wastewater volumes
- double lined with leak detection capable of detecting leaks between the primary and secondary liner.
- designed to meet the worst case environmental (ambient temperature, rainfall, bushfires and wind speed) conditions likely to be encountered at the site.
- Designed and operated to prevent uncontrolled discharge from multiple tanks should one fail
- Be designed to prevent the risk of build-up of explosive gasses.

Four (4) wastewater storage tanks will be utilised for the program, each with an anticipated storage volume of 3.2ML per tank. As well testing is anticipated to commence in the early dry season (late April to June), two (2) of these tanks will be covered, with the remaining two (2) tanks being open tanks used for wastewater treatment (evaporation). As the volume of flowback volume decreases, 1 of the enclosed tanks may have its covers removed to treatment tank (noting there must always be enough enclosed storage onsite to manage all wastewater). The process for constructing these tanks is provided in section 3.5.3.

For enclosed tanks, a cover will be installed with stormwater diversion and collection points. All clean stormwater will be removed from the top of the liner and discharge to grade or re-used. To reduce the risk of vapour build up, T-vents will be used to allow any entrained gas to escape. A schematic of the proposed pond covers and vent is provided in Figure 26.

Wastewater treatment tanks will be utilised onsite as the primary waste treatment method to reduce wastewater volumes prior to offsite disposal. These tanks will be open tanks, designed to evaporate wastewater to limit the requirement for offsite trucking. Based on the strong water deficit or the region, evaporation is the most suitable and safest method to reduce the volume of wastewater requiring prior to offsite disposal.

The operating plan for the working evaporation tanks are provided in the WWMP (Appendix E). in summary the wastewater treatment tanks will be operated in accordance with the following philosophy:



- Evaporation tanks must not be the primary storage tank, with the enclosed tanks being the primary storage tank.
- Enough covered storage must be present onsite to manage all wastewater stored onsite.
- Mechanical enhanced evaporators will be utilised within the evaporation tanks to maximise evaporation rates.
- All wastewater within open working evaporation tanks will be transferred to enclosed storage at least 8 hours before the onset of a significant rainfall event
- Operated with enough freeboard to manage the entire rainfall from of an entire 1:1000 ARI wet or dry season (depending on when the activities are being undertaken) - as specified in the WWMP, this equates to a minimum 1.3M of freeboard for the wet season and 300mm for the dry season..



**Figure 24: Covered water storage example.**

Mechanical enhanced evaporators will be utilised in each wastewater treatment tank to enhance natural evaporation. It is anticipated that up three evaporator units will be deployed on each tank, with a combined water treatment rate of up to 550L/minute. An estimated diesel consumption of 13L/hour will be required whilst in operation. To mitigate the drift of wastewater outside of the tank, the units will have an automated wind speed and direction cut-off mechanism to stop operations during periods of moderate wind. The exact wind speed cut-off will be determined during the installation of the units and tested with fresh water. This proposed approach was used successfully utilised during the flowback operations at the Amungee NW-1H well.

Where a significant rainfall event is predicted (defined as a 300mm rainfall event predicted over 4 days as per the WWMP), the total volume of flowback stored on-site will be transferred to the covered storage tanks 8 hours prior to the onset of the event. The 7 day Bureau of Meteorology 4 day total rain forecast (<http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp>) will be reviewed daily to identify periods of significant rainfall. This type of rainfall level is consistent with that from a significant rainfall event; such as a monsoonal trough, tropical low or a cyclone.

Origin will have up to six (6) x 6-inch transfer pumps onsite capable of transferring up to 23ML/day each. The onsite pumping capacity is significantly more than the total worst case volume of wastewater that will be stored onsite. Commencement time to begin transfer the flowback fluid will be selected to ensure that it is completed at least 8 hours prior to the predicted commencement of the significant rainfall event.

Monitoring of wastewater levels within sumps and tanks will be undertaken least daily during drilling and well testing, with wastewater pond storage curves compiled and updated to track wastewater volumes onsite. Each wastewater tank will be equipped with level sensors to monitor the fluid volumes real time. Automated cut off sensors will also be deployed to ensure wastewater tank levels do not exceed the safe operating level and 1:1000 ARI freeboard requirements. Where freeboard requirements are exceeded, well operations will cease in accordance with the response criteria outlined in the WWMP.

Monitoring of flowback quality will be undertaken in accordance with Section 3.25. It is also anticipated that independent external testing will also be undertaken by CSIRO and the Australian Government's Geological and Bioregional Assessment program. This third party sampling will look into the specific chemical reactions of stimulation fluid and geogenic (formation) sourced contaminants.

In the event of a catastrophic failure of a tank, all wastewater will be contained within the bunded site. The earthen bund will be designed to contain ~21ML of wastewater (with bund approximately 1m bund around the entire site) to accommodate the entire volume of up to 3 tanks if they were to fail simultaneously (highly improbable). Where a tank fails, water will be pumped from the bund into the available waste storage tanks

onsite. In such a case, the exploration well would be shut in and the regulator notified as per the SPMP. A site assessment and rehabilitation strategy would be developed in alignment with Schedule A of the national Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure.

When the wastewater tanks are decommissioned, the associated residual solids, brines and liners are removed and disposed of at an appropriately-licensed waste disposal facility. Any remaining flowback fluid will be transported by road to a licenced disposal facility. It is anticipated that all flowback will be sent interstate, with a number of providers available to manage the waste (such as Westrex in Jackson, Qld). All interstate transfers of controlled wastes will require an interstate / territory consignment authority to authorise the movement of waste between administration boundaries.

With the reductions in onsite wastewater volumes through enhanced evaporation, It is anticipated that approximately 0.5ML of residual flowback will be transported off-site prior to the commencement of the 2020 wet season.

### Control summary:

- ✓ Flowback will be managed in accordance with the Wastewater Management Plan (refer Appendix E).
- ✓ Flowback to be stored in double-lined tanks
- ✓ Tanks are not interconnected to prevent multiple tank failure
- ✓ Tanks to have leak detection capable of detecting leaks through the primary barrier.
- ✓ Covered tanks will be used to store all wastewater. Sufficient storage will be available at all times to accommodate all flowback fluids on location.
- ✓ Tanks and liners will be designed and constructed to meet the environmental conditions of the NT
- ✓ Open treatment tanks will be used to reduce wastewater volumes
- ✓ All open tanks will be operated with a minimum freeboard in accordance with the NT Petroleum CoP. This equates to 1.3m of wet season freeboard and 0.3m of dry season freeboard.
- ✓ Clean stormwater water (EC <1000us/cm) collected in any empty open-top tanks or on the covers of enclosed tanks will be used for dust suppression on roads or lease pads or released to grade in a controlled manner.
- ✓ Level testing of on-site wastewater storage will be undertaken daily, with the well test operations being manned during the day.
- ✓ The site will have enough enclosed tank storage capacity to manage all wastewater volumes stored onsite
- ✓ Flowback activities will be suspended (i.e. the well will be shut in) if the total volume of flowback stored on-site exceeds 95% of the available usable covered tank storage capacity.
- ✓ Mechanical evaporation activities will be undertaken in a manner that minimises off-site drift, including locating the units with regards to the prevailing wind direction, the site being constantly manned and the use of wind direction and speed auto cut-offs.
- ✓ All residual wastewater will be removed from site and disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility.
- ✓ Lease pads compacted to an average 100kpa with the lease pad material containing a mixture of silt, clay and gravel. Predicted permeability (based on type of material present) exceeds  $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{m/s}$
- ✓ All offsite listed waste disposal will occur via licenced contractors with the volume of waste tracked as per the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act.

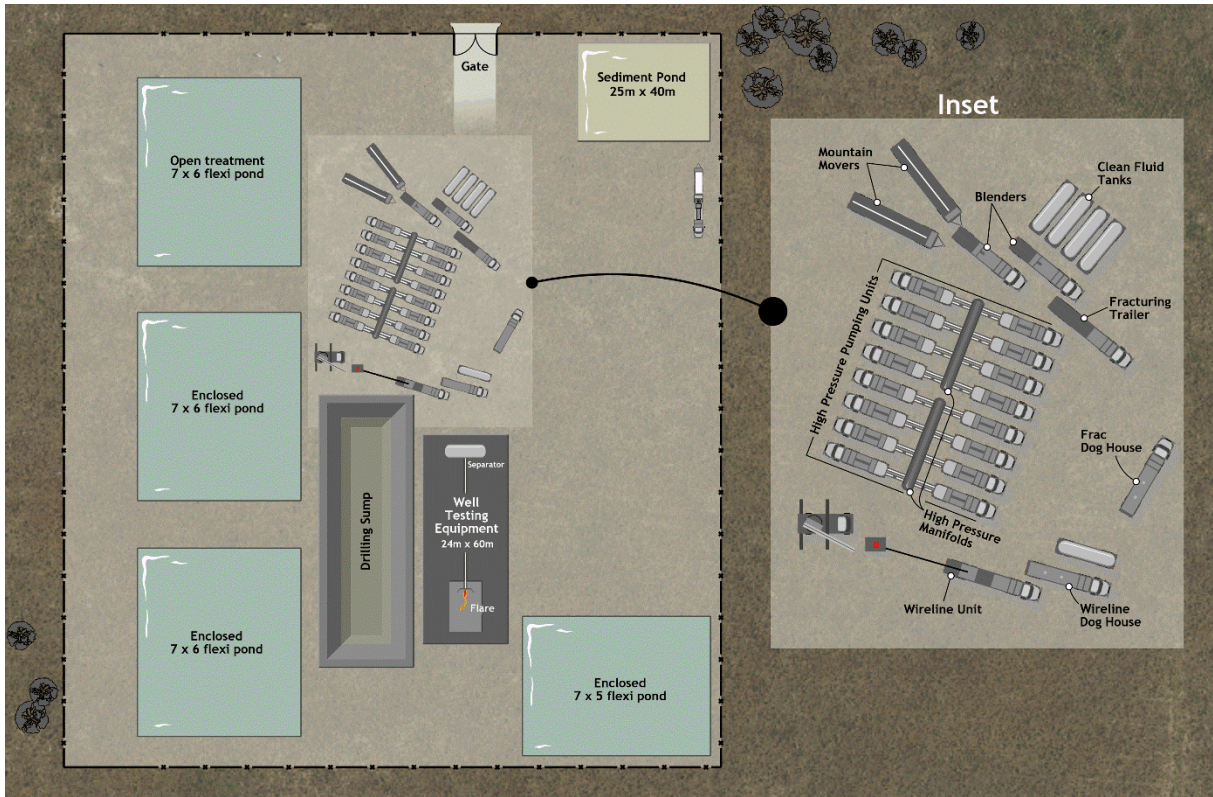
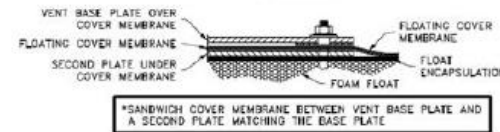
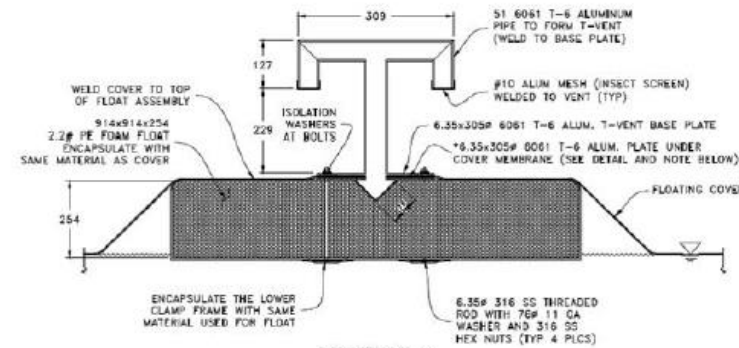
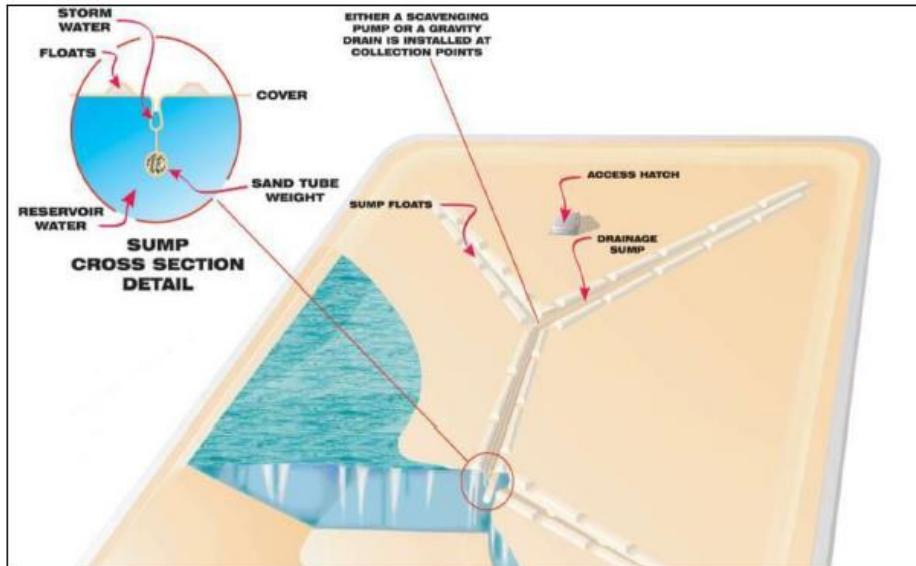


Figure 25: anticipated wastewater tank configuration schematic



## Cross Section of T-Vent

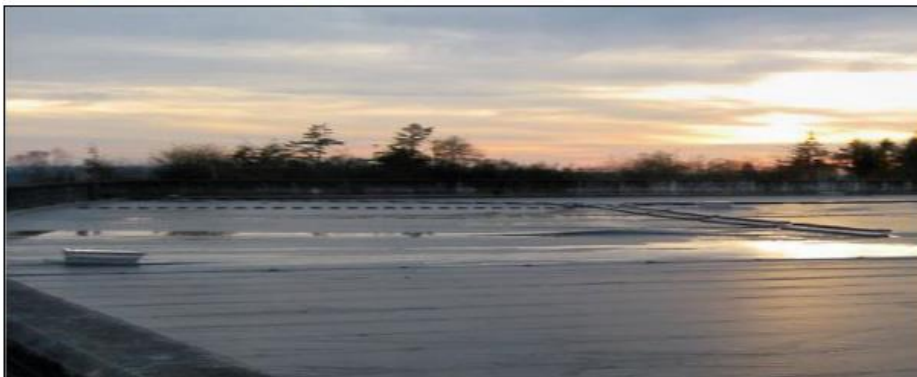


Figure 26: Covered water storage schematic, with stormwater drains and vent.

### 3.11.3 Fauna and bird access

The use of open evaporation tanks has the potential to represent a risk to fauna (including birds) if accessed and/or consumed. The potential risk of exposure to fauna, including birds, is considered low. Factors likely to reduce bird interactions are:

- The salinity of the water is the main deterrent, with the salinity of the water beyond the limit of most vertebrates
- NaCl is the dominant contaminant, with heavy metals, organics and biocides likely to be reduced through oxidation and precipitation, UV degradation, and microbial degradation.
- The wastewater is abiotic, with an absence of food sources for birds and fauna;
- The wastewater tanks and sumps are unlikely to contain free oil, which is the main cause of bird deaths in oil fields;
- Noise and light from flaring and equipment operation likely to deter bird and bat activity in the immediate vicinity of the lease pad
- The lease pad is fenced to prevent livestock and fauna access to site
- Tanks have vertical walls with no clear access points for fauna
- wastewater depth prevents wading bird access
- an absence of perches or beaches to facilitate bird access
- Site will be manned during well testing operations

The Hypersalinity of the Beetaloo flow back water is likely to be the main factor that reduces the potential exposure to birds and fauna. The wastewater is hypersaline, with total dissolved solids (TDS) > 49,000 mg/L. It is well documented that birds, insects and mammals are unable to drink hypersaline water greater than 46,000 mg/L TDS (Bartholomew and Cade 1963; Ohmart and Smith, 1970; ANZECC, 1992; Griffiths et al, 2009). The salinity of the wastewater is likely to reduce the palatability of the wastewater, thus reducing the potential exposure of fauna, including birds to wastewater. This has been documented within the Gold industry, where studies have identified links between the hypersalinity of wastewater with reduced bird mortality associated with cyanide ecotoxicity (Adams *et al* 2013, Adams *et al* 2008, Griffiths *et al* 2009a and Griffiths *et al* 2009b)

The wastewater is also abiotic, with no aquatic macroinvertebrate food source present. This lack of aquatic food source is understood to be a protective mechanism by reducing wildlife foraging in hypersaline environments (Griffiths et al, 2009a). Other food sources, such as insects flying over the flow back tanks may attract insectivorous bats and some birds, which then feed upon in the insects in the airspace above the flow back tanks. However, as stated above, it is considered extremely unlikely that insectivorous bats and birds will drink from hypersaline wastewater (Smith et al, 2007; Adams et al, 2008; Griffiths et al, 2009a). Furthermore, it is unlikely that flying insects will drink from the flow back water, given the expected salinity, which reduces the potential for any food-chain transfer effects between the insects and insectivorous birds and bats.

Monitoring of flowback storages and surrounding areas will be implemented to document the interaction of fauna with wastewater and identify any mortalities within the wastewater storages and the area surrounding the lease pad. These programs include:

- Remote motion cameras to detect fauna movements; The program is designed to demonstrate the risk to fauna associated with wastewater storage is low. The program will involve the installation of up to 12 remote cameras surrounding the perimeter of the lease to detect fauna passage onto the site stimulation and wastewater storage activities (up to 12 months). The program will be designed in consultation with DENR and in alignment with "A guide for the use of remote cameras for wildlife survey in northern Australia (Gillespie *et al* 2015)
- Fauna (including bird) interactions and mortalities will be recorded as per the following:
  - Ad hoc bird and fauna observations to be taken around wastewater storages
  - Daily checks for bird carcasses
  - Weekly checks for fauna mortalities immediately surrounding the lease pad (within 50m) will be checked
  - Carcasses present during tank emptying and decommissioning.

Where ongoing bird or fauna mortalities are identified, additional controls shall be implemented in consultation with DENR. These may include the use of bird deterrents and netting to prevent wastewater interaction. Ongoing bird or fauna mortality is defined as >7 carcasses per week for 2 consecutive weeks or >1 endangered fauna species.

## Controls:

- ✓ Salinity of wastewater likely to be main control preventing fauna exposure of wastewater
- ✓ Monitoring of fauna and bird interactions with wastewater will be undertaken as per the following:
  - Ad hoc bird and fauna observations to be taken around wastewater storages
  - Daily checks for fauna mortality
  - Weekly checks for fauna mortalities immediately surrounding the lease pad (within 50m)
  - Fauna remains present during tank emptying and decommissioning.
- ✓ Where ongoing bird or fauna mortalities are identified, additional controls shall be implemented in consultation with DENR. These may include the use of bird deterrents and netting to prevent wastewater interaction.

### 3.11.4 Site process water balance

A water balance has been prepared summarising the anticipated volumes of water to be used and volumes of wastewater that is expected to be generated, stored and disposed of offsite. An overview of the water balance is provided in Figure 27 and in Table 10.

The water balance includes the water used for and wastewater generated from the following main processes:

- Drilling
- Stimulation
- Well testing
- Dust suppression; and
- Camps

The water balance has used the observed average monthly rainfall and evaporation rates for the region to calculate the rainfall inputs and evaporation outputs from the open tanks. It also assumes a conservative (high) flowback recovery value of 50%. Based upon Amungee NW-1 results, the expected recovery rates are likely to be closer to 30%.

With the use of 2 enclosed tanks and 2 treatment (evaporation) tanks, approximately 0.5ML of residual flowback water will be disposed of offsite upon finalisation of well testing activities in October 2020.

### 3.11.5 Stormwater

Stormwater will be managed in accordance with the following:

- The lease pad will be designed to divert stormwater around the lease pad to prevent contamination.
- Stormwater falling on the lease site will be segregated from drilling and stimulation chemical storage and handling areas to minimise contamination.
- Stormwater collected in bunds will be visibly inspected for contamination post rainfall events and discharged to the lease surface if uncontaminated. If signs of contamination are present, stormwater will be removed from the bunds and either recycled within the drilling and stimulation process or stored in a wastewater tank and removed from site in accordance with Table 9.
- A sediment basin will be installed to capture all stormwater falling on the lease pad.
- During drilling and stimulation activities where the risk of off-site release of wastewater is low (due to the low volume of drilling and stimulation fluids retained onsite during these activities), a 'first flush' system will be implemented where the first 20mm of run-off is retained. This run-off is most likely to contain any contaminants from the site. The additional rainfall above 20mm will be allowed to be diverted off-site via a dedicated spill point.
- When flowback is being stored on-site, all stormwater will be retained with the water backing up into the lease rather than flowing off-site. This is to ensure the system can retain any flowback tank failure event.
- Stormwater collected in the sediment basin during drilling, stimulation and well testing will be tested prior to release / re-use in accordance with Section 3.16.



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- Clean stormwater that meets the quality outlined in Table 9 will be discharged off-site or re-used for dust suppression.
- Where the water is visibly turbid, a sediment sock will be used to remove sediment from the release.
- All stormwater above the specified limit will be captured and either recycled within the drilling and stimulation process or disposed of in accordance with Table 9.
- Once all work on the site has ceased and all contaminant sources have been removed from the lease pad, the stormwater system will be:
  - **Where the well is to be suspended and well pad kept in place:** turned into a passive system with the primary purpose of reducing sediment loads. The first flush (20mm) of stormwater run-off will be retained and allowed to naturally evaporate. The remaining stormwater will be directed off-site.
  - **Well and lease pad is to be rehabilitated:** the retention system is to be removed and rehabilitated in accordance with Section 3.26

**Table 9: Stormwater release and re-use limits.**

Monitoring Parameter	Release limit	Limit basis
<b>Off-site release</b>		
Electrical conductivity	650us/cm	ANZEC Guidelines: irrigation water salinity ratings for sensitive crops.
pH	6.5-9.5	Background surface water quality data.
<b>Dust Suppression</b>		
Electrical conductivity	1300us/cm	ANZEC Guidelines: irrigation water salinity ratings for moderately sensitive crops. The higher limit is reflective of the lower sensitivity of the road as a receptor.

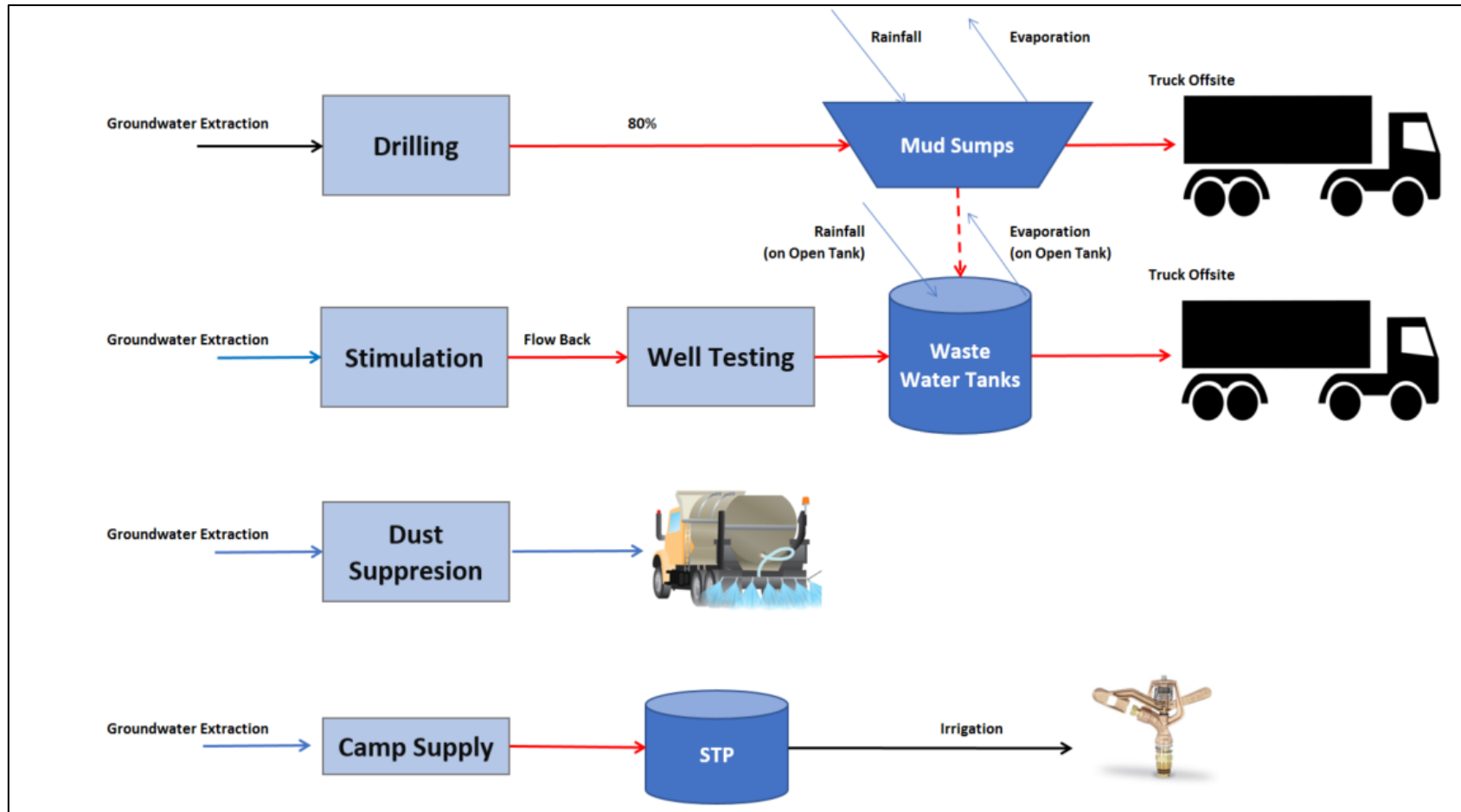


Figure 27 Site water balance summary





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Table 10 Site process water balance by activity

Summary		2020										
	Month	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Raw Water Usage</b>												
Drilling	ML	0.0	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Stimulation	ML	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sub Total	ML	0.0	2.6	2.6	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Camp	ML	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Dust suppression	ML	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Total	ML	0.6	3.9	4.0	17.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.7	0.2	0.2	
<b>Wastewater Generated</b>												
Drilling	ML	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Stimulation	ML	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
<b>Wastewater Storage</b>												
Mud Sumps (free only)	ML	0.1	0.9	1.7	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Waste Water Tanks	ML	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	4.4	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total Waste Water	ML	0.1	0.9	1.7	4.2	4.4	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## 3.12 Geohazards and Seismicity

Operators are incentivised to avoid major faults as they can represent hazards to both drilling and stimulation operations. Geohazards are assessed via the following steps:

- **Locating exploration well:** Origin has more than 9500km of 2D data available which is used to screen for large scale, regional faults or structures prior to the finalisation of any exploration well location. The data for Origin's broader Beetaloo exploration area indicates there are very few major faults present and that the strata within the Basin (i.e. away from the steep flanks) are relatively gently dipping.
- **Geohazard assessment post drilling:** Prior to completing stimulation, geological data is analysed to determine the presence of minor and major faults which may pose a hazard to stimulation activities. Where faulting is encountered during the drilling of the horizontal section of the well, a risk assessment is undertaken to determine whether stimulation activities can occur safely. In some instances, location of stimulation stages along the wellbore may need to be moved / removed, to isolate the feature encountered.
- **Real-time monitoring of pressure during stimulation:** Pressure data provides a tool to prevent fault activation and fluid / pressure communication out of the target interval. If anomalous pressure behaviour is observed, stimulation operations can be ceased immediately. This prevents any substantial volume of fluid or proppant from being pumped into an open geological structure.

Monitoring of seismic events will be undertaken using the Geoscience Australia's Waramungu seismic array located approximately 300km of the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 well pad. It is likely that any material seismic events will be detected via this array if they occur.

An additional traffic light system is currently being developed by the NT in response to the NT Inquiry recommendation. This system is likely to be in place, prior to any full-scale development occurs.

### Controls:

- ✓ Wells are located away from known geohazards.
- ✓ Geohazards encountered during drilling are risk assessed to ensure stimulation activities can occur safely.
- ✓ Monitoring of stimulation pressure to detect and respond to anomalies which may indicate fluid being pumped to an open geological structure.

## 3.13 GHG Emissions

Total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration activities are summarised in Table 11. Emissions from the activities covered under this EMP are anticipated to be approximately 18,815tCO<sub>2</sub><sup>e</sup> (tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent) for the duration of the activity). This is based upon a conservative (high) well production rate and 3 month well testing period (the base case). This is small in comparison to the total Greenhouse Gas emissions for the NT of 16,500,000 tonnes (Department of Environment and Energy 2018).

Approximately 82% of the anticipated emissions are associated with flaring, which is required under exploration tenure to evaluate the commercial viability of any resource. Flaring in a development scenario is minimised, as all development wells will be flowed inline and sold, negating the need to undertake any flaring activities at the wellhead.

From a cumulative perspective, the total emissions for Origin's 2019/20 activities (including the Kyalla 117 N2 exploration well and civil construction activities covered outside of this EMP) were estimated at 101,218tCO<sub>2</sub><sup>e</sup>. This cumulative value is extremely conservative, as it assumes both the Velkerri and Kyalla exploration wells are successful.

Greenhouse Gas emissions will be mitigated through adoption of the NT Petroleum CoP. This code requires Origin to utilise a Reduced Emissions Completion (REC) and undertake routine monitoring for leaks. RECs involve the capture and combustion of hydrocarbons in a flare; a standard practice that has been utilised by Origin for all exploration activities. The combustion of gasses produced will reduce the emissions generated by flaring by 82% when compared to venting.

In addition to monitoring emissions from drilling, stimulation and well testing activities, baseline assessments have been completed by CSIRO in the vicinity of the lease pad as per the Petroleum Codes of Practice.

**Table 11: Greenhouse Gas summary for the proposed activities.**

Activity	Approximate volume	3 month well testing (base case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	12 month well testing (worst case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	Estimate methodology and assumptions
Diesel combustion - Transport	117,500L of Diesel	320	320	<p>Diesel estimated using forecasted usage estimates multiplied by NGERs emission factor from Table 2.4.2B Emission and energy content factors-fuels for transport energy purposes - NGERs 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia:</p> <p>Energy Content Factor (GJ/kL) 38.6            CO<sub>2</sub> Factor 69.9 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel            CH<sub>4</sub> Factor 0.1 kgO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel            N<sub>2</sub>O Factor 0.5 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel</p>
Diesel combustion - horizontal and vertical drilling	500,000L of diesel	1,355	1,355	<p>Diesel estimated using forecasted drilling estimates multiplied by NGERs emission factor from Table 2.4.2A Emission and energy content factors-liquid fuels and certain petroleum-based products for stationary purposes-NGERS 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia:</p> <p>Energy Content Factor (GJ/kL) 38.6            CO<sub>2</sub> Factor 69.9 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel            CH<sub>4</sub> Factor 0.1 kgO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel            N<sub>2</sub>O Factor 0.2 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-e/ GJ of Diesel</p>
Diesel combustion-Camps	35,000L of Diesel	95	95	<p>Diesel estimate using forecasted camp usage multiplied by NGERs emission factor from Table 2.4.2A Emission and energy content factors-liquid fuels and certain petroleum-based products for stationary purposes-NGERS 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia:</p> <p>Energy Content Factor (GJ/kL) 38.6</p>

Activity	Approximate volume	3 month well testing (base case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	12 month well testing (worst case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	Estimate methodology and assumptions
				CO <sub>2</sub> Factor 69.9 kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel CH <sub>4</sub> Factor 0.1 kgO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel N <sub>2</sub> O Factor 0.2 kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel
Fugitive methane emissions – drill cuttings	0.298 tonnes of methane	7.45	7.45	Available Velkerri gas saturation combined with anticipated shale cutting volume multiplied by NGERs Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 25tCO <sub>2</sub> e/tCH <sub>4</sub>
Fugitive emissions – completion (venting)	51.8 tonnes of methane <sup>^^</sup>	1,295	1,295	2 completion days anticipated. Table 5-23 Compendium of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Methodologies for the Oil and Gas Industry; American Petroleum Institute (API), 2009 NGERs completion factor of 25.9 tonnes of methane per day multiple by NGERs Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 25tCO <sub>2</sub> e/tCH <sub>4</sub>
Fugitive emission-wastewater storage	7.5ML of flowback	63.2	63.2	Table 5-10 Produced salt water tank methane flashing emission factors- Compendium of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Methodologies for the Oil and Gas Industry; American Petroleum Institute (API), 2009 emission factor of 0.39tCH <sub>4</sub> /ML multiplied by NGERs Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 25tCO <sub>2</sub> e/tCH <sub>4</sub> . Assumes 50% of injected flowback is returned to the surface.
Well testing-flared natural gas emissions	2.5Tj/day of natural gas (44 tonnes/day)	14,124	57,279	Flared estimate using forecasted success case production rates multiplied by section 3.44 Method 1- oil and gas exploration NGERs 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia: CO <sub>2</sub> Factor 2.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t unprocessed gas CH <sub>4</sub> Factor 0.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t unprocessed gas N <sub>2</sub> O Factor 0.03 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t unprocessed gas

Activity	Approximate volume	3 month well testing (base case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	12 month well testing (worst case) tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>^</sup>	Estimate methodology and assumptions
Well testing-flared condensate gas emissions	37.5 barrels of condensate/day (4.2 tonnes/day)	1,229	4,987	Flared estimate using forecasted success case production rates multiplied by section 3.52 Method 1- crude oil production (flared) emissions NGERs 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia:  CO <sub>2</sub> Factor 3.2 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t condensate CH <sub>4</sub> Factor 0.008 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t condensate N <sub>2</sub> O Factor 0.07 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ t condensate
Well testing-stationary sources	500L/day of diesel	326.5	492	Diesel estimate using historic well testing data of 500L/day for generator and pumps estimates multiplied by NGERs emission factor from Table 2.4.2A Emission and energy content factors- liquid fuels and certain petroleum-based products for stationary purposes- NGERs 2017-18 Technical guidelines for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions by facilities in Australia Transport emissions cover under transport component:  Energy Content Factor (GJ/kL) 38.6 CO <sub>2</sub> Factor 69.9 kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel CH <sub>4</sub> Factor 0.1 kgO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel N <sub>2</sub> O Factor 0.2 kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e/ GJ of Diesel
Total		18,815	65,894	

<sup>^</sup> Based on Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 25tCO<sub>2</sub>e/tCH<sub>4</sub> (Clean Energy Regulator 2016)

<sup>^^</sup> This activity covers vented emissions during well completion activities prior to the commencement of flaring. This figure is extremely conservative (representing ~1 TJ/day), with actual emissions anticipated to be a fraction of this value.

**Table 12 Cumulative Greenhouse Gas emission estimates- All NT 2019/20 activities**

Activity	Approximate tCO <sub>2</sub> e <sup>A</sup>
Emissions from drilling, stimulation and well testing of Velkerri 76 S2 production well	18,815
Velkerri 76 S2 Civil Construction Activities	626
Velkerri 76 S2 Groundwater Monitoring bore	1,406
Kyalla 117 N2 Groundwater Monitoring EMP	2183
Kyalla 117 N2 Civil Construction EMP	717
Kyalla 117 N2 Drilling, Stimulation and Well Testing Activities	77,471*
2019/2020 Activity Total GHG	101,218

\*assumes worst case 12 month well testing period

#### Controls:

- ✓ Baseline methane monitoring was completed by CSIRO prior to commencing stimulation as per the Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities.
- ✓ A reduced emission completion will be utilised to reduce the GHG intensity of the activity.
- ✓ All flaring will be measured using flow meters compliant with NGERs.
- ✓ A Methane emissions monitoring program (MEMP) will be implemented. The MEMP is provided in Appendix L.
- ✓ All wells will be tested every six months for any leaks as per the NT Petroleum CoP.
- ✓ Emissions will be reported in accordance with the NGERs.

### 3.14 Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material

A detailed assessment of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM's) was undertaken during the Amungee NW-1H well drilling and testing in 2016. The assessment collected data on the drill cuttings, gas and flowback water, with the results considered applicable to the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration program.

The observed radionuclide level within flowback and gas samples observed from Amungee NW-1H are at the lower end of those observed in the USA shale developments (Kibble *et al.* 2013).

The analysis concluded the following:

- **Drill cuttings:** X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) data was collected at regular intervals (average 5m), providing an estimate of up to 48 elements (including uranium, thorium and potassium) present in the formations being drilled. This data was analysed by a third-party contractor. Analysis determined that the Uranium and Thorium (primary sources for mineral contained NORM's) content of the geological formations drilled was well within the ranges of normal geological rocks. In addition a study commissioned by Origin Energy in 2016 with the company 'Radiation Professionals' analysed drill cuttings samples from four wells drilled by Origin Energy (Kalala S-1, Amungee NW-1, Amungee NW-1H, Beetaloo W-1). Results concluded that none of the samples provided exceeded limits provided in the 'Radiation Protection Regulations, 2012 (NT) Regulations 7' or the 'National Directory for Radiation Protection, Part B, section 3.2'. Given the distribution of the wells across the tenure and the geological continuity of the Roper Group formations, the risk of NORM's is considered low. The assessment of NORMs potential will be able to be accurately assessed and screened using a combination of wellsite wireline natural gamma and post drilling XRF analysis on cuttings samples to detected analogous samples with high radioactive producing elements such as Uranium and Thorium. If levels approaching the Radiation Protection Regulations are detected, a more thorough evaluation will be conducted. Furthermore, NORMs assessments of drilling muds are required under the Petroleum Codes of Practice and will be completed as per Section 3.11.1.

- **Flowback:** NORMS samples of flowback were collected weekly during the well testing of Amungee NW-1H. An assessment of the results indicated that for the flowback to breach the regulatory limit of 1 mSv/year, a person would have to consume greater than 80 litres of flowback fluid. Given fluid is strictly managed in accordance with the Codes of Practice and correlating Waste Water Management Plan, this scenario is considered highly unlikely.
- **Gas:** Results for the raw gas analysis from Amungee NW 1 indicated that at the observed radon level of 225 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. An exposure above 1mSv/m<sup>3</sup> from raw natural gas is considered remote, as a person would need to be continuously exposed to raw gas on a long-term basis (years). This exposure scenario is not deemed a credible pathway, as there are stringent requirements within the Petroleum Code of Practice which prohibits unnecessary venting and requires operators to conduct ongoing leak detection and repair program. Furthermore the observed levels of radon are:
  - well below the maximum radon level limit for natural gas of 600Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. These limits are imposed by the Australian Energy Market Operation (AEMO) and outlined in the Australian Standard AS4564 Specification for general purpose natural gas (AEMO 2017) to protect the safety of the end domestic user of gas.
  - An order of magnitude lower than many shale radon level in the US; including the Marcellus (Cassman et al 2016) which has been deemed safe to use for domestic purposes.
  - Within the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) recommendation that radon levels should not exceed 1000Bq/m<sup>3</sup> in workplaces (ARPANSA 2019). Considering worker exposure to raw gas is considered more likely than the broader public, the inherent risk associated with radon (which is present below the safety guideline) is considered to be low.

The risk of exposure from NORMs generated during shale exploration activities is considered low. Testing of the drilling cuttings, gas and flowback water will be undertaken during this campaign, as described in Section 3.25.

#### Controls:

- ✓ Radon levels in gas is low, well below occupation guidelines
- ✓ NORMS testing of drilling cuttings, flowback fluid and gas will be undertaken as described in Section 3.25
- ✓ Separation distance from stakeholders
- ✓ Minimal venting, with all produced gas sent to flare to increase VOC destruction and contaminant dispersion
- ✓ Areas have high levels of ventilation, with ARPANSA highlighting this as an effective risk control.

### 3.15 Spill Management

The use of secondary containment to prevent spills during drilling and stimulation activities is a regulatory requirement embedded in national and state chemical handling legislation and guidelines. These requirements have been further covered in the NT Petroleum CoP. An example of bunding used for drilling activities is provided in

Figure 28 and Figure 29. Figure 29: Example of spill mats used to contain drilling additives and under a high-pressure pumping unit.

A Spill Management Plan has been developed covering Origin's proposed exploration activities. This SPMP is provided in Appendix D.

All reportable spills, defined as those which have the potential to cause environmental harm, will be investigated as per Schedule A of the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure. Risk based remediation strategies will be deployed on a case by case basis. This may include:

- Excavation and removal of affected material
- Bioremediation
- Pump and treat (for groundwater)
- Soil washing

- Monitored natural attenuation

**Controls:**

- ✓ All chemicals and wastes generated during civil activities, drilling, stimulation and maintenance will be stored in designated areas with secondary containment.
- ✓ Tanks used to store wastewater or hydrocarbons, will be double-lined with procedures in place to detect leaks through the primary containment barrier.
- ✓ Covered tanks will be used to prevent rainwater ingress during the wet season.
- ✓ Open-top tanks will have freeboard provision that comply with the NT Wastewater CoP.
- ✓ Tank manifolds will be designed to isolate each tank preventing multiple tank failures.
- ✓ All transportation of chemicals will comply with the NT Dangerous Goods Act and associated legislation.
- ✓ All contractors will be required to comply with the Spill Management Plan and have procedures in place to outline how spills will be prevented, identified and rectified.
- ✓ Spill kits and emergency response measures will be deployed at site where chemicals are stored and handled.
- ✓ Any spills will be cleaned up immediately in accordance with the SPMP provided in Appendix D.

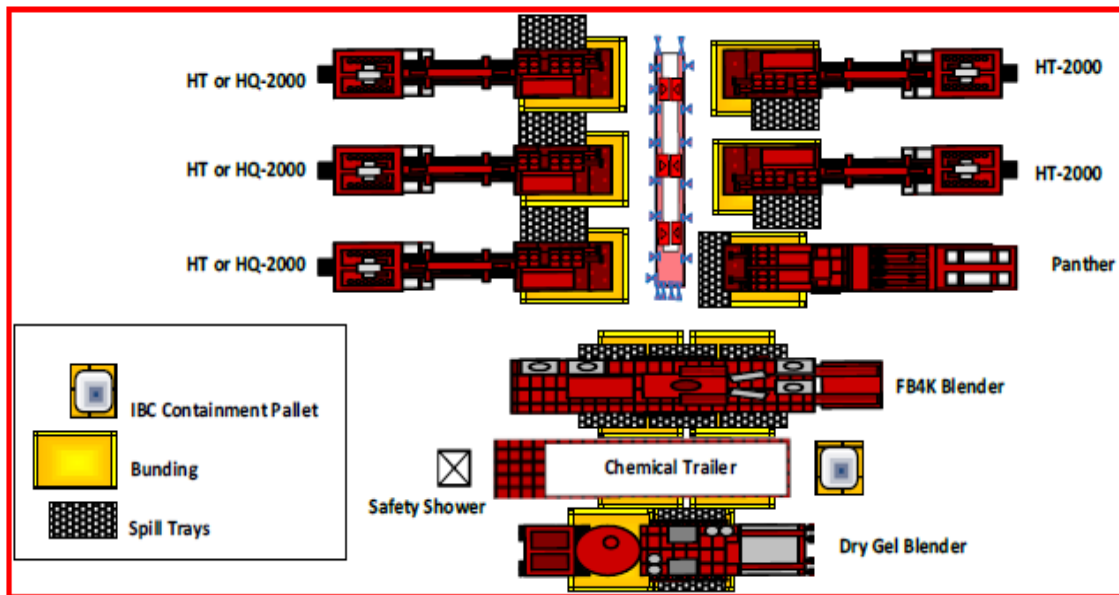


Figure 28: Spill containment schematic around HFS equipment.





**Figure 29: Example of spill mats used to contain drilling additives and under a high-pressure pumping unit.**

### 3.16 Water supply and use

The extraction of water for all activities associated with stimulation activities is approved under the Water Extraction Licence (WEL) number GRF10285. This approval allows for an extraction of up to 175ML/year from the Gum Ridge formation to cover all of its proposed exploration for the next 3 years.

It is estimated that between 15- 38ML of water will be extracted from the Gum Ridge Formation to support the Velkerri 76 S2 drilling, stimulation and well testing exploration program. A conservative water balance for the activity is provided in Table 10. The breakdown of groundwater take for the Velkerri 76 S2 drilling, stimulation and well testing campaign consists of the following:

- 1ML Monitoring and extraction bore drilling
- 5ML Drilling activities
- 27ML Stimulation activities
- 5ML Camp Activities

Water sourced for the drilling and stimulation operations will be extracted from the Gum Ridge control and impact monitoring bores that have been installed prior to the commencement of drilling and / or stimulation activities. These bores are currently in the process of being installed.

All groundwater take metered with continuous flow meters and reported to DENR as per the Water Extraction Licence. Water take records will be kept and updated weekly during operations, to ensure the water take volumes are not exceeded.

Groundwater will be used to supply potable water, with on-site water treatment used to provide water in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The cumulative impact associated with Origins current and future groundwater take were addressed in the water Extraction Licence GRF 10285 statement of reason provided in Appendix F This includes water used for the civil construction, drilling, stimulation and well testing of 2 exploration wells (the Velkerri 76 S2 and potential Kyalla 117 N2 well)The following information indicates that the future use of groundwater is within the sustainable yield of the Gum Ridge aquifer and will not impact on current and future users:

- The sustainable yield of the Gum Ridge Formation is between 1,412,800,000 and 2,2825,600,000MI/year
- The total groundwater take for Origin's 2019/20 program (all activities associated with the proposed 2 exploration wells) is anticipated to be 132ML; well below the total annual licenced value of 175ML.

- The predicted 3-year water use for Origin's exploration use is conservatively assumed to be consistent with the total WEL level of 525ML.
- One other extraction licence from the Gum Ridge Formation exists, which authorises a total maximum extraction of 967.5ML over the May 2019 to December 2023 period.
- 300ML of groundwater per year is estimated for domestic use.
- Total extraction from the licenced and domestic extraction is 1,792.5ML; well below the lowest sustainable yield value of 1,412,800,000ML.
- DENR modelling of the Impacts to the Bitter and Rainbow Springs conclude that then proposed extraction would have no change to the reliability of the spring flows.
- DENR modelling of Roper River at Elsey National Park and red rock indicated there would be no change in reliability of surface water flows as a result of the activity.
- A maximum reduction in groundwater level of 0.12m after 58 years of continuous extraction was estimated at the closest registered bore from the nominated extraction point.
- Due to the remote location of and pastoral land use, in the area future domestic demand is unlikely to change significantly.

#### Controls:

- ✓ Water use will be minimised to only cover what is needed to perform the activity
- ✓ Cumulative impacts from groundwater extraction volumes have been assessed as a part of the granting of the water licence GRF10285 (Appendix F)
- ✓ Surface water will not be used during exploration activities.
- ✓ Rainwater collected on-site will be re-used where possible.
- ✓ All water takes for petroleum activities will be licenced in accordance with the NT Water Act provisions.
- ✓ All water take will be monitored using a continuous flow meter, as per the WEL.
- ✓ Water will not be extracted within 1km of an existing landholder bore.
- ✓ Impacts on landholder bores are modelled to ensure any predicted impacts can be mitigated.
- ✓ A conceptual water balance has been developed.
- ✓ A fine tank scale water balance model will be implemented during drilling, stimulation and well testing to track water volumes live.

### 3.17 Waste Management

Waste management methods for the proposed exploration program are summarised in Table 13.

Waste are managed in accordance with the internationally accepted guide for prioritising waste management practices with the objective of achieving optimal environmental outcomes. Waste will be managed in accordance with the following hierarchy principals:

1. **Avoid:** eliminate the generation of wastes through design modification
2. **Reduce:** reduce unnecessary resource use or substitute a less resource intensive product or service.
3. **Re-use:** reuse a waste without further processing
4. **Recycle:** recover resources from a waste
5. **Treatment:** treat the waste to reduce the hazard of the waste prior to disposal
6. **Disposal:** disposal of waste if there is no viable alternative

Waste transfer certificates will be retained and provided to DENR upon completion of the project.

Drilling, stimulation and well testing wastewater is managed in accordance with Section 3.11.

**Controls:**

- ✓ Waste will be managed in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.
- ✓ Listed wastes will be tracked and disposed of at a licenced facility by approved transporters.
- ✓ Origin will follow the waste management hierarchy to prioritise the prevention of creating wastes.

**Table 13: Waste and disposal methods.**

Activity	Disposal Method
Sewage, grey and stormwater	<p><b>Treatment:</b></p> <p>Grey water and sewage treated and disposed of on-site in an approved, portable treatment system accordance with Department of Health Code of Practice for small on-site sewage and sullage treatment systems and disposal for reuse of sewage effluent.</p> <p>Sewage treated will be surface irrigated to a dedicated, fenced area. The area will be left vegetated, with no clearing required.</p> <p>Sludge removed from site and disposed of at an appropriately licenced facility.</p> <p>Uncontaminated stormwater will be tested (refer Sections 3.12 and 3.16) and either released off-site or re-used for dust suppression.</p>
Food waste, paper and plastic	<b>Disposal:</b> Collected in dedicated waste bins for back-loading to an approved landfill.
Glass and cans	<b>Recycled:</b> Collected in separate waste bins for recycling at an off-site facility.
Chemical bags and cardboard packaging materials	<b>Recycled:</b> Compacted and collected at rig site for transport to a licenced recycling centre.
Scrap metals	<b>Recycled:</b> Collected in designated skip for recycling at an approved location.
Used chemical and fuel drums	<b>Recycled:</b> Collected in designated skip for recycling at an approved location.
Chemical wastes	<b>Re-use / disposal</b> Collected in approved containers for disposal at approved landfill or returned to supplier or recycled.
Timber pallets (skids)	<b>Recycled:</b> Recycled at an approved facility.
Vehicle tyres	<b>Disposal:</b> Disposed of at an approved landfill.
Oily rags, oil-contaminated material, filters and any hydrocarbon material	<b>Recycled / Disposal:</b> Oil from machinery or encountered during drilling. Collected in suitable containers for disposal at approved landfill or recycled at an approved recycling facility. No waste oil to be stored in open tanks or sumps
Flowback	<b>Treatment and Disposal:</b> Managed in accordance with Section 3.8.2. Highly-saline wastewater collected in a series of open and closed tanks. Evaporated on-site using mechanical evaporators and then disposed of off-site at a licenced facility interstate.
Exploration well drill cuttings, muds and fluids	<b>Treatment and Disposal</b> Managed in accordance with Section 3.11.1. Saline fluids and solids stored within a lined sump. Fluids segregated from muds and cuttings. Solids dried out, with liquids evaporated. Solids tested and disposed of on-site or off-site

Activity	Disposal Method
	depending on hazard. Fluids transported offsite to a licenced facility interstate.
Extraction bore drilling cutting and muds (cuttings mixed with drilling fluids)	<b>Disposal</b> Freshwater cuttings and drilling mud with low hazard. Disposed of on-site in accordance with the <i>Minimum Construction Requirements for Waters bores in Australia</i> for water bore drilling practices.
Spill contaminated soils and water	<b>Disposal</b> All contaminated material (solids and liquids) will be disposed of off-site at a licenced facility.
Stormwater	<b>Discharged / recycled / disposed:</b> All stormwater will be collected on-site in a designated sediment retention system as described in Section 3.11.5. Stormwater will be tested and either released off-site or recovered and either recycled within the drilling process or disposed of at a licenced wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.
Untreated groundwater	<b>Re-used-</b> Excess groundwater stored within lined tanks not required for stimulation will be used for dust suppression or applied to disturbed areas to facilitate vegetation re-instatement
Waste sand	<b>Re-use / Disposal:</b> Waste and returned sand from stimulation activities will be re-used or disposed of in the drilling sumps with the residual cuttings and muds.

### 3.18 Weed Management

Exploration activities are undertaken in accordance with Origin's Beetaloo Weed Management Plan (NT-2050-PLN-019). This plan has been developed in accordance with the Weed Management Planning Guide: Onshore Shale Gas Developments Project. A copy of the Weed management Plan is provided in Appendix O.

Weed surveys have confirmed the proposed area of activity has an extremely low presence of weeds. Efforts will therefore focus on both eliminating the potential introduction of weeds into the region and preventing the spread of existing weeds.

Where a weed outbreak attributed to Origin's activities, or is present within the vicinity of Origin's activities and may risk being spread, Origin will deploy best efforts to treat and eradicate such an outbreak.

From a cumulative impact perspective, the potential increased threat from the introduction of weeds through the activity can be managed through appropriate weed prevention and management practices. Based on the limited extent of the activities and commitment to control and eradicate weeds introduced, the potential increased cumulative impact from weeds is considered low.

## Controls:

Weed control strategies will include:

- ✓ A Weed Management Plan has been developed and submitted to DENR. The Weed Management Plan will be implemented.
- ✓ Selection of equipment from local suppliers, with equipment sourced from Queensland the least preferred option.
- ✓ All equipment brought onto the exploration permit shall be washed-down and certified 'clean' prior to entry.
- ✓ Equipment will be inspected and certified where movements are proposed from 'dirty' to 'clean' areas.
- ✓ Monitoring and maintenance activities will be undertaken pre- and post- wet season to identify and treat weed infestations.
- ✓ Any declared weed outbreaks will be notified to DENR.

## 3.19 General chemical and fuel storage

Other fuels and chemicals are anticipated to be utilised during the activities. These include:

- Diesel storage up to 100,000L at a time.
- Typical workshop and maintenance chemicals including hydraulic oil, coolant, greases, paints, solvents and engine oils (minor field storage volumes up to 250L each).
- Degreasers and domestic cleaning chemicals (<50L of each).

## Controls:

- ✓ Any refuelling or field servicing to have spill containment.
- ✓ All waste oils, coolant, chemicals and contaminated material to be removed from site and disposed of at an approved facility by a licenced waste contractor in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.
- ✓ Double-lined diesel storage tanks to be used as per AS 1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.
- ✓ All chemical storages to have secondary containment.
- ✓ Chemical storage areas to be inspected routinely, with uncontaminated stormwater removed from site to be disposed of at a licenced facility.

## 3.20 Camps

The main camp will be constructed to house approximately 40-60 people, composed of two crews that will work 12-hour shifts, plus the camp staff, supervisory staff and service company personnel on an as-required basis. The camp includes:

- accommodation
- ablutions and septic(s) waste treatment
- recreation room
- kitchen and mess
- freezer unit
- site office

- generator and diesel storage
- water tank.

The main camp will be located on a designated camp pad located within 500m of the main lease pad. This camp will house between 40-60 people and will be used through the project to accommodate personnel during drilling, stimulation and well testing. A separate mini-camp will be set up on the exploration well lease during activities. The mini-camp will house up to eight people and will support the 24-hour drilling activities.

Each camp will have its own sewage treatment plant. Treated water will be dispersed via drainage away from the camp to a designated irrigation area in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Small On-site Sewage and Sullage Treatment Systems and the Disposal or Reuse of Sewage Effluent*, issued by the NT Department of Health. Designated irrigation areas will be fenced adjacent to the camp pad and exploration lease pad. These areas will not require clearing and will be fenced to exclude livestock access.

Under the above Code of Practice, any septic systems releasing to the environment must not be within minimum separation distance to a potable groundwater supply bore.

All camps will be managed in compliance with the *NT Environmental Health Fact Sheet No 700, Requirements for mining and construction projects* and “*Health requirements for mining and construction camps*” available at <https://nt.gov.au/property/building-and-development/health-and-safety/health-requirements-mining-construction-projects>.

All camp infrastructure will be temporary and portable and powered by diesel generators. The potable water supply for the camps is to be sourced from groundwater bores established for drilling activities and treated to the appropriate drinking water standards (Australian Drinking Water Guidelines).

It is likely the domestic solid waste generated by camp activities will be removed by a waste contractor, or where practicable, using local waste disposal arrangements in accordance with the NT waste management regulations.

#### Controls:

- ✓ An oil-water separator / interceptor trap for kitchen wastewater will be used to enable efficient working of the septic system.
- ✓ Waste will be recycled where possible; including aluminium cans, cooking oil, glass etc.
- ✓ Domestic waste will be stored so as to not attract feral pests and wildlife.
- ✓ Any releases of grey water and treated effluent will be undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Small On-site Sewage and Sullage Treatment Systems and the Disposal or Reuse of Sewage Effluent*, issued by the NT Department of Health.
- ✓ The onsite waste treatment system used by the camp contractors will have an onsite waste water management plan.
- ✓ A works design approval will be submitted for the onsite wastewater treatment facility and irrigation prior to commencement. This will include:
  - System design and management plan allowing secondary treatment and disposal of effluent
  - Management of trade waste from any food preparation area
  - Land capability assessment for irrigation
  - Onsite wastewater management system decommissioning plan
- ✓ The kitchen will be registered and licenced in accordance with the Department of Health requirements
- ✓ The private water supply will comply with the Department of Health Guidelines for private Water supply

### 3.21 Helicopter operations

The Velkerri 76 S2 site is located approximately 1.5-2 hours by road to the Stuart highway and approximately 6 hours by road to Katherine. Due to the remote location, helicopters will be used where the site becomes inaccessible or in an emergency to transport personnel in and out of site.

The use of helicopters in the NT for transportation is a standard activity. The use of helicopters ensures that personnel can be evacuated in an emergency as well as ensuring access to the site during period of wet weather.

## Controls:

- ✓ The use of helicopters has been communicated to pastoralist
- ✓ Pastoralists to be notified during helicopter movements
- ✓ Helicopter flight path to avoid pastoralist homes and cattle yards
- ✓ Helicopters to flight height appropriate to avoid spooking cattle and wildlife
- ✓ All field storages for helicopters undertaken in accordance with *AS 1940: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids*.

## 3.22 Wet season operations

Wet season operations may be undertaken under this EMP. Stimulation activities are not anticipated to be undertaken in the wet season, with all stimulation and wastewater storage activities currently planned for the dry season.

Where wet season operations are undertaken the following risk controls will be implemented:

- All chemicals, fuels, equipment, tanks and materials required for ongoing operations will be stored onsite prior to the onset of the wet season
- All drilling and civil equipment required to respond to emergency situations will be onsite; this include earth moving equipment, vacuum trucks, wireline rigs, cementing equipment etc.
- All chemicals storage areas will be bunded, with covers used to prevent rain ingress and bund overflows
- Enclosed tanks will be used for wastewater storage, with enough enclosed storage on site to store all wastewater present onsite.
- Wastewater tanks and mud sumps will have enough freeboard to manage an entire 1:1000 ARI wet season event
- Helicopters will be used to transport people and supplies in and out of site when access is restricted.
- No transportation of wastewater or chemicals will be undertaken during the wet season, unless a risk assessment is undertaken that demonstrates the risk is ALARP and acceptable (as per the Codes of Practice)
- Lease pad is bunded, which will prevent all offsite releases of chemicals and stormwater;
- All stormwater will be retained onsite via the sediment retention pond prior to release.
- Overland flow will be diverted around lease pads

## 3.23 Traffic

The potential traffic related impacts associated with all of Origin's proposed 2019/19 project, including civils activities, drilling, stimulation, well testing and ongoing operations, is not considered to be significant. Traffic associated with exploration activities is generally small and of short duration.

The access to Velkerri 76 S2 site is via the Stuart Highway, approximately 23km south of the town of Dunmarra as illustrated in Figure 3. The Highway has a 130km/h posted speed limit in the vicinity of the project and is generally a two-lane, two-way road with a sealed width of 7-metres and unsealed or grassed shoulders varying between 2.5 and 5-metres in width. The access track intersection with the Stuart Highway has a valid 2-year permit and includes a traffic management plan to ensure the risk to other road users is minimised.

The majority of equipment to be utilised for the Velkerri 76 S2 site will be transported via internal private roads from the adjacent Kyalla 117 N2 exploration well sites. This includes the drill rig and frack spread, which makes up the majority of trucked loads. The majority of increased traffic for the Velkerri 76 S2 site will therefore be on drilling and stimulation consumables and staff.

The peak maximum anticipated traffic flow increase associated with all of Origin 2019/20 activities (including drilling, completions and civils for both the Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2 Wells) will be approximately 44 vehicles per day. The duration of the activity will extend over a 12-month period, with the peak movements restricted to a week period during the initial rig mobilisation and final rig demobilisation. Movements of civil related infrastructure are anticipated to be minor, with a peak of 12 vehicle movements for several days during equipment mobilisation and demobilisation. Average daily traffic additions during the remainder of the project period are likely to be 10-15 movements per day for the first three-months, reducing down to three-four movements for the remainder of the period once the wells undergo testing.

There will be no dominant traffic flow direction for the program, with traffic likely to be roughly split between north (from Darwin) and south (From Queensland and South Australia).

### Existing traffic levels, road capacity and level of service

Existing traffic figures were obtained from the DIPL Annual Traffic Report 2017 showing Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) figures for the Stuart Highway roughly 30km south of the proposed access location. This station is approximately 65km north of the access point to the Velkerri 76 S2 access track and it can be assumed that the traffic figures at the site will be similar.

The total daily traffic flows from the 2017 annual survey data are in the order of 551 vehicles; effectively split evenly between north and south bound (refer Figure 30). Traffic rates during the dry season are likely to be substantially higher than the average figures, with peak dry season traffic observed to be up to 50% higher than the average volumes (GHD 2013). Therefore, a revised figure of 827 vehicles/day is considered a representative worst-case traffic volume.

AUSTROADS guidelines (Austroads 2017) were used to determine the typical capacity that would be expected by traffic on the Stuart Highway to maintain a free-flow level of service (LOS). The Stuart Highway in the project location is a two-lane, two-way road. The capacity of roads is based on the maximum rate at which persons or vehicles can reasonably be expected to traverse a point or uniform section of lane or roadway during a given time period. The Level of Service relates to the operating conditions encountered by traffic as defined in the AUSTROADS guidelines (Austroads 2017). This data was then used to determine the capacity of the Stuart Highway to maintain a Category A (free flowing) LOS for the site. A conservative 700 – 1000 vehicle/hr/lane figure was used to determine the vehicle movement capacity of the Stuart Highway.

In an urban situation it can be assumed that the peak hour volumes will be about 10% of the daily traffic volumes. However, the remoteness of this site means that a peak hour is not realistic and has not been considered. Due to the low anticipated volumes that are likely to be spread over the duration of the day, this is considered appropriate.

#### Rural Coverage Count Stations

Table: 4.1 AADT For Coverage Stations - 10 Year Period

				Year: 2017									
				Region: Tennant Creek									
Road Name / Location	ADT Station	Direction	Units	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Carpentaria Highway 5km East of Tablelands Highway	RTVDC033	Inbound	Veh	30		37		55		51		42	
		Outbound	Veh	33		44		42		46		42	
		Both	Veh	63		81		97		97		84	
Nathan River Road 2km North of Ryans Bend Road	RTVDC034	Inbound	Veh	5		5		7		9		4	
		Outbound	Veh	6		7		4		7		5	
		Both	Veh	11		12		11		16		9	
Newcastle Waters Road 2km West of Stuart Highway	RTVDC037	Inbound	Veh		34	39	34		41		40		39
		Outbound	Veh		45	38	38		50		50		51
		Both	Veh		79	67	72		91		90		90
Old Bing Bong Road 5km North of Borroloola	RTVDC035	Inbound	Veh	76		42		60		73		59	
		Outbound	Veh	83		51		46		75		49	
		Both	Veh	159		93		106		148		108	
Ranken Road 5km East of Brunette Downs	RTVDC028	Inbound	Veh		1		3		1		1		2
		Outbound	Veh		1		4		2		2		3
		Both	Veh		2		7		3		3		5
Stuart Highway 20km North of Elliott SITE NOT SURVEYED IN 2008 and 2009	RTVDC020	Inbound	Veh			225	211	210	225	222	229	223	280
		Outbound	Veh			221	195	197	205	213	213	222	271
		Both	Veh			446	406	407	430	435	442	445	551



**Figure 30: Traffic flows on the Stuart Highway approx. 30km south of the proposed site access point.**

### Assessment of total traffic levels and reduction to road capacity and level of service

The total anticipated peak traffic volume for the project has been determined at 871 vehicles per day. This consists of an additional peak project vehicle movement level of 44 vehicles/day in addition to the existing peak dry season traffic volumes of 827 vehicles/day.

The total volume of traffic is considerably lower than the capacity of the Stuart Highway, with any reduction in LOS from the volume of project traffic considered extremely unlikely.

Traffic LOS may also be impacted through changes in traffic compositions, with the volume of trucks affecting the road capacity greater than light vehicles. To assess the changes in traffic composition, vehicle category data obtained from the DIPL Annual Traffic Report 2017 were assessed against expected total project traffic figures. These figures were increased by 50% to represent peak dry season traffic volumes. The assessment is provided below.

1.	Short (light vehicles)	603 vehicles per day (vpd) (72.9%)
2.	Medium (heavy vehicles or short towing)	76 vpd (9.2%)
3.	Long (heavy vehicles)	53 vpd (6.4%)
4.	Medium combination (heavy vehicles)	27 vpd (3.3%)
5.	Large combination (heavy vehicles)	68 vpd (8.2%)

Allocating the projected 44 additional trips to the measured daily flows we get:

1.	Short - 12 additional vehicles	615 (70.6%)
2.	Medium - 0 additional vehicles	76 (8.7%)
3.	Long - 5 additional vehicles	58 (6.7%)
4.	Medium combination - 0 additional vehicles	27 (3.1%)
5.	Large combination - 27 additional vehicles	95 (10.9%)

The results demonstrate that there are minimal changes in traffic composition associated with the project, with an additional 1.2% of large combination vehicles when compared to the total volume composition. This percentage is unlikely to significantly impact upon the road's capacity and LOS.

Other potential risks and controls associated with traffic are discussed further in section 6.5.11.

## 3.24 Cumulative Impact Summary

This section provides a summary of the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed activity in accordance with Section 3b) of the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations. These include cumulative impacts associated with groundwater extraction, flora and fauna, greenhouse gas generation, traffic and social impacts. The assessment of cumulative impacts are summarised Table 14.

**Table 14 Summary of cumulative impacts addressed within the EMP**

Aspect	Summary	EMP section
Water	Groundwater extraction cumulative impacts assessed under the Water Extraction Licence GRF 10285. This included water use from Origin's future exploration program, adjacent petroleum operators and surrounding users. No material impacts on surrounding users expected.	Section 3.15
Flora and fauna	No additional clearing is proposed under this EMP. No active clearing	Section 3.17

Aspect	Summary	EMP section
	permits present within Amungee Mungee property or surrounding area (within 50km according to NRM maps). Impacts associated with weed introduction are managed through the weed management plan. All other petroleum operators and pastoralists required to have a weed management plan.	
Greenhouse Gases	Cumulative emissions from all of Origin's 2019/20 activities has been provided. Emission levels are mainly attributed to flaring.	Section 3.12
Traffic	Impacts of traffic are anticipated to be minor, with no reduction in level of service of the Stuart Highway. Maximum peak traffic level assessment considers cumulative user traffic load, with project movements anticipated to be 44 movements per day during mobilisation and demobilisation.	Section 3.22
Social	Risk associated with increased competition for labour from exploration activities, including other petroleum operators, is low-well within the capacity of existing service providers.  Increased industrialisation of landscape resulting in a loss of amenity and tourism value considered low due to limited extend of petroleum activities, including from other petroleum or mining operators	Appendix N-and Section 6.5.11

### 3.25 Monitoring

A series of monitoring programs has been developed under this EMP to:

- Monitor and detect changes in environmental values associated with Origin's activities.
- Characterise waste streams to understand the nature of the waste and determine the disposal requirements.
- Characterise the quality of the produced hydrocarbons.
- Report on rehabilitation progress.

An overview of each of the monitoring programs is provided in Table 15.

Six-months of groundwater monitoring data (level and quality) is required prior to commencing stimulation activities to establish a baseline against which any material impact on Environmental Objectives can be assessed.

Adequate monitoring data will be obtained from the control groundwater monitoring bores prior to the commencement of stimulation activities. All monitoring sample data will continue to be submitted to DENR periodically to ensure an adequate baseline has been achieved prior to stimulation.

Table 15: Monitoring program summary.

Monitoring Program	Purpose	Parameters	Monitoring Points	Frequency	Reference document
<b>Flowback Monitoring</b>	Characterise flowback quality. Field chemistry.	<b>Field Chemistry</b> pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Oxygen reduction potential, temperature and electrical conductivity.	Post separator before entering into flowback tank.	<b>Field Chemistry</b> Daily during the first four weeks and weekly thereafter.  <b>Analytical Suite:</b> Weekly for the first 12-weeks of flowback and monthly thereafter.	Petroleum Codes of Practice
	Characterise stimulation fluid-Laboratory analysis.	<b>Field Chemistry</b> pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Oxygen reduction potential, temperature and electrical conductivity.  <b>Analytical suite-</b> Appendix G. including NORMS.	Pre-injection.	Each fluid system used during injection (one of each in total).	Petroleum Codes of Practice
<b>Drill fluid, mud and cutting characterisation</b>	Characterise the quality of drill cuttings, fluids and muds to determine disposal options.	Table 10 of the Petroleum Codes of Practice (NORMs), Particle size distribution, Bulk density.	Drilling sump - as determined by a suitably qualified third-party.	Prior to disposal.	Petroleum Codes of Practice
<b>Gas composition and isotopes</b>	Characterise produced gas.	Gas composition (Nitrogen, Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide, C1-C10+, H <sub>2</sub> S) Isotopes (C <sup>13</sup> (CO <sub>2</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub> ) and H <sup>2</sup> (CH <sub>4</sub> , C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> +). Radon and radioactivity.	Post-separator.	Monthly-internal characterisation program.	N/A
<b>Groundwater Monitoring</b>	Detect changes in groundwater as a result of drilling and stimulation activities.	Level, temperature, electrical conductivity, pH.	Control and impact monitoring bores.	Quarterly-six months prior to and six-months after stimulation for 3 years	Petroleum Codes of Practice
		Appendix G.	Control and impact monitoring bores.	Quarterly-six months prior and six months after stimulation for 3 years	
		Level, temperature, electrical	Landholder bores within 10km of an	Baseline collected three-months prior to	

Monitoring Program	Purpose	Parameters	Monitoring Points	Frequency	Reference document
		conductivity, pH, Appendix G	exploration well.	extraction and stimulation for 3 years	
<b>Groundwater Take</b>	Groundwater volume.	Litres.	Each groundwater extraction bore.	Continuous flow meter.	NT Water Act
<b>Stormwater</b>	Manage stormwater collected during activities.	Field EC and pH.	Sediment basin release point.	Prior to release.	Velkerri 76 S2 Drilling, Stimulation and Well Testing EMP
<b>Erosion and sediment control</b>	To detect the presence of erosion and sedimentation from infrastructure	Visual inspection of infrastructure and erosion and sediment controls.	Inspection of all disturbed areas, including lease pads, access tracks, gravel pits, laydown yards, camp pads etc.	Visual inspections pre and post wet season.	Origin's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan NT-2050-15-MP-0019
<b>Methane emissions monitoring</b>	To detect leaks of methane and GHG's from infrastructure	Methane concentration (PPM)	All well heads and associated valves and vents	6 monthly	Origin's Methane Emission Monitoring Plan NT-2050-15-MP-030
<b>Weeds</b>	Identify weeds potentially introduced or spread by Origin's activities.	Visual inspection.	Inspection of all disturbed areas, including lease pads, access tracks, gravel pits, laydown yards, camp pads etc.	Visual inspections pre and post wet season.	Origin's Weed Management Plan NT-2050-15-MP-0016.
<b>Post rehabilitation</b>	Monitor ongoing rehabilitation success.	Visual inspections.	Inspection of all rehabilitated areas, including lease pads, access tracks, gravel pits and camp pads.	Annually.	Section 3.26

### 3.25.1 Water Sampling Methodology

Water samples will be collected in accordance with Table 16. All samples will be collected by appropriately qualified personnel, with all meters calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Samples will be collected in laboratory-supplied sampling containers and placed in chilled eskies and transported under Chain of Custody (COC) procedures. Analysis will be performed by laboratories with National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)-accredited analysis methodology. Each sample will have a unique identifier that would be cross-referenced to the monitoring location and time of sampling.

Where there are no NATA accredited laboratories for a specific analyte, duplicate samples must be sent to two separate laboratories for independent testing.

**Table 16: Monitoring program methodologies.**

Program	Sampling Methodology
<b>Drilling sump characterisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> <li>AS4482.1- 2005 guide to the investigation and sampling of sites with potentially contaminated soil</li> </ul>
<b>Flowback Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2000 (ANZECC Guidelines).</i></li> <li>AS/NZ5667.1: 1998. <i>Water Quality Sampling Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programs, sampling techniques and the preservation and handling of samples</i></li> </ul>
<b>Groundwater Monitoring</b>	<p>AS/NZ5667.11: 1998. <i>Water Quality Sampling Part 11: Guidance on Sampling of Groundwaters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS/NZ5667.1: 1998. <i>Water Quality Sampling Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programs, sampling techniques and the preservation and handling of samples</i></li> <li>Geoscience Australia 2009: <i>Groundwater Sampling and Analysis</i></li> </ul>

### 3.26 Rehabilitation Plan

Once a determination has been made to decommission an asset, a site-specific rehabilitation strategy will be developed for each disturbed area in consultation with DENR. A specific strategy for each area is required to ensure the operational history of the site is considered during rehabilitation planning (such as spills etc.). As per the Code of Practice, rehabilitation will commence within 12 months of determining an asset is no longer required.

Each petroleum well will be plugged and decommissioned in accordance with the Petroleum Codes of Practice. All tanks, surface infrastructure and wastes will be removed from site and disposed of in accordance with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.

All remaining assets with a residual beneficial use (such as water bores, laydown yards, gates, fences, freshwater tanks etc.) will be transferred to pastoralists before considering a transfer of ownership, Origin will:

- Undertake an assessment of the current status of the asset and whether it can be beneficially used by the local pastoralist. Where a beneficial use is anticipated, identify works required to be undertaken to ready the asset for transfer (i.e. any repairs, site remediation, equipment removal etc.).
- Obtain written agreement from the pastoralist to take ownership of the asset and document any stipulated liabilities.

Where an asset cannot be beneficially utilised, the site will be rehabilitated using assisted natural regeneration back to a safe, stable landform consistent with surrounding land use. This will include:

- Removal of all surface facilities.
- Removal of all weeds and contaminated materials / wastes.
- Ripping or scarifying any compacted surface.

- Re-spreading of stockpiled topsoil.
  - Backfilling of all open sumps.
  - Reshaping the site to as close to natural form as possible.
  - Spreading of stockpiled vegetation to aid in surface water flow control.
  - Spreading seed of suitable local native species which has been determined through analogue sites representative surrounding vegetation communities.
- Any seed supply and rehabilitation services will be sourced using Indigenous suppliers (where available).
  - Rehabilitation success criteria will be developed and submitted to DENR as a part of the final rehabilitation strategy for a site. Rehabilitation site success is identified through information obtained in the pre-disturbance land condition assessment and adjacent vegetation communities.
  - Rehabilitation monitoring will be undertaken annually to assess the rehabilitation success and determine where additional remedial works are required.
  - Success criteria for areas requiring rehabilitation will be included in the final rehabilitation strategy for a site submitted to DENR. It is anticipated that the success criteria shall be measured with regards to the following measurement criteria (as agreed with DENR in the final rehabilitation plan):
    - Landholder and DENR agree in writing that the land supports the pre-disturbance land use.
    - Soil suitability and stability is equivalent to the surrounding soil unit.
    - No subsidence, erosion or weeds evident for at least five years.
    - A minimum of 80% foliage cover and diversity of control sites is maintained in the rehabilitated sites for at least three years.
    - Maintain a density of habitat structures (litter cover, fallen woody material and hollow logs etc.) similar to analogue sites.
    - Maintenance is no greater than that required for the land prior to its disturbance.

### 3.27 Timeframes

The anticipated key activity dates for the drilling, stimulation and well testing program are detailed in Table 17. These dates are designed to provide a guide and the actual dates are subject to change depending on weather, commercial and other considerations.

A full project Gantt chart is provided in Figure 31.

**Table 17: Anticipated activity dates.**

Activity	Estimated Dates
Work instruction finalised and issued to contractors	February 2020
Site establishment	March/ April 2020
Exploration well drilling	April 2020
Extraction bore and impact monitoring bore drilling	January-April 2020
Stimulation	June 2020
Well completion	June/July 2020
Well testing	July 2020- November 2020
Well suspension	November 2020
Removal of all flowback from site and disposal of drill cuttings and muds	October-November 2020^
Full demobilisation and site stabilisation	November/December 2020
Well decommissioning	November 2024 - Depending on the success of the exploration well.



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Activity	Estimated Dates
Work instruction finalised and issued to contractors	February 2020
Rehabilitation of site	November 2024 - Contingent on well decommissioning.

^flowback may be retained for longer to reduce transportation volumes

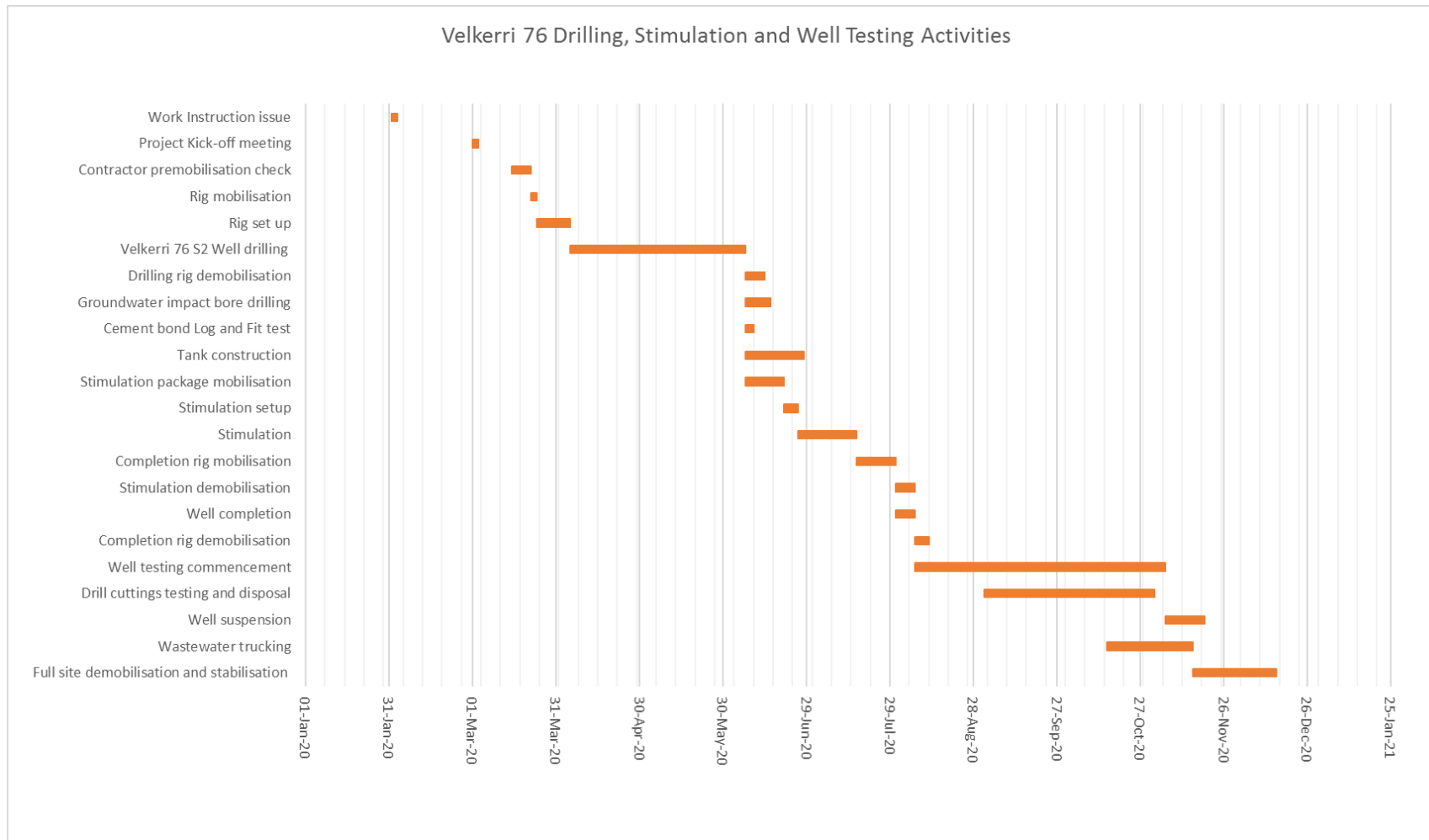


Figure 31 Detailed project schedule



## 4 Description of the existing environment

### 4.1 Physical Environment

A Land Condition Assessment (LCA) was completed in August 2018 to gather baseline information on the current physical environment within the proposed activity area. This was included in the previous Velkerri Civil Construction EMP NT-2050-15-MP 031.

A summary of the LCA is provided as follows, with the full LCA included in Appendix B.

#### 4.1.1 Climate

The climate of the permit areas is arid to semi-arid, with rainfall decreasing in frequency and quantity from north to south. The climate is monsoon influenced, with a distinctive wet and dry season experienced through the year.

Rainfall in the north of the permit area is recorded at 681 mm at Daly Waters. The southern portion of the permit area records an average annual rainfall of 536 mm at Newcastle Waters and 602 mm at Elliott. Approximately 90% of the rainfall occurs during the wet season between the months of December and March.

The area is characterised by a net precipitation deficit of between -1800 to -2150mm per year.

#### 4.1.2 Geology

The Beetaloo Sub-Basin comprises a thick sequence of mudstone and sandstone formations (Roper Group) that were deposited approximately 1,500 - 1,300 million years ago (Ma) (Table 18). The Roper Group is estimated to reach 5,000m in thickness in the centre of the sub-basin and estimated to be thinner outside the formally defined Beetaloo Sub-Basin. The Roper Group is overlain unconformably by the yet to be formally defined Neoproterozoic Group. Unconformably overlying the Neoproterozoic group is the Georgina Basin (Cambrian) sedimentary package, which includes widespread extrusive flood basalts and a thick limestone sequence that forms the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer (CLA), a significant water supply aquifer. The Georgina Basin is a capped unconformably by a thin section of Cretaceous mudstone and sandstone (Albian aged ~100-113 Ma) and recent alluvial and laterite deposits.

The Kyalla Formation, dominated by grey and black siltstone and shale, is separated from the Velkerri Formation by the Moroak Sandstone. The Kyalla and Velkerri formations share some similar basic lithological characteristics, with the organic carbon levels within the Velkerri typically higher than those in the Kyalla.. Organic richness within the Velkerri is generally confined to three discrete intervals (informally named by Origin as the Velkerri A, B and C shales), with the Velkerri B shale being the anticipated target of the 2019 Velkerri 76 S2-1 exploration well. The thick overlying mudstone and siltstones within the Velkerri provide an effective geological barrier to any HFS in the organic rich Velkerri B target. The effectiveness of geological barriers to fracture height growth will be assessed prior to stimulation with geomechanical data from core analysis, wireline log data and modelling.

#### 4.1.3 Soils

The Sturt Plateau bioregion covers an area of 103,857 km and comprises undulating plains on sandstones, with mostly neutral sandy red and yellow earth soils (ANRA, 2008).

The soil types located within the plateau range from the very strongly leached lateritic soils of the Tertiary land surface to the calcareous desert soils and desert loams in the southern drier areas.

The lateritic plains, located within EP98 and the northern part of EP117, are classed as very strongly leached soils of the Tertiary land surface. The three main soil types located within the permit area, include:

**Tertiary Lateritic Red Earths**, which occur on the gently undulating topography. The soil profile can be described as:

- **A-Horizon** Grey-brown sandy loam

- **B-Horizon** Reddish brown sandy clay loam
- **C-Horizon** Red-brown to red light clay, overlying heavy ferruginous gravel and massive laterite

**Tertiary Lateritic Red Sands**, which occur on gently undulating to undulating topography of the Tertiary Lateritic Plain, formed from sandstones and complex parent materials of the deep sandy soils. The soil profile can be described as:

- **A-Horizon** Grey-brown to brown sand
- **B-Horizon** Brown sand
- **C-Horizon** Red-brown to yellow-brown sand overlying pisolitic ferruginous gravel and massive laterite. Altered colouring of highly siliceous parent sandstone is only evident in the mottled and pallid zones

**Tertiary Lateritic Podzolic Soils**, formed on the gently undulating topography over a variety of rocks. These soils are located in the northern section of the Barkly Basin. The soil profile can be described as:

- **A-Horizon** Grey sand
- **B-Horizon** Yellowish-grey sand
- **C-Horizon** Yellow-grey sandy loam with ferruginous gravel overlying massive laterite, mottled and pallid zones

Other areas of Black Soil Plains are located within the Barkly Tablelands, including EP76, the southern part of EP117 and a small section of EP98.

Geotechnical investigations have confirmed the proposed lease sites consist of red silty sand with some gravel pieces. The surface soils collected during the field survey indicated the soils were slightly acidic (pH range of 5.0 to 6.2) across the permit area. A dispersion test was also undertaken on the samples which indicated that the soils were non-dispersive and maintained their shape when submerged in water.

#### 4.1.4 Seismicity

Large earthquakes are relatively rare in Australia with an earthquake exceeding magnitude 7 on the Richter scale occurring somewhere in Australia every 100 years (SRC 2017). Earthquakes are comparably rare in the NT, aside from limited areas around Tenant Creek and west of Alice Springs (refer Figure 32) where several earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.2-6.4 occurred in a 12-hour period. Thousands of aftershocks have occurred since and whilst the rate has decreased, it has not yet returned to its pre-1987 level (McCue 2013).

In the Beetaloo, there have been no earthquakes over magnitude 3 measured since records began. The area is not prone to seismic activity and there is no evidence of recent earthquake activity as most faults and the major subsurface structure are confined to Cambrian or older strata. This is supported by the National seismic Hazard Assessments completed by Allen 2018 (Figure 33), which highlight the Beetaloo is located within a low hazard area.

The issue of induced seismicity from HFS activities has gained increasing exposure due to some high magnitude events in Oklahoma. However, the United States Geological Survey has stated very clearly that HFS is not causing most of the induced earthquakes and has pointed out that wastewater disposal via reinjection is the primary cause of recent earthquakes in the Central USA (USGS 2017b). Davies *eta al* (2013) illustrates that induced seismicity directly attributed to HFS operations is of such low occurrence that the documented cases are statistical anomalies rather than commonly occurring phenomena.

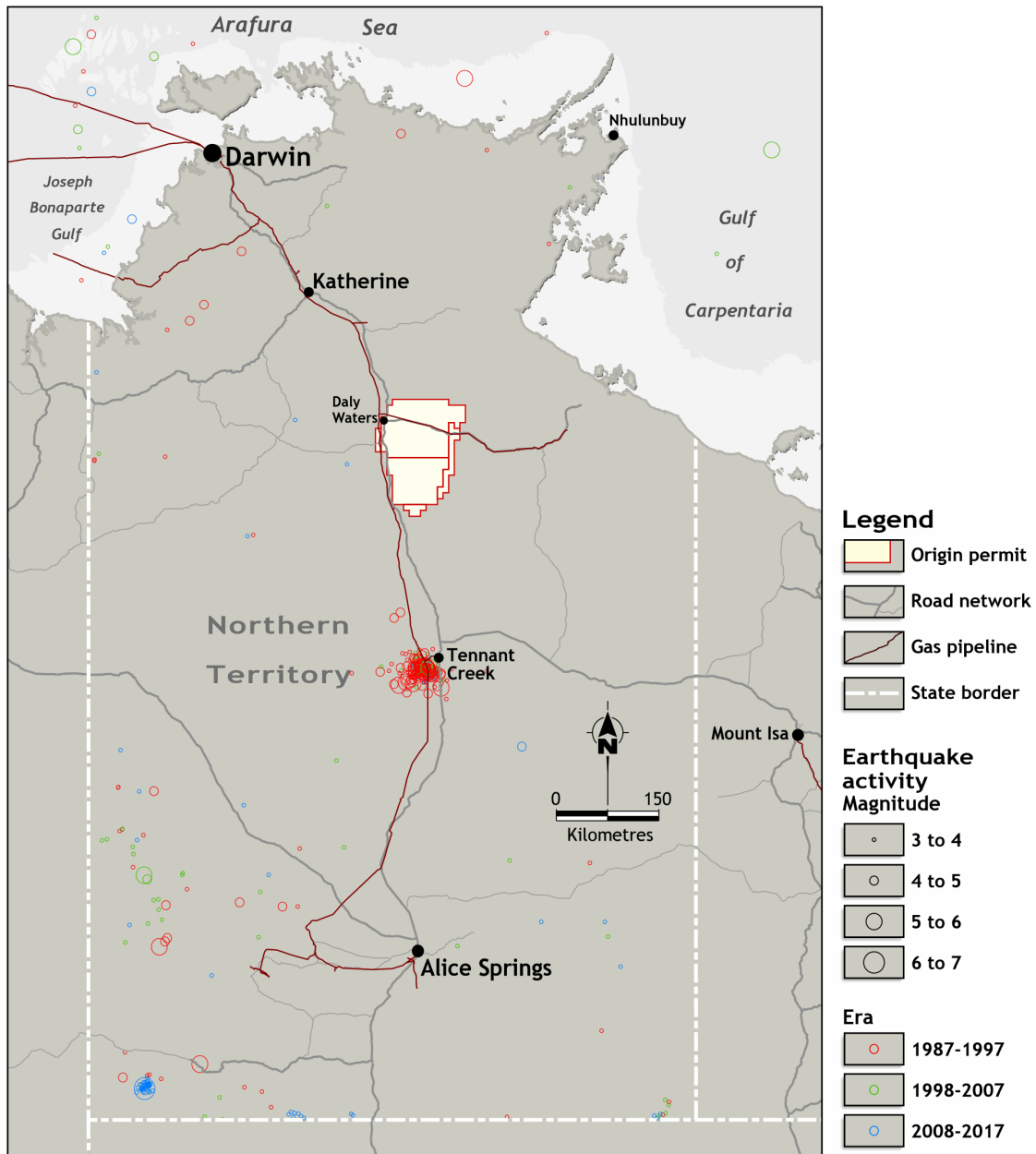


Figure 32: Earthquakes greater than magnitude 3 from 1987 to 2017 across the NT showing an absence of seismic activity in the Beetaloo area.

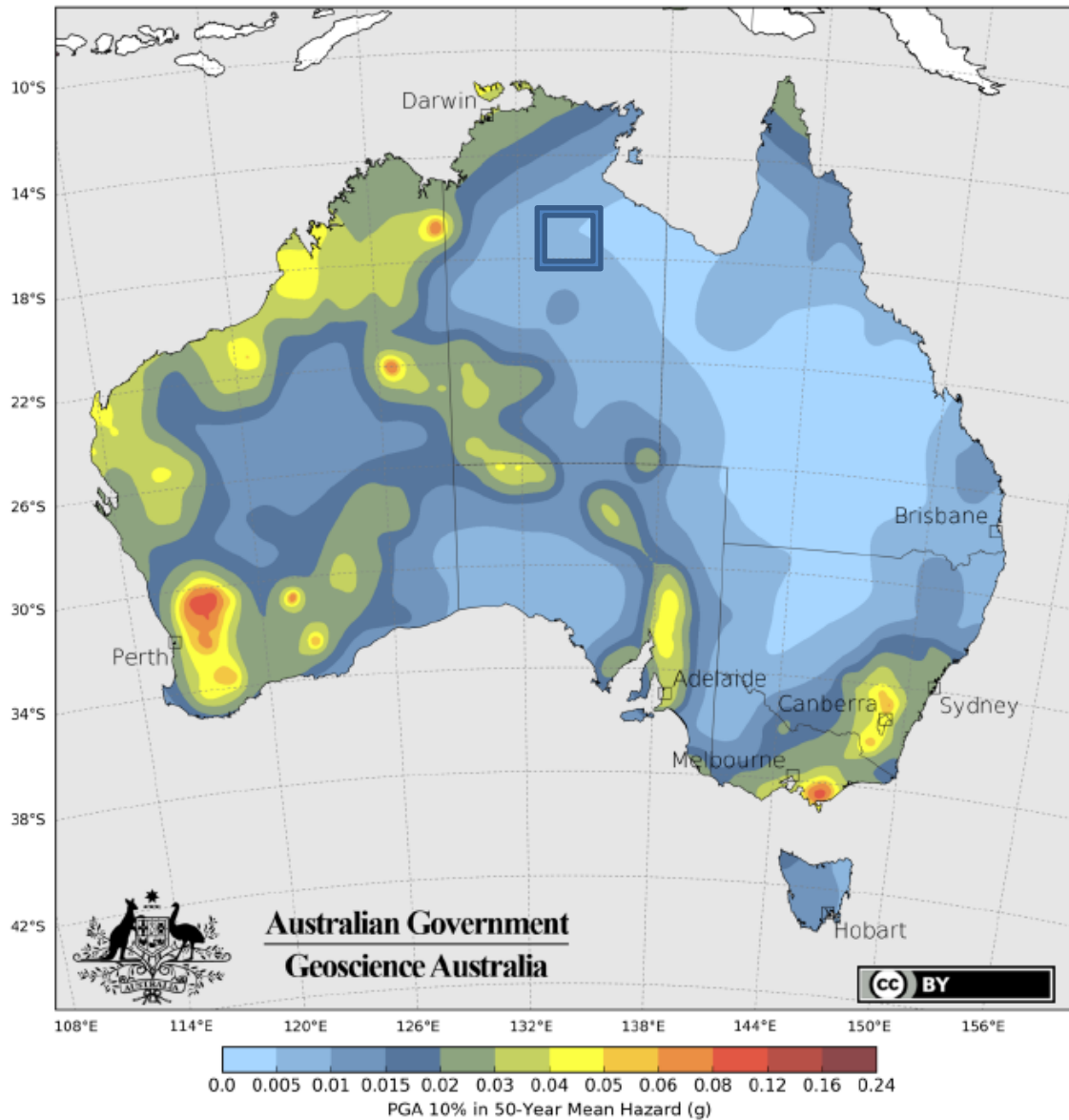


Figure 2: NSHA18 hazard map indicating the mean PGA (expressed as a proportion of the acceleration due to gravity, g) for 10% probability of exceedance in 50-years on AS1170.4 Site Class B<sub>e</sub> (equivalent to V<sub>S30</sub> = 760 m/s).

Figure 33 National seismic hazard map from Allen 2018

#### 4.1.5 Topography, Surface water and Drainage

The proposed Velkerri 76 S2 lease sites all fall within the Wiso River Basin. The topography of the two sites have low relief and surface water flow ultimately drains in a south and south-westerly direction. The Wiso River Basin covers the southern half of EP98 (south of the Carpentaria Highway) and the majority of EP76 and EP117 and is internally drained by Newcastle Creek and a number of small ephemeral creeks. Newcastle Creek is approximately 13km to the south of the lease pad and ultimately flows into Lake Woods, which is located south of Newcastle Waters Station. Lake Woods covers an area of inundation of approximately 50,000 ha in normal rainfall years, extending to 80,000 ha in exceptionally wet years, after which it can retain water for several years

(HLA, 2005). Lake Woods is described as a major quasi-permanent surface water body in the region, although some semi-permanent and many ephemeral waterholes are located across the permit area (HLA, 2006b).

There are no major creeks in the proposed area that are likely to be potentially impacted by the proposed activities. A number (four) of small ephemeral streams (Stream Order 1 and 2) are located along the existing access tracks. The streams are overland flow paths that only flow for a short period during the wet season. During heavy wet seasons, large areas of the internal drainage systems are flooded to a depth of 30 cm, which has previously been identified by debris being collected on fence lines (HLA, 2005). The proposed area will remain dry under normal seasons, with flood modelling indicating the proposed site may be inundated by 700mm during a Q100 flooding event. The bunding around the lease pad will be designed to prevent water ingress into the lease pad during such a flood event.

#### 4.1.6 Hydrogeology

Within the project boundary, groundwater use is primarily from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer (CLA) with minor, localised use from other formations where shallower groundwater is intersected or where the CLA is not saturated. This includes;

- overlying Cretaceous sediments where it is saturated in the central-south of the Beetaloo Sub-Basin;
- the Antrim Plateau Volcanics in the north-west, and;
- the Bukalara Sandstone in the north-east.

Table 18 summarises the hydrostratigraphy of the Beetaloo Sub-Basin. The Geological prognosis for the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well is provided in Figure 34 and Figure 35.

Across parts of the Beetaloo Basin (technically referred to as the Beetaloo Sub-basin), undifferentiated Cretaceous deposits form the uppermost aquifer are targeted for stock use. Notably, a basal sandstone unit immediately overlying the CLA produces yields of up to 5 L/s. Shallow, perched groundwater has also been recorded in the laterised zone within the permit area with groundwater levels recorded between 1 and 6 mbgl. These systems are dynamic with periodic saturation resulting from recharge during the wet season with no documented groundwater use. The CLA, comprising the Gum Ridge Formation and the Anthony Lagoon Beds, is an extensive regional aquifer system that forms the principal water resource in the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Limestone in the CLA is commonly fractured and cavernous; regionally bore yields of up to 100 l/s have been recorded from this aquifer. Approximately 80% of groundwater bores drilled in the basin screen the CLA and the aquifer supplies water for the pastoral industry and local communities including Elliot, Daly Waters, Larrimah and Newcastle Waters. The CLA contains a significant but largely undeveloped groundwater resource with the sustainable yield from the Georgina Basin estimated to be in the order of 100,000 ML/year (NALWTF, 2009). Existing groundwater use in the Beetaloo Basin is estimated at 6,000 ML/year.

The Antrim Plateau Volcanics underlies the CLA in the north and central part of the Beetaloo sub-basin. Across much of the Basin it consists of sequences of massive basalt flows with negligible primary porosity. In the north-west of the Basin, where the formation is shallow and fractured, it forms a marginal aquifer, however reported use is primarily from a sandstone sequence at the contact with the Gum Ridge Formation. There is no reported use within the three petroleum exploration permits held by Origin.

The Bukalara Sandstone is not anticipated to be present at this location. Where present, the Bukalara sandstone forms a fractured and weathered aquifer where it outcrops beyond the north-east margin of the Beetaloo Sub-basin. The formation consists of quartz sandstone with shale interbeds and probable enhanced permeability in these areas due to jointing within the sandstone. No use is reported from the formation away from the northeast margin of the Beetaloo Basin where it is at considerable depth.

The regional groundwater flow direction in the CLA is north-west toward Mataranka, where the aquifer discharges into the Roper River and supports significant groundwater dependent ecosystems including the Roper River at Eley National Park and Red Lily/57 Mile Waterhole. These discharge features occur around 100 km north-west of the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Dry season flow in the Roper River has been gauged at 95,000 – 126,000 ML/yr and provides an estimate of the magnitude groundwater discharge from the CLA. Large decadal changes in the discharge to the Roper River suggest that most recharge input occurs close to the discharge zone (i.e. beyond the Beetaloo Sub-basin region). Groundwater recharge mechanisms to the CLA are poorly characterised but are likely to be dominated by infiltration through sinkholes and preferential recharge through soil cavities.

Limited information exists on the hydrogeological characteristics of the Roper Group sequence as it occurs at depth within the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Sandstone dominated formations may behave as aquifers, however, drilling results suggest these formations have limited potential as groundwater resources due to their depth, low permeability and high salinity. Groundwater in the Roper Group is highly saline and contrasts with the shallower, utilised aquifers in which groundwater is generally of drinking water quality.



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Using the available information from groundwater bore records and previous exploration drilling activities, a prognosis of stratigraphic depths has been compiled for the location (Figure 34). Four groundwater bores are located within 15km of the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 well site with the closest being (RN36658) 11.4km to the southeast. All bores were constructed across the CLA with reported yields of 2.0 L/sec from RN0388152 and 8L/sec for RN036658.

To assess the potential impact on groundwater levels at the nearest groundwater bores caused by groundwater extraction from the CLA at Velkerri 76 S2 for drilling and hydraulic stimulation, a simple analytical model was generated using the Theis (1935) analytical solution. The model was generated using the following inputs;

- 11.4km to the nearest groundwater bore
- Continuous discharge (Q) of 25L/sec (2.16ML/d) for 30 days
- Transmissivity (T) value of 851 m<sup>2</sup>/day (RN27941 70km east of Velkerri 76 S2)
- Storativity (S) of 0.00056 (reported for CLA in Fulton & Knapton (2015))

The modelling predicts 0.08 metres of drawdown at the nearest bores after 30 days of continuous pumping, therefore indicating there would be no impact on the nearest groundwater users due to extraction from the CLA at Velkerri 76 S2 for exploration activities.

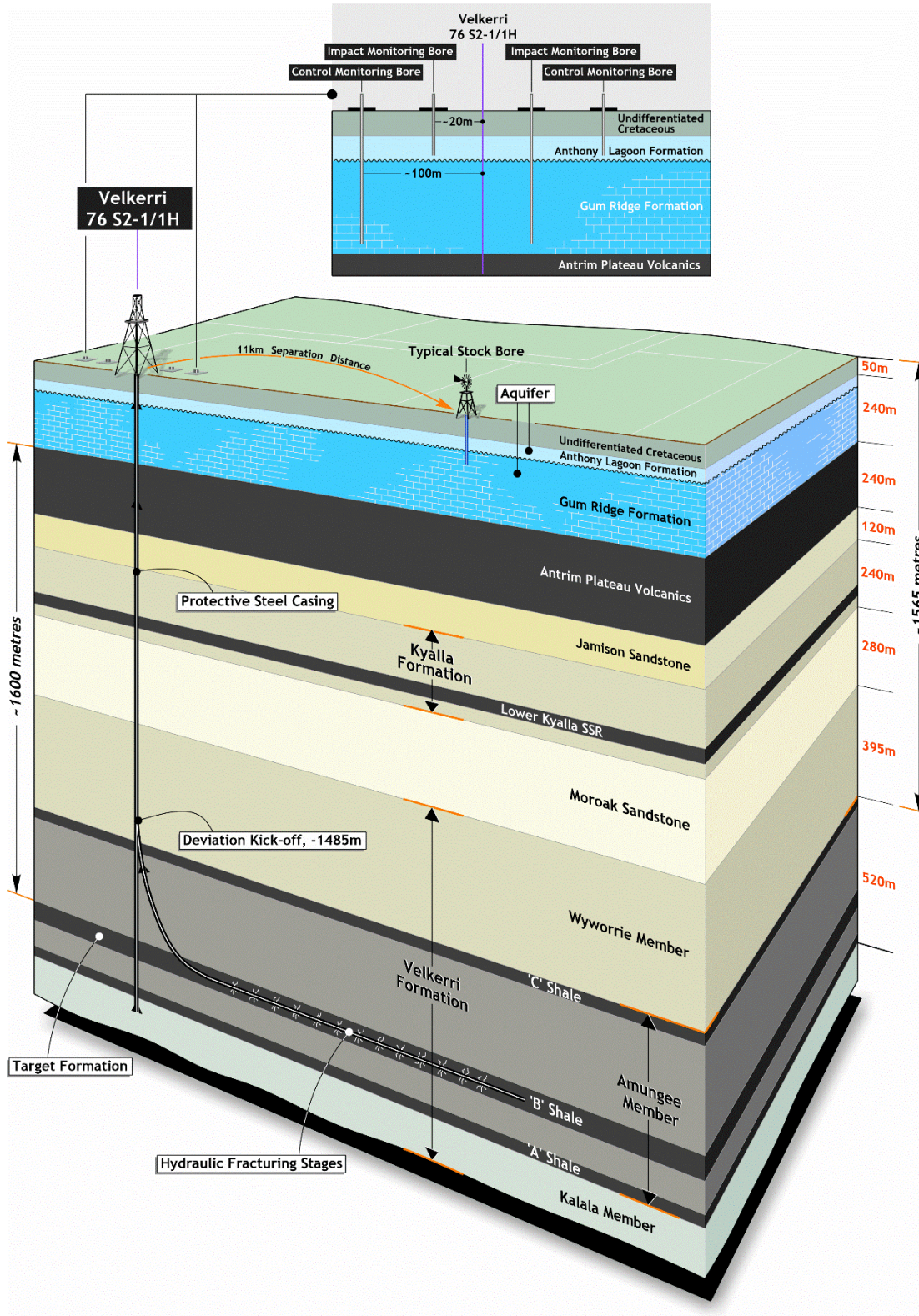


Figure 34: Anticipated geological cross-section and well conceptualisation.

Figure 35 Geological prognosis of the CLA aquifers at the Velkerri 76 S2 site.

Geological Prognosis - Velkerri 76 S2-1						
Formation	Depth (m)		Depth Uncertainty (+/- mTVD)	Expected Pore Saturation	Ave. Permeability Flag -0.001 / >0.001 mD	Primary Lithology
	TVDSS	TVDGL				
Undifferentiated Cretaceous	255	0	0	Unsaturated	Green	Lateritic Claystone
Anthony Lagoon Formation	205	50	20	Potable Water	Green	Siltstones / Dolomite / Limestones
Gum Ridge Formation	165	90	50	Potable Water	Green	Limestone
Antrim Plateau Volcanics	-33	288	50	Potable Water	Red	Tholeiitic Basalt
Bukalara Sandstone	NOT EXPECTED	-	-	Potable Water	Green	Sandstone
Hayfield Formation	NOT EXPECTED	-	-	-	Red	Mudstone / Siltstone
	Hayfield Sandstone TOP	NOT EXPECTED	-	Water	Green	Sandstone
	Hayfield Sandstone BASE	NOT EXPECTED	-	-	Green	-
Jamison Sandstone	-267	522	100	Saline Brine	Green	Sandstone

Table 18: Summary of Beetaloo Sub-Basin Hydrostratigraphy.

Province	Period/Age	Formation		Aquifer Status	Thickness (m)	Yield (L/s)	Ave EC (□ s/cm)
CARPENTARIA BASIN	CRETACEOUS ALBIAN (100-113Ma)	Undifferentiated		Local Aquifer	0 - 130	0.3 - 4	1,800
GEORGINA BASIN	CAMBRIAN	Cambrian Limestone Aquifer (CLA)	Anthony Lagoon Formation	Regional aquifer	0 - 200	1 - 10	1,600
			Gum Ridge Formation	Regional aquifer	0 - 300	0.3 - >20	1,400
		Antrim Plateau Volcanics		Regional aquitard	0 - 440	0.3 - 5	900
		Bukalara Sandstone		Regional Aquifer	0 - 75	0.3 - 5	1,000
Undefined – Under NTGS Review	NEOPROTEROZOIC	Hayfield formation		Regional aquifer	0 - 450	-	32,000
		Jamison sandstone		Local Saline Unit	0 - 150	-	138,000
BEETALOO SUB-BASIN (ROPER GROUP)	MESOPROTEROZOIC 1,300-1,500 Ma	Kyalla Formation		Regional aquitard	0 - 800	-	-
		Moroak Sandstone		Local saline unit	0 - 500	0.5 - 5	131,000
		Velkerri Formation		Regional aquitard	700 - 900	-	-



Province	Period/Age	Formation	Aquifer Status	Thickness (m)	Yield (L/s)	Ave EC (□s/cm)
		Bessie Creek Sandstone	Local Aquifer (not regionally connected)	450	0.5 - 5	-

## 4.2 Biological Environment

A Land Condition Assessment (LCA) was completed in August 2018 to gather baseline information on the current biological environment within the proposed activity area. This was included in the previous Velkerri 76 S2 Civil Construction EMP NT-2050-15-MP 031 and summarised in the following section.

A summary of the LCA is provided as follows, with the full LCA included in Appendix B.

### 4.2.1 Bioregions

Two bioregions occur within the Origin permit areas:

- Sturt Plateau bioregion
- Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion

The 2019 proposed lease sites all fall within the Sturt Plateau Bioregion which comprises undulating plains on sandstone, with predominantly neutral sandy red and yellow earth soils. Dominant vegetation associations included extensive areas of Lancewood (*Acacia shirleyi*) - Bullwaddy (*Macropteranthes kekwickii*) vegetation and associated fauna, including the Spectacled Hare-Wallaby (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*). Land condition in the bioregion is moderate to good but is threatened by impacts from weeds, feral animals, pastoralism and changed fire regimes.

### 4.2.2 Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities within the permit areas have been ground-truthed during baseline assessments in 2004, 2006 (HLA, 2006; 2006c), 2010, 2014, 2016 (AECOM, 2011; 2014; 2016) and more recently in August 2018. The August 2018 survey focused on the full extent of areas to be impacted by Origin's proposed exploration activities.

Vegetation communities within the permit areas have been ground-truthed during baseline assessments in 2004, 2006 (HLA, 2006; 2006c), 2010, 2014, 2016 (AECOM, 2011; 2014; 2016) and more recently in August 2018. The August 2018 survey focused on the full extent of areas to be impacted by Origin's proposed exploration activities.

The proposed infrastructure location has been evaluated through detailed habitat assessments which included identification of vegetation community, dominant flora species at each strata, habitat condition, disturbance factors (fire, weeds, erosion, feral fauna species), and fauna attributes (e.g. tree hollows, logs, grass cover, mistletoe abundance). The area of the proposed activity is largely characterised as *Corymbia* low woodland/*Terminalia* (mixed) sparse shrubland/*Chrysopogon* (mixed) low tussock grassland. The access track to the lease pad is characterised with the same vegetation unit, with patches of Bullwaddy and Lancewood. The vegetation communities are considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing. A summary of the survey of the proposed site is shown in Table 19.

### 4.2.3 Flora

A total of 805 plant species have been recorded within the wider region, and during the August 2018 survey, 28 dominant flora species were identified. As the survey was conducted during the late dry season, grasses and other annual species were difficult or impossible to identify due to the lack of inflorescence or because they had already died-back.

No Commonwealth or NT threatened plant species were identified as occurring by the Protected Matters Searches or NRMap search. One species, the prostrate, herbaceous vine *Ipomoea argillicola*, is listed as Near Threatened under Section 29 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000* (TPWC Act) and could potentially occur in the project sites, although has not been reported in previous and current surveys. The NT flora database shows that this species has been recorded from the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve and at locations surrounding the area in previous searches (AECOM, 2015).

The region supports fragmented stands of Bullwaddy, which is listed under the TPWC Act as 'Least Concern', which refers to species that are either widespread or common and cannot be categorised as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Data Deficient. However, Bullwaddy is significant in terms of the habitat it provides for a range of native species. The extent of Bullwaddy in the permit area is far more extensive than that indicated by the NT Herbarium records.

#### 4.2.4 Weeds

Regional Weed Management Plans (RWMP) have been developed for areas of the NT, with the Barkly and the Katherine RWMP overlapping Origin's Beetaloo exploration tenure.

The weeds species of high risk of introduction or spread through Origin's activities are listed in Table 20. These high-risk weeds have been determined through consideration of the following criteria:

- weed species that has been confirmed in the area within the relevant RWMP or through field surveys.
- weed species listed in a RWMP that is in close proximity to Origin tenure.
- weed species is at risk of introduction through the use of machinery sourced from other regions in the NT or from other states.





Weed baseline surveys were completed by AECOM in August 2018 covering all proposed access tracks and lease pad areas. These surveys were completed with the DENR Weed Officer. A summary of the weed surveys is provided in the Land Condition Assessment - Appendix B.

No weeds were identified along the existing access track or proposed infrastructure areas. *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Parkinsonia) and *Calotropis procera* (Rubber Bush) has been previously identified along / in close proximity to the Beetaloo W1 exploration well access track, which is approximately 30km south of the proposed areas. Parkinsonia is considered a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), which are weed species that are the focus of national management programs for the purpose of restricting their spread and / or eradicating them from parts of Australia.

The absence of weeds suggests good habitat condition in the areas of the proposed activity. Primary controls for this program will therefore be focused on preventing the introduction of weeds and managing any weeds promoted through site disturbance.

Additional information on the full list of weeds and control measures for the development are provided in the Beetaloo Weed Management Plan.

Table 19: Velkerri 76 S2 Condition Description.

Site ID	Velkerri 76 S2	Habitat photos at central point of survey site (August 2018)	
Location	-16°50' 29.01, 133°39' 0.16		
Landform and soil	Plains and rises associated with deeply weathered profiles (laterite) including sand sheets and other depositional products; sandy and earth soils.		
Habitat type	<i>Corymbia</i> low woodland.		
Vegetation Community	<i>Corymbia</i> low woodland/ <i>Terminalia</i> (mixed) sparse shrubland/ <i>Chrysopogon</i> (mixed) low tussock grassland. This vegetation community is considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing.		
Dominant flora species	Canopy dominated by <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus setosa</i> . Shrub layer including <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> , <i>Alphitonia pomaderroides</i> , <i>Brachychiton paradoxus</i> . Ground layer species include <i>Triodia bitextura</i> .		
Habitat condition	Good condition with evidence of recent grazing. Vegetation appeared to have been heavily burnt in recent years. No evidence of hollow bearing trees and logs. The habitat contained moderate to high refuge opportunities in the form of dense leaf litter, tussock grass cover, and woody debris. Good continuous cover adjoining adjacent woodland habitat and regionally extensive. No evidence of weeds or feral animals.		
Potential Listed Threatened Species	Grey Falcon, Northern Shrike-tit, Plains Death Adder, Gouldian Finch.	<b>Hydrogeology</b> Groundwater resources and use is primarily from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifers (the Anthony Lagoon and Gum Ridge Formation) with the shallower undifferentiated Cretaceous or perched alluvium systems being unsaturated.	
Weeds	No Weeds of National Significance present.		

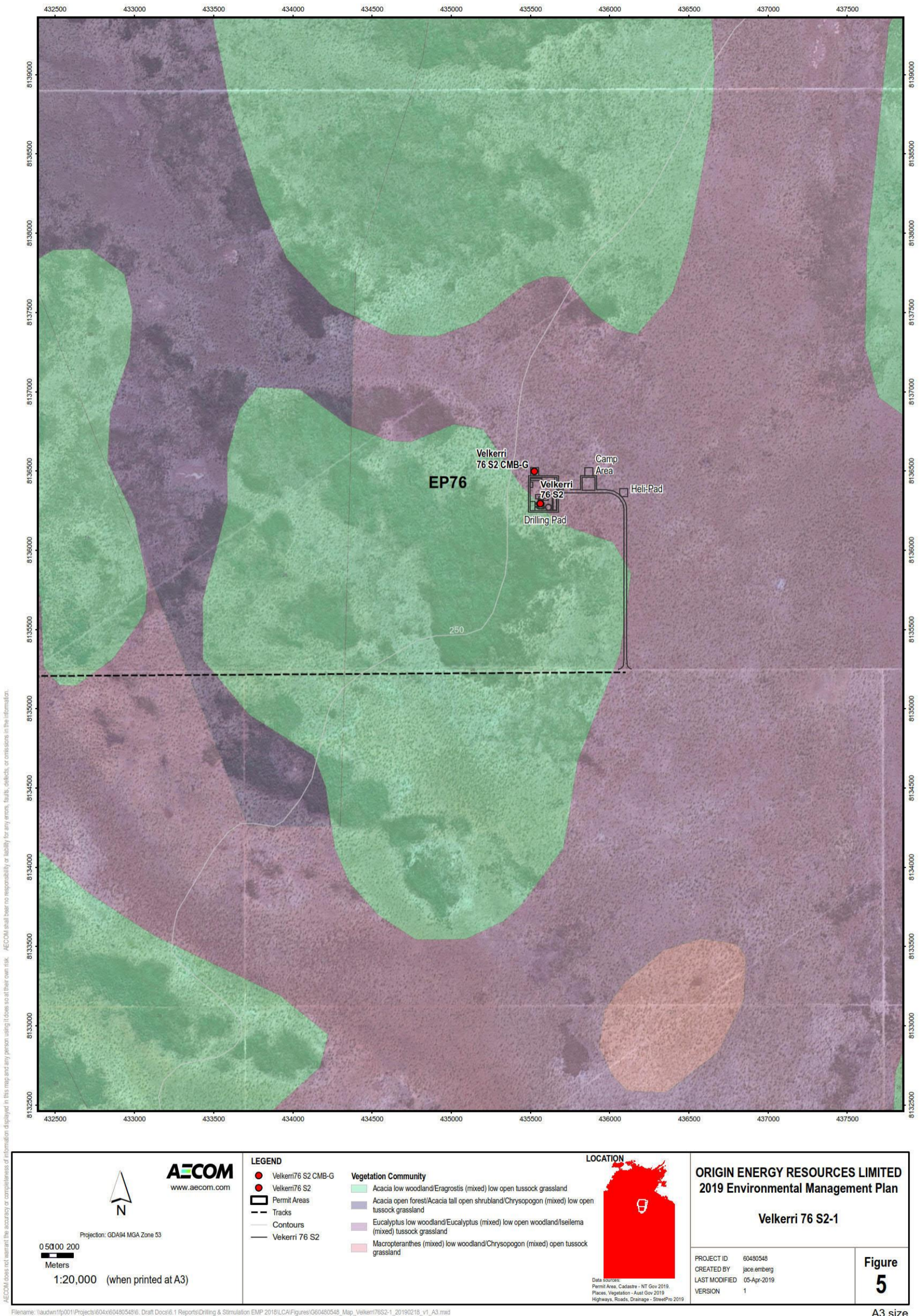


Figure 36: Vegetation communities surrounding the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad.

A3 size

**Table 20: High priority weeds to be managed or prevented within the permit area.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Priority reason
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Prickly Acacia	Class A, WoNS	Mapped in the exploration lease within the Katherine RWMP.
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Gamba Grass	Class A WoNS	Mapped in the exploration lease within the Katherine RWMP.
<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Rubber Bush	Class B and C	Mapped in the exploration lease within the Barkly RWMP.
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Hyptis	Class B and C	Confirmed within exploration lease during previous weed Origin surveys.
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Bellyache Bush	Class A, WoNS	Mapped in the exploration lease within the Katherine RWMP.
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia	Class B and C, WONS	Confirmed within exploration lease during previous weed Origin surveys and Mapped in the exploration lease within the Katherine RWMP.
<i>Prosopis pallida</i>	Mesquite	Class A and C, WONS	Mapped in the area surrounding exploration lease within the Katherine and Barkly RWMP.
<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>	Grader Grass	Class B and C, WoNS	Mapped in the area surrounding exploration lease within the Katherine RWMP. High potential introduction through sourcing of equipment from Katherine area.
<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Noogoora Burr	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data. DLRM databases (DLRM <i>et al</i> 2018)
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Parthenium	Class A and Class C, WoNS	Confirmed within exploration lease. Potential introduction through equipment sourced from QLD.

#### 4.2.5 Fauna

Previous surveys and database searches indicate that the exploration area is an important area for a diverse array of fauna. The NT Fauna database provides records for the following fauna species (excluding migratory birds): 32 species of mammal, 198 species of birds, 96 species of reptiles and 19 species of frogs. Surveys undertaken elsewhere within the region have recorded:

- 78 bird, 33 reptile, 11 mammal and six frog species in the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve (PWCNT, 2005).
- 148 bird, 47 reptile, 21 mammal and six frog species in the Junction Stock Reserve and nearby Newcastle Waters (Fleming et al., 1983).
- 157 bird species within the project area as determined by a search of the Birds Australia bird atlas database (Birds Australia, 2010).

The Eucalypt/Corymbia woodland at these proposed locations provides habitat for a range of species. The areas have high native grass cover and include numerous species suitable for granivorous birds (seed eaters). Dense leaf litter and numerous logs provide suitable refuge and foraging sites for fauna such as reptiles. Many of the sites have a high density of hollow-bearing trees that provide important habitat for many fauna species. Although

most of the species found in this vegetation type are widespread in the tropical savannas of the Northern Territory, some such as the threatened Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*) are rare and known to utilise this habitat (DoTEE, 2014, Ward, 2008).

In the broader area, Savanna grasslands and open woodland provide suitable habitat for species such as Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) and Australian Bush Turkey (*Ardeotis australis*). Drainage lines and seasonally inundated grasslands may also provide habitat for migratory species during the wet season and are breeding areas for frogs. The proposed activity will have limited disturbances in these areas.

The location of the infrastructure has been selected to minimise the clearing on areas of high value habitat (such as large hollow-bearing trees and dense vegetation) to reduce any impact to native wildlife within the permit area. Due to the regional extensiveness of the vegetation communities and limited scale of disturbance, impacts to fauna have been assessed as unlikely.

#### 4.2.6 Significant Fauna

A search of the DotEE Protected Matters database of nationally significant fauna (PMST), the NT Government fauna database (NRMmaps), and records from the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) was undertaken for the proposed lease areas and access tracks. The search results indicate the potential presence of 20 fauna species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and/or the TPWC Act. These included ten birds, eight mammals and two reptiles.

The likelihood assessment of species occurrence is based on the availability of suitable habitat within the permit area, records in the vicinity and distributional data. Therefore, many of the threatened and migratory fauna species indicated in databases as 'occurring' or 'likely to occur' have been assessed as '*unlikely to occur*' within the proposed lease areas. As some areas in the proposed lease area have not been subject to intensive survey and some species are very cryptic, a conservative approach has been taken to assess species presence. A full description of each species, their distribution and habitat associations is outlined in the AECOM Land Condition Report (Appendix B).

No core habitat for threatened fauna was identified at the sites. However, some species may possibly occur and are known to occur in the wider landscape. Threatened species that may possibly occur include:

- Gouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae* (E-EPBC Act, VU-TPWC Act)
- Crested Shrike-tit (northern) *Falcunculus frontatus whitei* (VU-EPBC Act, NT-TPWC Act)

Research has shown that critical components of suitable habitat for the Gouldian Finch include suitable nesting trees during the breeding season (particularly *E. tintinnans*, *E. brevifolia* or *E. leucophloia*), a water source and a diverse range of favoured annual and perennial grasses (DoE, 2015). No nesting habitat was recorded during the surveys and it is unlikely this species breeds in close vicinity of the sites. During the wet season, Gouldian Finches move from breeding habitat on hillsides with suitable trees down to lower lying areas where they forage on perennial grasses such as *Triodia* sp., *Alloteropsis semialata*, and *Chrysopogon fallax* (Palmer *et al.* 2012). Some of the perennial grasses were recorded during recent surveys so potential foraging habitat is present; however, there are limited records in the vicinity of the sites suggesting it is not an important area for this species.

The Crested Shrike-tit lives in dry Eucalypt forests and woodland where it feeds on insects from the canopy and also under bark (Ward, 2008). It has been recorded in wet Melaleuca open woodlands, woodlands dominated by Nutwood (*Terminalia arthrostrata*), Bloodwoods with flaky bark and Ironwood (DoE, 2014, Ward, 2008). In the NT, nesting has been recorded from September through to January and nests are built in terminal branches at the top of trees (Ward *et al.*, 2009). The stronghold of this species is north of this location and only one old record exists near Borroloola. Although it is possible this species may be present in the area, it is unlikely to represent an important area for this species and the impact of the proposed activities, given their size, would be small.

The Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*) is a widespread species listed as Vulnerable in the NT that is considered possibly to be present in the study area. The Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) has been known to occur in the study area, however, given it does not breed in the NT it would only be present intermittently for foraging. Based on the field assessment there was no breeding habitat recorded, and depending on grass seed and water availability, it is unlikely the study area comprises core habitat for this species.

## 4.2.7 Feral and Pest Animals

Feral animals known to occur within the region include:

- Pig (*Sus scrofa*)
- Wild Dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*)
- Feral Cat (*Felis catus*)
- Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*)
- Horse (*Equus caballus*)
- Donkey (*Equus asinus*)
- Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)
- Camel (*Camelus dromedarius*)
- Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)
- Domestic Cattle (*Bos Taurus*)

During the August 2018 survey, evidence of cattle grazing being present, or 1-2 years previously, was recorded and in previous surveys of the permit area, cat tracks were observed as the only non-native species recorded, but based on records many species, especially Dogs / Dingo, Pigs and Cane Toads will be present in permit area. The disturbance from cattle within the proposed sites was considered to have resulted in less than 5% damage or no damage at all.

## 4.3 Fire Regime

Fire is a natural occurrence in most Australian ecosystems and plays an important role in their ecology. Fire is generally excluded from Mitchell grasslands by pastoral management in order to maintain forage throughout the dry season (HLA, 2005) whereas fire is more frequent in the Sturt Plateau.

Fire disturbance was evident at the Velkerri 76 S2 site during the ecological surveys. Evidence of fire indicated an Intensity 1 (minor scars on some trees/shrubs and Height <1m) fire was present 2-3 years prior. It was noted that the site was showing signs of regrowth and recovery.

A Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) has been developed to manage bushfire risks associated with the Velkerri 76 S2 site. This plan provides the hazard reduction strategies, resources and response to bushfire emergencies. The BMP is provided in Appendix Q.

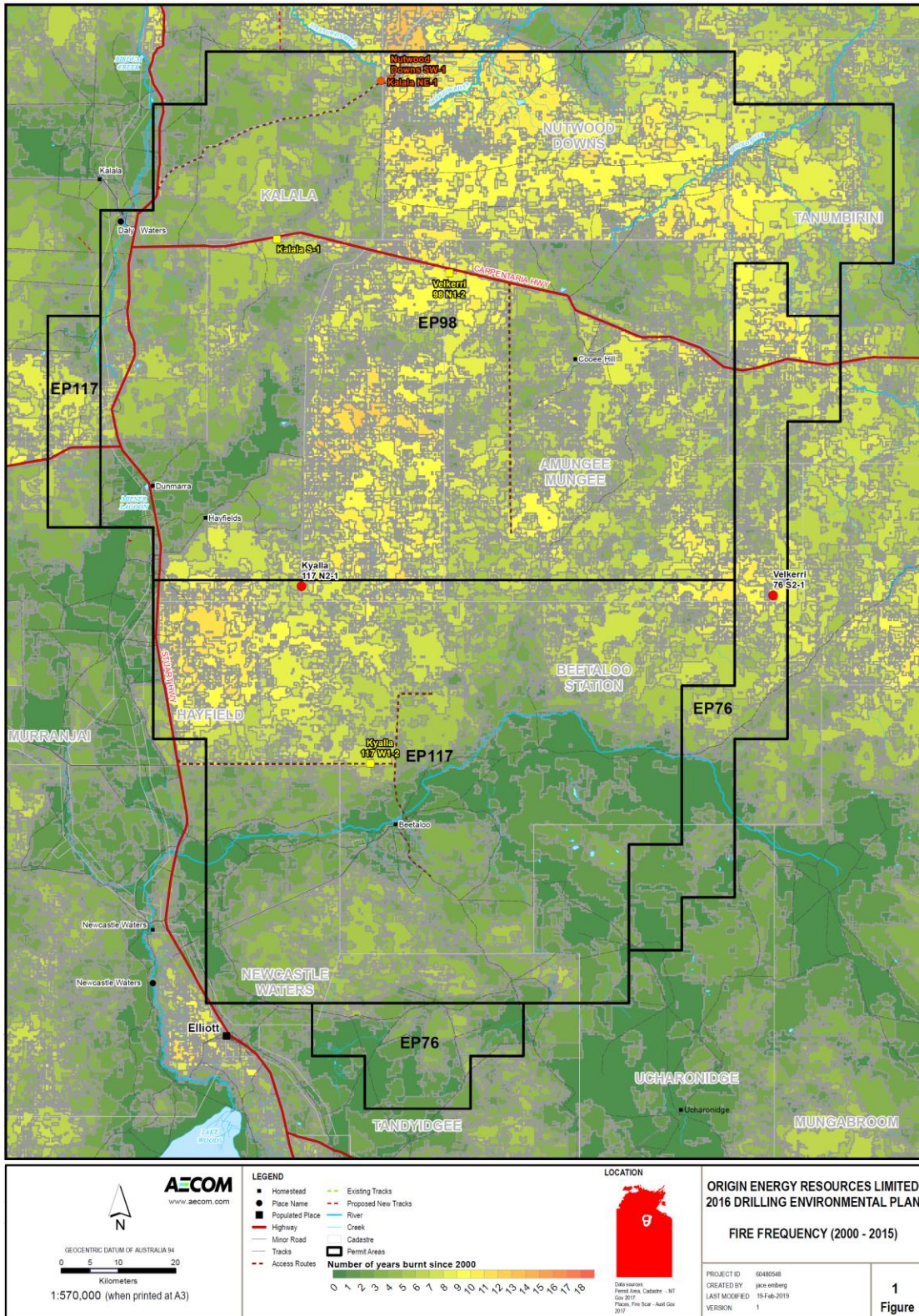


Figure 37: Fire frequency map of the Beetaloo Basin.



## 4.4 Environmental and Cultural Sensitivities

### 4.4.1 Native Title

Two Native Title claims have been determined as non-exclusive and one Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) are current over the permit areas (see Table 21).

**Table 21: Native Title and IULA Agreements current for the Permit Areas.**

Type	Well	Name	Summary
Native Title	Access Track	NTD21/2010 Shenandoah Pastoral Lease	Native Title exists in parts of the determination area and is held by the Kinbinunggu and Bamarrnganja groups
Native Tittle	Velkerri 76 S2-1	NTD17/2010 Amungee Mungee Pastoral Lease	Native title exists in parts of the determination area and is held by The Karranjini group; the Bamarrnganja group
Indigenous Land Use Agreement	All Sites	D12004/014 Jingaloo CLA ILUA	Registered for Community Living Area and Tenure resolution

The Native Title Petroleum Exploration Agreement between Origin and the NLC includes clauses for the protection of sacred sites, objects and sensitive areas related to Aboriginal activities in the area, including cultural, hunting and foraging activities. Site clearance will occur prior to any on ground activities. The Native Title Agreement also includes clauses for the protection of the environment and site rehabilitation.

### 4.4.2 Archaeology Assessment

An archaeological assessment, involving searches of the NT Heritage Register and Australia Heritage Database and a field survey, have been carried out by AECOM archaeologist, Luke Kirkwood, for the exploration sites and associated tracks. It should be noted that this survey covers additional sites that are not in the scope of this EMP.

A search of the NT Heritage Register identified 41 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 125 km by 125 km area that encompasses the full Proposal area. No archaeological sites are recorded within 15 km of the proposed 2019 lease areas.

A search of the Australia Heritage Database identified that no statutory listed heritage places within the proposed impact areas.

The field survey involved a combination of both pedestrian and helicopter survey of the proposed disturbance areas. During the inspections, notes were taken on landform, ground surface visibility and areas of exposure. The aim of the field survey was to identify any surface expressions of Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage values within the exploration area. Photographic records were taken at each proposed location.

No culturally sensitive landforms or artefacts were identified during field surveys of the lease sites covered under this EMP.

The archaeological assessment is provided in Appendix H.

### 4.4.3 Areas of Cultural Significance

Sacred sites in the study area are primarily associated with drainage lines; natural landform features and stock routes, but there are also concentrations of sites nearby to old homesteads. The distribution of these sites may reflect historical patterns of Indigenous movements along drainage lines and subsequent development of stock routes on old Indigenous walking trails, or they may merely be indicative of the site clearance work undertaken along roads and tracks in the area. It is suspected that there will be a range of other sites also within the area, either not yet recorded, or known but not reported for cultural reasons.

AAPA clearance certificate C2019/039 has been obtained for the proposed Velkerri 76 S2 site and associated activities. The Velkerri 76 S2 site is referred to as CA10 within the AAPA certificate. Clearance certificates will be provided to DENR/DPPIR as a part of the submission.

Restricted works areas (RWA) have been identified in the vicinity of the existing access track to the Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad. No RWA's exist within the vicinity of the Velkerri 76 S2 lease pad. Origin has committed to comply with conditions as prescribed by AAPA for the duration of the program.

#### 4.4.4 Natural Resources

In addition, previous cultural heritage surveys of the permit areas were undertaken with representatives of the Traditional Owners who identified a number of natural resources of importance to Aboriginal people of the area (Table 22).

**Table 22: Natural Resources of Importance in the Permit Areas.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Usage
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	Emu-berry/Dog's Balls, Turkey Bush and Diddle Diddle	Fruit eaten. Leaves can be boiled, and body bathed in the liquid for treatment of a number of ailments
<i>Marsdenia australis</i>	Bush Banana/Gillibi	Bush 'fruit' eaten when young, as it matures 'fruit' seeds becomes feathery for dispersal in the wind and are not eaten
<i>Pterocaulon</i> sp.		Used for treating flu
<i>Acacia</i> sp.	Acacia	Leaves boiled and used to treat the flu
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	Soapbush Wattle or strap wattle	Leaves used for washing
	Termite (unknown species)	Mounds pulverised and mixed with water, used to treat diarrhoea
Scientific Name	Common Name	Usage
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	Emu-berry/Dog's Balls, Turkey Bush and Diddle Diddle	Fruit eaten. Leaves can be boiled, and body bathed in the liquid for treatment of a number of ailments
<i>Marsdenia australis</i>	Bush Banana/Gillibi	Bush 'fruit' eaten when young, as it matures 'fruit' seeds becomes feathery for dispersal in the wind and are not eaten
<i>Pterocaulon</i> sp.		Used for treating flu
<i>Acacia</i> sp.	Acacia	Leaves boiled and used to treat the flu
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	Soapbush Wattle or strap wattle	Leaves used for washing
	Termite (unknown species)	Mounds pulverised and mixed with water, used to treat diarrhoea

#### 4.4.5 Non-Indigenous Heritage

In 1860, explorer John McDougall Stuart was the first European to penetrate the area now known as the 'Centre'. The first written descriptions of the area come from Stuart during his second attempt to cross the continent from south to north (HLA, 2005).

Development in the area began as pastoral lands with an increased interest in land settlement following the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line in 1873. Most attempts were unsuccessful with the Lancewood-Bullwaddy vegetation found to be impenetrable and the lack of surface water making the land unsuitable for cattle. Daly Waters was thus recognised as one of the last watering stops on the Murrarji Stock Route.

It wasn't until the 1930s to 1950s, that the area saw regional economic growth with Daly Waters becoming a significant hub of air and mail services into the Northern Territory. The wartime years saw this role increase with Daly Waters again playing a major role in cross country transport and communication. This role continued until the early 1970s when the airport was closed to commercial traffic. The town and surrounding areas subsequently reverted to a primarily agriculture-based existence following the decline of air travel, but in recent times has seen commercial interest from the exploration for gas in the Beetaloo Sub-Basin and the growth of the 'grey nomad' tourism market.

#### 4.4.6 Historic Heritage Assessment

A search of relevant historic heritage registers identified a number of historic heritage sites within a 125 km by 125 km area that encompasses the full proposal area. Frew Ponds, a reserve paying tribute to the building and joining of the Overland Telegraph Line is located 100km west south-west of the Velkerri Lease pad and approximately 16km south of the access track turn in from the Stuart Highway.

#### 4.4.7 Protected or Conservation Areas

There are no conservation reserves, national parks, world heritage places, Commonwealth land, heritage places or critical habitat areas listed under the EPBC Act located within or immediately adjacent to the proposed exploration area.

The closest area is the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve, which is located 30km to from the proposed activity area. The risks to this and other receptors through aquifer contamination, spills, sediment release, habitat destruction have been addressed in the risk assessment presented in Appendix N and include:

- As the proposed site is 30km away from the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve contamination is not likely to reach the area at any undiluted impactable state.
- Surface water flow is to the south east direction away from the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve with any streams between the proposed site and the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve draining away from the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve.
- Groundwater depth throughout the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve and the proposed conservation area is generally 70m of depth with vegetation not being able to access groundwater at this depth.
- All access tracks are to the south of the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve with vehicles and workers not interacting with flora and fauna from the site.

### 4.5 Social Environment

#### 4.5.1 Social Context

The proposed 2019 work programme will occur within the Barkly Regional Council area, which covers 323,514 km<sup>2</sup>. The approximate population is estimated for the Barkly Region of 8,137 people (Barkly Regional Council, 2018).

The potential social and economic effects associated with the proposed exploration activities is considered to be minor and predominantly positive.

The closest neighbouring regional towns and communities identified as being within proximity to Origin's activities include:

- Dunmarra (~100kms)
- Tennant Creek (~340kms)
- Elliott (~120kms)
- Daly Waters (~120kms)
- Newcastle Waters (~120kms); and
- Neighbouring pastoral leases of Hayfield Shenandoah and Beetaloo

In 2014, the Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) released the *Tennant Creek and Barkly Region Strategic Action Plan (2014-2016)* identified social and economic development within the region, including mineral and gas development. Origin has met with the REDC annually with its most recent project update meeting taking place in Tennant Creek on 27 September 2018. Origin also met with the Mayor and Councillors of the Barkly Regional Council (27 September 2018) and Roper Gulf Regional Council (19 December 2018).

#### 4.5.2 Pastoral Activity

The proposed Velkerri 76 S2 exploration site is located on the Amungee Mungee Station. The current land use in the project area is pastoral with the property deploying an extensive cell grazing, laneway system and watering network to maximise productivity. The Velkerri 76 S2 site is located within a single cell on this property and drilling, stimulation and well testing activities are not anticipated to materially affect cattle grazing in that or any of the surrounding cells. The lease pad is located away from water infrastructure and is fully fenced, preventing cattle access to the site. Existing access tracks will be used to access the site. The impacts are restricted to reduction in available land for grazing activities, which is less than 2% of the individual cell the activity is located within. These impacts will be covered through a compensation agreement.

Within the broader permit area there are nine pastoral properties as shown in Table 23. All of the land within the permit area is Leasehold Land, except one small area of Aboriginal Freehold land known as Jingaloo on EP117. The Jingaloo community is located approximately 85km SW of the Velkerri 76 S2 site.

**Table 23: Pastoral properties in the Permit Area.**

Pastoral Property	Permit Areas			Contact Details
	EP76	EP98	EP117	
Amungee Mungee	✓	✓	✓	A. Brown
Kalala		✓	✓	R. Murphy
Tanumbirini	✓	✓		M. Tasker
Beetaloo	✓		✓	J. Armstrong
Hayfield/Shenandoah		✓	✓	V. Dyer
Ucharonidge	✓		✓	TBC
Tandyidgee	✓	✓		TBC
Nutwood Downs		✓		R&R Dunbar
Newcastle Waters			✓	J Andrews

The project area has been subject to pastoral activities for over 150 years (AECOM, 20). The average size of a Station in the Barkly Region is 8,186 km<sup>2</sup> (Bubb, 2004), which is large by global standards.

#### 4.5.3 Other Land Uses in the Area

A range of other land-uses exist in the permit area or in the larger region, including a range of public utilities and facilities. These include the following:

- Tourism – Tourism is an important regional industry with the Stuart Highway being a major thoroughfare for tourists travelling in the area during the dry season. The local townships of Daily Waters, Dunmarra and Elliot provide consumables (food, fuel etc.) and accommodation. A number of heritage areas of importance to regional tourism are located in the broader region, including Elliott, Newcastle Waters and other heritage listed homesteads.
- Road networks – The Stuart Highway and Carpentaria Highway will be used to access the sites. In addition, there are numerous gravel roads connecting properties, and internal property tracks. All properties also have firebreaks on their boundaries and internally.
- Gas pipeline – A gas pipeline runs to the west of the Stuart Highway, along the eastern boundary of EP117 and crosses the boundary of one part of EP98. It also runs parallel with the Carpentaria Highway to the Gulf of Carpentaria, through EP98 and EP76.
- Alice Springs to Darwin Railway – The railway line runs to the west of the gas pipeline and Stuart Highway, and does not cross into any of the permit areas.
- Townships – The townships of Daly Waters and Dunmarra neighbour EP98 to the West.
- Conservation areas – including the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve, which lies within EP98 and Lake Woods and the Junction Stock Reserve just outside the permit area.
- Heritage – There are seven heritage sites within the exploration permit area and a number of heritage areas of importance to regional tourism located in the broader region, including Elliott, Newcastle Waters and heritage-listed homesteads.
- Archaeological sites – The permit areas have a long history of Aboriginal association and 41 archaeological sites have previously been recorded within the permit areas, as well as registered sacred sites and areas of significance which are shown in the AAPA Abstract of Record.

## 5 Stakeholder Engagement

### 5.1 Purpose and objectives

Origin's stakeholder engagement is focused on building respectful relationships with key stakeholders and developing a positive reputation founded on Origin's core values. Origin's consistent approach to stakeholder engagement has been to ensure that those persons and/or groups most directly impacted/ affected and/or influenced by permit commitments have received Origin's full attention. Origin views the social acceptance and informed consent of these primary stakeholders of critical importance and relevance during this stage of low impact and small scale exploration activities.

A stakeholder engagement plan has been implemented, which guides the way Origin undertakes stakeholder engagement. This plan has been developed based upon the International association for public participation (IAP2) (2015) Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement. A copy of this plan is provided in Appendix I.

### 5.2 Identification of Stakeholders

The NT *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016* defines *stakeholder* as meaning:

- (a) a person or body whose rights or activities may be directly affected by the environmental impacts or environmental risks of the regulated activity proposed to be carried out; or
- (b) an agent or representative of a person or body mentioned in paragraph (a).

Origin's directly affected stakeholders have, and continue to be, consulted in a respectful, open and consistent manner. This has been the case since 2014, when Origin assumed operatorship of EP98, EP117 and EP76.

For the purpose of this EMP, Origin identifies its stakeholders, in compliance with the NT *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016* as:

- **host Traditional Owners** recognised as the Native Title holders and / or claimants and their representative, the Northern Land Council, as described in Exploration Agreements between the parties for EP98, EP117 and EP76; and
- **host pastoralists** recognised as the landholders of the nine Pastoral Lease Stations in Table 23. (With regard to this EMP for the Velkerri 76 location, the owners of the pastoral lease for Amungee Mungee Station are recognised as the pastoralist stakeholder directly impacted.

Origin also recognises and engages, where appropriate and acceptable, with the following list of stakeholders:

- Northern Territory community and residents;
- Federal Government, including Departments, Members of Parliament and Opposition Spokespersons;
- Local Government Agencies, including:
  - Katherine Town Council;
  - Barkly Regional Council;
  - Roper Gulf Regional Council; and
  - Regional Economic Development Committees;
- Northern and Central Land Councils;
- Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority;
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA);

- National, State and Local Media (Print, TV and Radio);
- Australian Petroleum, Production and Exploration Association (APPEA);
- Northern Australia Development Office (NADO);
- Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA);
- Industry Capability Network (ICN);
- Chamber of Commerce NT;
- Business Council of Australia;
- Minerals Council of Australia;
- CSIRO / GISERA;
- NGOs;
- Darwin Major Business Group (DMBG);
- Energy Club Northern Territory (ECNT);
- Indigenous Business Network NT (NTIBN);
- Katherine Mining Services Association (KMSA).

Stakeholder and community engagement for the 2019 work programme has been held with host pastoralists and Traditional Owners directly affected by the proposed activities. Origin’s proposed exploration program has been clearly communicated to interested parties, with several written submissions and video presentations prepared by Origin for ‘The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory’. Information included in Origin’s submission to the Inquiry is publicly available at <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/submission-library>.

Activities performed under EP98, EP117 and EP76 will be conducted in a manner consistent with the ‘Code of Practice: Onshore Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory’, which Origin considers an appropriate regulatory instrument for ensuring Origin’s activities are in line with community expectations and legislative requirement.

### 5.3 Pastoralist Stakeholder Engagement

Origin has engaged with the pastoral stakeholders identified in Table 23 on an ongoing basis, including engagement with the leaseholder and/or representatives of the Amungee Mungee pastoral lease regarding the full range of exploration activities outlined in this EMP. Key engagement efforts Origin has undertaken include:

- engaging in consultation for early works access to Amungee Mungee Station in preparation of low impact and small-scale exploration activities (water bores and civil activities);
- ongoing engagement and consultation meetings regarding Origin’s proposed exploration activities, including demonstration of the scope and activities part of Origin’s Beetaloo Basin project (Appendix J and K); and
- providing the landholder with draft copies of a Stakeholder Engagement Pack (SEP) covering exploration activities and providing opportunity for the landholder to comment (Appendix K);

Appendix K summarises **Origin’s** engagement with the leaseholders of Amungee Mungee Station as a relevant stakeholder and provide information in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016*.

Appendix K Part B provides the specific details of communication between Origin and the pastoralist regarding the proposed activities.

## 5.4 Stakeholder Activities

Key considerations when understanding the consequences to Pastoral operations are:

- To ensure sustainable co-existence, Origin will provide payments and / or benefits to the Pastoral Lessee(s) for the impact of Regulated activities on pastoral operations
- Origin will undertake all activities in accordance with the Exploration Agreements between Native Title holders and the Northern Land Council (NLC).
- The regulated activities are associated with petroleum exploration activities. Origin has commitments contained in this EMP to rehabilitate to an acceptable condition as prescribed in Section 3.26.
- Where possible, the Pastoral Lessee(s) may receive beneficial use of the infrastructure that Origin installs - for example, roads and water bores.
- Traditional Owners receive benefits in accordance with the Exploration Agreements which also prescribe Origin's accountabilities in relation to protection of sacred sites, rehabilitation, environmental protection and rehabilitation to name but a few.

A summary of the potential consequences of the activity and mitigation controls are summarised in Table 24.

**Table 24 Potential consequences Origin's activities and control measures**

Activity	Potential Consequence to Activities	Mitigations for Consequence
<b>Land &amp; Stock</b>		
Wellpad and new access road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in grazing area</li> <li>• Restricted access to well lease pads during activity duration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>• Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certification (including RWAs and Work Instructions)</li> <li>• Short term use</li> <li>• Full fencing and bunding of well pad</li> <li>• Industry-proven coexistence of cattle and petroleum industry</li> <li>• End of life rehabilitation to return land back to pre-existing state or as agreed to with pastoralist</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
Existing Access Tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic along access track</li> <li>• Temporary access restrictions during rig mobilisations and heavy transport operations</li> <li>• Interference with stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>• Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certification (including RWAs and Work Instructions)</li> <li>• Upgrade of the existing road to enable dual carriage</li> <li>• Main traffic movements limited to over 3-6 month period</li> <li>• Code of Conduct agree with Pastoral Lessee</li> <li>• Origin Pastoral lease notification of large movements</li> <li>• Road remains shared use asset of Pastoral lessee</li> </ul>
Lease pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contamination of soils from activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities must comply with Codes of Practice for Petroleum activities, including</li> </ul>

Activity	Potential Consequence to Activities	Mitigations for Consequence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact to organic certification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spill management, wastewater management and waste management</li> <li>site to be rehabilitated back to pre-disturbance level with no harmful contamination permitted.</li> <li>Site fully bunded</li> <li>Activity restricted to a small area, with no contaminants released to surrounding areas</li> <li>Contaminants affecting organic certification (agrichemicals, GMO, pesticides etc) are typically not associated with Petroleum activities.</li> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certification (including RWAs and Work Instructions)</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>		
Ground Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral bores rates and/or quality</li> <li>Reduction in groundwater availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants (<i>Clause 9.2(n)</i>)</li> <li>No hydrocarbon wells within 1km of pastoral bore unless other wised agreed</li> <li>Modelling supported extraction limits set by DENR through extraction licence RF 10285</li> <li>No material reduction in water quality or quantity predicted to surrounding groundwater extraction bores</li> <li>Baseline monitoring of local bores within 10km of petroleum wells</li> <li>Ongoing control and impact groundwater water monitoring</li> <li>Aquifer protected through the use of multiple cement and steel casing barriers</li> <li>Well integrity validated prior to completing stimulation.</li> </ul>
<b>Weeds</b>		
Weed Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noxious weeds</li> <li>Impacts to vegetation communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Baseline weeds survey completed</li> <li>Ongoing weeds surveys and NTG bi-annual monitoring</li> <li>Vehicle and Equipment to be clean and have valid weed hygiene certificates prior to access</li> <li>Weed identification training of key personnel</li> <li>Weed management plans</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality</b>		
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Short period of high volume traffic movements</li> </ul>



Activity	Potential Consequence to Activities	Mitigations for Consequence
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment movements to consider time of day to reduce impacts on traffic</li> <li>Dust suppression utilised during high volume traffic movements and around sensitive features (homesteads, cattle yards etc.)</li> </ul>
Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Emissions from flares and wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Flares are used to reduce the risk associated with vented hydrocarbons</li> <li>Short period of operations and testing</li> <li>Baseline emissions monitoring conducted and is ongoing</li> <li>Emissions monitoring at all locations</li> <li>No well pad within 50km of a residence</li> </ul>
<b>Light, Noise and Visual Amenity</b>		
Light and Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction with stock</li> <li>Reduction in amenity of surrounding site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Site location chosen to minimise impacts on pastoralist operations- including appropriate separation distances between sensitive receptors and activities.</li> <li>Short duration of drilling and stimulation activities</li> </ul>
Visual Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastoral and Traditional owner visual amenity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration Agreement(s) with NLC and Native Title holders and / or claimants</li> <li>Site location chosen to minimise impacts on pastoralist amenity- including appropriate separation distances between sensitive receptors and activities.</li> <li>Short duration of drilling and stimulation activities</li> <li>Site not located in major thoroughfare and away from the majority of pastoralist activities.</li> </ul>

## 5.5 Host Traditional Owner(s) Engagement

Origin has undertaken detailed engagement with the host Traditional Owners through the Northern Land Council to facilitate an ongoing relationship between Origin and their host Traditional Owners. Engagement efforts undertaken by Origin include:

- Complying with the Exploration Agreement(s) between Origin, Native Title holders and the Northern Land Council (NLC) for EP117, EP98, EP76.
- ongoing consultation regarding Origin work programs and proposed exploration activities, including the location(s) of all areas of disturbance.
- in person consultation between Origin, host Traditional Owners and their statutory representative body, the Northern Land Council regarding Origin's proposed exploration activities on 3 September 2018;

- ongoing communication between Origin and the Northern Land Council;
- execution of Sacred Site clearance and avoidance surveys on the specific areas of land (~6kms in radius) with the relevant Traditional Owners between 10 September and 19 September 2018. A formal Northern Land Council Sacred Site Avoidance and Anthropological Report was provided to the AAPA to assist with the application and assessment process for Certification of Origin's exploration areas and associated infrastructure in accordance with the Northern Territory's Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act; and
- on country meetings held between NLC, Traditional Owners and Origin in April and May 2019 revisiting Origin's work program submission from July 2018 and field surveys with Traditional Owners in September 2018. The on-country meetings conclude the engagement and consultation necessary with Traditional Owners prior to commencement of each years activities.

Consultation and engagement with host Traditional Owners to ensure their understanding of the nature and purpose of activities, is executed by the Northern Land Council in accordance with the Land Rights Act. With regard to compliance to the Sacred Sites Act, Origin holds Certification from the AAPA (Certification C2019/039).

The Traditional Owner stakeholder engagement summary is provided in Appendix J and K.

## 5.6 Northern Territory Community Engagement

Broader engagement has occurred with local and regional business within the local communities of Daly Waters, Elliot, Katherine and the broader Northern Territory region.

Northern Territory businesses have been engaged on the scope of Origin's activities through information sessions and tender opportunities covering a range of material supply and support services, such as:

- people transport and logistics;
- accommodation and food;
- provision of temporary camps and camp services;
- civil construction work;
- freight and transport;
- water bore drilling;
- water carting and waste management;
- site maintenance and inspections;
- weed management and control;
- equipment and materials storage;
- oil country tubular goods;
- environmental and civil consulting;
- surveying and geotechnical assessments; and
- general provisions of goods and services (such as personal protective equipment and hire cars).

A log of broader community engagement for Origin's Beetaloo Exploration Project is provided in Appendix L.

## 5.7 Ongoing Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Origin is committed to continuing to engage with stakeholders regarding the exploration activities under EP98, EP117 and EP76 and any associated environmental outcomes prior to, during and after performance of exploration activities.

Origin recognises the growing community interest in ensuring onshore natural gas development takes place in a safe and environmentally sound way and are committed to delivering operational excellence (which encapsulates our health, safety and environmental performance standards).

Origin has further committed to ongoing engagement with the relevant Traditional Owners, including annual work plan meetings and provision of draft work programmes for future years of activity.

Detailed community and stakeholder engagement is underway covering future exploration activities. This includes the following engagement activities:

- Weekly-monthly engagement with host pastoralists for which activity is proposed within the 2019/20 time period. With the engagement frequency agreed to with the pastoralist;
- Quarterly engagement with future host pastoralists for which activity is proposed within the 2020 time period.
- Annual consultation with all pastoralists, including surrounding pastoralists with no immediate proposed activities.

A number of Origin Beetaloo Basin Project series sheets have been created to provide information on Origin's activities and broader shale exploration (Appendix M).

## 5.8 EMP assessment public submission

The Velkerri 76 S2 EMP was submitted for public review on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. Thirty-Two (32) public submissions were received on the EMP, covering a range of items including water, traditional owner engagement, chemical use, wastewater management and climate change. A summary of the comments and Origin's response is provided in Appendix U.

## 6 Environmental Risk Assessment

This EMP provides an assessment of the potential environmental risks and impacts of the activities associated within the Velkerri 76 S2 exploration well. Environmental risk is defined under the Regulation as *'the chance of something happening that will have an environmental impact, measured in terms of the environmental consequence and the likelihood of those consequences occurring'*. Environmental impact is defined as *"any adverse changes, or potential adverse changes to the environment resulting wholly or partly from the regulated activity."*

### 6.1 Origin's Risk Management Approach

Origin utilises a robust risk management process for all its activities to achieve the following key outcomes:

- Risks are identified, understood, assessed and then either = eliminated or reduced and controlled to an acceptable level,
- Control measures for each environmental risk and impact are identified
- Controls are owned, assured and continuously reviewed for effectiveness,
- All activities are compliant with regulatory standards and are guided by best practice,
- Origin and its stakeholders are confident in the way activities are conducted to manage risks, and
- The approach aligns with the findings of the NT Inquiry Final Report and associated recommendations (as implemented via the Petroleum Codes of Practice or legislation).



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Risk management processes are mandated through the Origin Risk Management Policy and Directive, which includes a risk rating toolkit that is utilised from the Board through to frontline activity owners (Figure 38). The toolkit considers the requirements of ISO 31000 and addresses risk identification, assessment and management.

Assessment of risk is completed using Origin's Risk Matrix (Figure 39) to assess and rate risks by assessing the combination of frequency of occurrence and the severity of the outcome of a potential event, including a worst-case scenario event. This allows quantification of a risk and determination can then be made about whether the risk can be accepted, or whether further mitigation is required.

Origin risk management processes requires regular assessment of underlying (unmitigated) risk from an activity, the residual risk once controls are applied, the effectiveness of controls (provided in Table 25) and the likelihood and consequence of a risk event. A risk is either accepted in accordance with strict delegations of authority or the activity does not proceed.

In addition, the risks associated with unconventional gas developments activities have been thoroughly investigated and reported by the NT Inquiry. A series of risks and recommended mitigation measures were outlined to reduce the likelihood of any impacts to an acceptable level. These recommendations have been incorporated into the Petroleum Codes of Practice and changes in legislation to ensure a high level of Environment Protection across the industry. This ensures risks are assessed and mitigated in a consistent manner, to provide greater certainty to the community that the risks associated with exploration activities are being reduced to an acceptable level.

**Table 25: Risk control effectiveness definition.**

Rating	Explanation
<b>Effective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controls are well designed and address the root cause(s) of the risk.</li> <li>Controls are recognised industry best practice.</li> <li>All controls operate at the required level.</li> <li>All controls are within the power of Origin, with few external factors beyond control.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring required.</li> </ul>
<b>Can Be Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of controls are well designed and address the root cause(s) of the risk.</li> <li>Majority of controls operate at the required level.</li> <li>Some controls are outside the power of Origin, with multiple external factors beyond control.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring required.</li> <li>Certain controls can be improved or have elements below industry best practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Must Be Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most controls are not well designed and do not address the root cause(s) of the risk.</li> <li>Most controls are not operating to the required level.</li> <li>A large number of controls are outside the power of Origin, with multiple external factors.</li> <li>The majority of controls require improvement and are well below industry best practice.</li> </ul>

## 6.2 Risk Acceptance Threshold and ALARP

A risk can be considered to have been reduced to 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP) when all reasonably practicable control measures (both preventative and mitigative) have been identified and implemented to reduce the risk of identified events. A key element of demonstrating ALARP is that good practice is followed, where good practice is defined as the recognised risk management practices and measures that are used by competent organisations to manage well understood hazards arising from their activities. This definition incorporates good practice as defined in codes and standards, and a consensus of good practice within the industry. ALARP is not a final position over the life of an asset or project.

The practicability and the reasonability of control measures can change over time due to changes in technology (that can make measures more readily available), industry standards (that can commoditise once-cutting-edge technology) and the socio-technical landscape (that can modify societal expectations).

In the NT context, ALARP and the definition of acceptable risk levels was a key feature of the NT Inquiry Final Report. For each aspect, acceptability criteria were defined, with recommendations outlined to reduce the potential risk to below the acceptable level. With the adoption of all recommendations by the NTG, the new Petroleum Codes of Practice and associated regulatory changes provides a high level of inherent protection to ensure activities are undertaken in a safe and consistent manner.

Through adoption of the recommendations of the NT Inquiry (along with other risk management and legislative requirements), Origin can demonstrate all environmental impacts and environmental risks associated with its activities will be reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable.

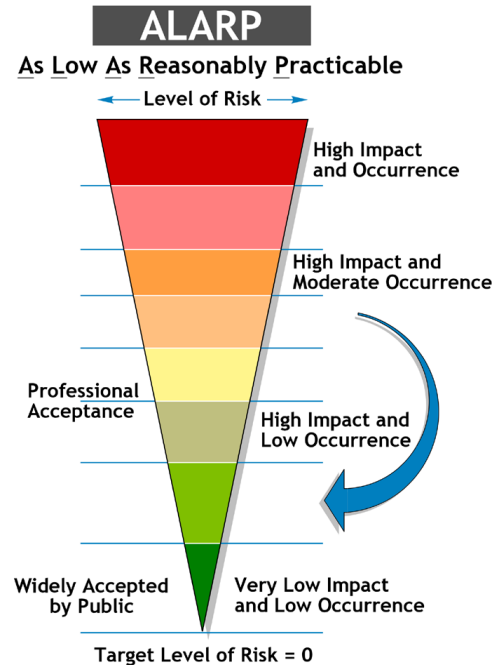
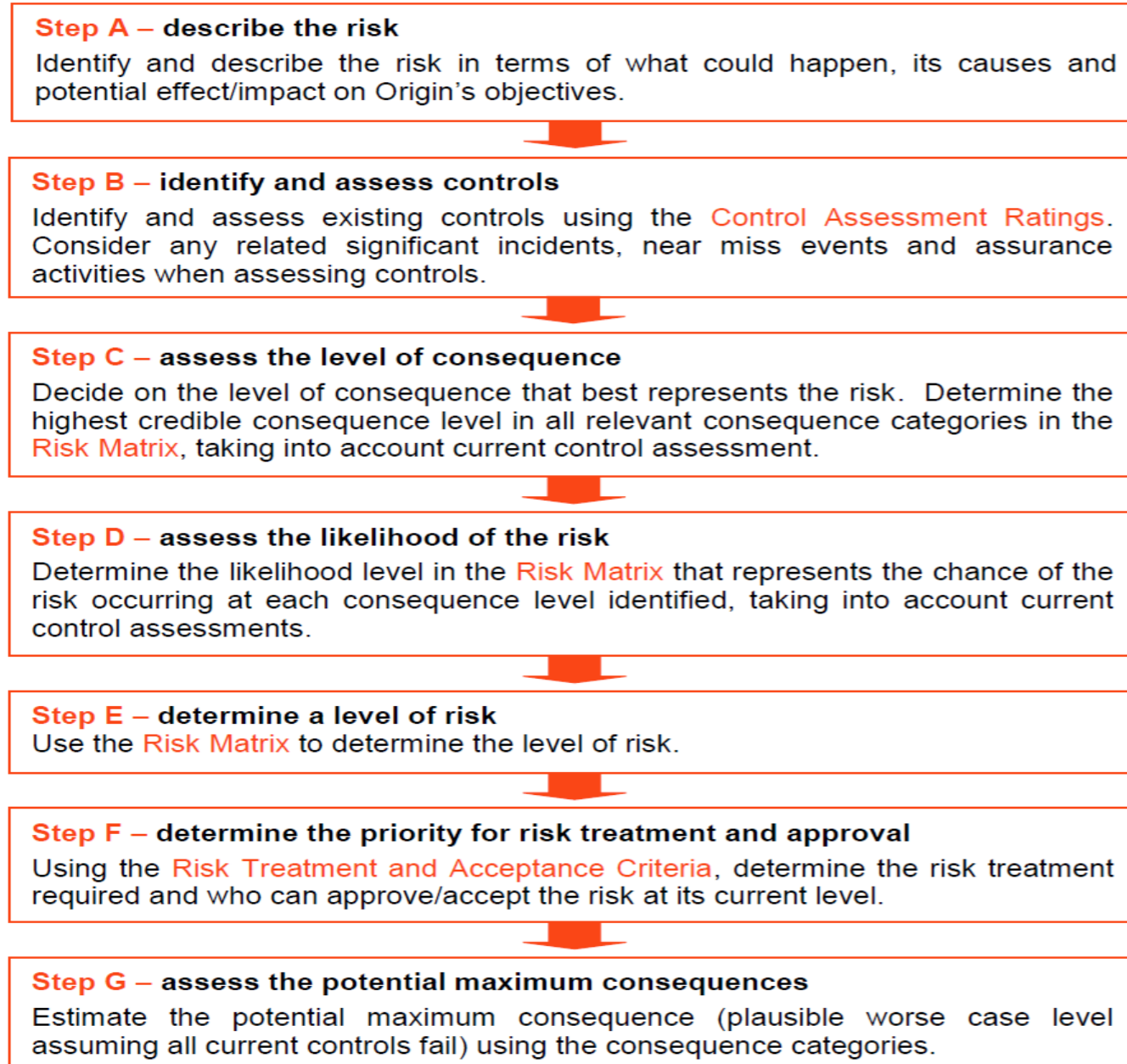


Figure 38: Origin’s risk toolkit which describes the approach to identify, assess, control, treat and accept risks.

# Origin Risk Rating Toolkit

## How to use this toolkit



## Control Assessment Ratings

Rating	Explanation
Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All controls are well designed and address the root cause/s of the risk.</li> <li>All controls operate to the required level.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring required.</li> </ul>
Can be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of controls are well designed and address the root cause/s of the risk.</li> <li>Majority of controls operate to the required level.</li> <li>Certain controls can be improved.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring required.</li> </ul>
Needs to be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of controls are not well designed and do not address root cause/s of the risk.</li> <li>Majority of controls do not operate to the required level.</li> <li>Majority of controls require improvement.</li> </ul>

## Risk Treatment and Acceptance Criteria

Level of risk	Action required	Acceptance authority
VERY HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk treatment must be in place immediately</li> <li>Review risk quarterly at a minimum</li> </ul>	EMT member*
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk treatment must be considered (having regard to current business priorities)</li> <li>Review risk annually at a minimum</li> </ul>	General Manager
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk treatment may be considered</li> <li>Review risk two yearly at a minimum</li> </ul>	Group/Asset/Project Manager
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No risk treatment required</li> <li>No ongoing review required unless determined by the relevant Group Manager</li> </ul>	Site/Activity Manager

\* Managing Director acceptance required for risks with a Catastrophic consequence and Likely or above Likelihood

Figure 39: Origin's Risk Matrix.

		IMPACT ON ORIGIN OPERATIONS					EXTERNAL RESPONSE		LIKELIHOOD						
		Conduct Business with Due Care		Create Value			Decisions are Subject to Scrutiny		1 REMOTE	2 HIGHLY UNLIKELY	3 UNLIKELY	4 POSSIBLE	5 LIKELY	6 HIGHLY LIKELY	
		People	Environment and Community	EBIT	Cash flow	NPV	Stakeholder Perceptions	Laws, regulation and civil actions	<1% chance of occurring within the next year. Only occurs as a '100 year event' or less frequent.	<10% chance of occurring within the next year. Could occur within decades.	<30% chance of occurring within the next year. Could occur within the next few years.	<60% chance of occurring within the next year. Could occur within months to years.	<90% chance of occurring within the next year. Could occur within weeks to months.	Likely to happen multiple times a year	
CONSEQUENCE	6 CATASTROPHIC	Multiple fatalities ≥4 or life threatening illness or total permanent disability to a large exposed group (10 or more people)	Extensive permanent damage to endangered species, habitats, ecosystems or area/s of cultural significance  Extensive irreversible loss of community livelihood. Long-term social unrest and outrage	>\$200m	>\$1b	>\$1.5b	Multiple stakeholder groups confirming coordinated action, as reflected in media channels with significant reach and influence (eg. scheduled blockade or boycott covered in media for more than 1 week).	Criminal charges against any director or senior executive involving jail or loss of right to manage the company. Public inquiry – requiring considerable resources and Executive Management time. Loss of licence to operate an asset	6 CATASTROPHIC	HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
	5 CRITICAL	1 – 3 fatalities or life threatening illness or total permanent disability to a small exposed group (<10 people)	Extensive long term partially reversible damage to vulnerable species, unique habitats, ecosystems or area/s of cultural significance  Extensive reversible loss of community livelihood. Prolonged community outrage.	>\$50m - \$200m	>\$250m - \$1b	>\$375m - \$1.5b	Multiple stakeholder groups mobilising and encouraging others to take action, as reflected in media channels with significant reach and influence (eg. social media campaign calling for protest, escalating over several days).	Criminal charges against any director, senior executive or senior manager not involving jail or loss of right to manage the company. Prolonged major litigation – exposure to significant damages / fines / costs. Suspension / restriction to operate an asset.	5 CRITICAL	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
	4 MAJOR	Injury or illness to one or more persons, resulting in permanent partial disability	Long term reversible impacts to listed species, habitats, ecosystems or area of cultural significance  Significant impacts to community cost of living, business viability or social wellbeing. High levels of community tension.	>\$20m - \$50m	>\$100m - \$250m	>\$150m - \$375m	More than one stakeholder group's opinion or view influencing other stakeholders, reported through media channels with some reach and influence (eg. government comments in national media or in Parliament).	Criminal charges against any employee (not described above) Major litigation – exposure to damages / fines / costs.	4 MAJOR	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
	3 SERIOUS	Injury or illness to one or more persons resulting in hospitalisation, 5 or more days lost time or alternative / restricted duties for 1 month or more	Serious medium term reversible impacts to low risk species, habitats, ecosystems or area/s of cultural significance  Moderate impacts to community cost of living, business viability or social wellbeing. Moderate levels of community tension.	>\$5m - \$20m	>\$25m - \$100m	>\$37.5m - \$150m	More than one stakeholder group offering an opinion or view, reported through media channels with some reach and influence (eg. state based commentary lasting one 24 hour media cycle across internet, print, television, radio).	Non-compliance with conditions of licence to operate an asset or to conduct an activity. Litigation – exposure to damages / fines / costs.	3 SERIOUS	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	2 MODERATE	Injury or illness to 1 or more persons resulting in medical treatment, up to 5 days lost time or alternative / restricted duties for up to 1 month	Moderate short term impacts to common regional species, habitats, ecosystems or area of cultural significance Small scale impacts to cost of living, business viability or social wellbeing. Isolated examples of community tension.	>\$1m - \$5m	>\$500k - \$25m	>\$750k - \$37.5m	A single stakeholder group drawing attention to an incident, issue or approach, conveyed through media channels with potential reach and influence (eg. some social media complaints or local media reports).	Moderate non-compliance with external mandatory obligations or breach of contractual or other legal obligations (not described above). Litigation possible.	2 MODERATE	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	1 MINOR	Injury or illness requiring first aid to 1 or more persons, or no treatment (record only)	Minor environmental or community impact - readily dealt with	>\$100k - \$1m	<\$500k	<\$750k	A person or organisation within stakeholder group signaling an interest in an incident, event or approach, using channels with limited reach or influence (eg. letter of complaint/commendation).	Minor non-compliance with external mandatory obligations or breach of contractual or other legal obligations.	1 MINOR	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM

\* Cash Flow - change from expectation over the life of the exposure. EBIT change from expectation over 12 – 18 month period.

## 6.3 Assessment of Scientific Uncertainty

The draft NT Petroleum Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (EMP Guidelines) requires an assessment of uncertainty as a part of the risk assessment process. The assessment of potential impacts and effectiveness of controls must demonstrate that the activities are carried out in a manner consistent with the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Precautionary Principle.

Impact and risk identification must include consideration of uncertainty regarding impacts and risks for the activity where a precautionary approach is appropriate. Uncertainty is high where confidence in the available information is low in identifying risk or the effectiveness of a management control. Additional baseline studies or other safeguards may be required to increase the accuracy of an assessment to determine the acceptability of a risk.

As per the Draft EMP Guidelines, scientific certainty is qualitatively assessed using a generic means of ranking the data available in accordance with Table 26 below. Considerations of uncertainty have been included in the risk assessment discussed in Section 6.4.

**Table 26: Scoring system for Scientific Uncertainty (DEFRA, 2013).**

Ranking Scientific Uncertainty	
Score	Description
Low (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive data with strong evidence in multiple peer reviewed data</li> <li>Little disagreement between authors or experts</li> <li>Considerable and consistent on-ground experience and/or monitoring</li> </ul>
Medium (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some or incomplete data available</li> <li>Evidence provided based on a small number of references</li> <li>Authors or experts conclusions vary</li> <li>Limited on-ground experience and/or monitoring</li> </ul>
High (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scarce or no data available; evidence provided in unpublished reports</li> <li>Few on-ground observations</li> <li>Authors and experts conclusions vary considerably</li> </ul>

## 6.4 Risk Assessment Outcomes

The environmental, heritage and social risks associated with the activities covered under this EMP have been assessed utilising the Origin risk assessment framework described in Section 6.1. The detailed risk assessment presents the range of potential impact-causing activities, corresponding mitigation measures and residual risk ratings based on their assessed worst-case consequence and likelihood of occurrence. The assessment also cross-referenced the various risk assessment outcomes in the NT Inquiry Final Report, to ensure consistency.

Site specific conditions and cumulative impacts have also been considered during the assessment. Cumulative impacts have included the following:

- An additional five (5) future Origin exploration wells as per the current approved tenure work plan.
- Existing land users predominantly carry out pastoral activities.

There were no residual risks above a 'Medium' risk ranking, with 18 risk scenarios. Within these risk groups, the assessment considered 80 risk sources which may potentially result in a risk occurring. Of the 80 risk sources, eleven were ranked as 'Moderate' with the remaining ranked as 'Low'. The 'Medium' risks identified were consistent with standard construction or pastoralist activities carried out across the NT, being the potential spread of weeds, erosion and sediment control, and ignition of bushfires from the proposed activities. The reduced risk



profile associated with stimulation activities (such as potential spills and groundwater contamination) is reflective of the stringent regulatory requirements within the Petroleum Codes of Practice.

The level of uncertainty for each risk was assessed. There was no uncertainty level above 'Low', which is consistent with the knowledge of impacts associated with shale exploration activities demonstrated in the Inquiry Final Report and through the various reports published by the US EPA.

Table 27 provides a count of the post-treatment environmental risks associated with this EMP. A copy of the risk assessment is provided in Appendix N.

**Table 27: Count of Residual Environmental Risks for the Drilling and Stimulation Program.**

	Residual Environmental Risk Level			
	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Total 80	69	9	0	0

## 6.5 Environmental Risk Management Summary

The following section provides a summary of how the environmental impacts and environmental risks will be managed. The assessment has been based upon the findings of the NT Inquiry Final Report, with the assessment also including consideration of site-specific hazards. For aspects with multiple individual risks, these are summarised in the relevant aspect table with the highest residual risk being used. The risk assessment provided in Appendix N should be consulted where an overview of each individual risk is required.

The following section provides a summary of how any environmental impacts risks will be managed. The management summary tables are designed to tie the contents of this EMP together into one table to summarise how risks and impacts will be managed. These tables include an overview of the environmental values, outcomes, potential risks and impacts, along with the performance standards, measurement criteria and records for each environmental aspect. For aspects with multiple individual risks, these are summarised in the relevant aspect table with the highest residual risk being used.

Each table includes a statement of the residual risk, scientific uncertainty and ALARP. This is designed to provide certainty that the risks are being reduced to as low as reasonably practicable.

The risk assessment provided in Appendix N should be consulted where an overview of each individual risk is required.

### 6.5.1 Soils

**Table 28: Environmental Values and Outcomes – Soils.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suitability and stability of land for existing uses (erosion and sediment controls implemented)</li> <li>Stability of land to preserve existing water quality, landscapes and ecosystems</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid, minimise and control soil erosion and discharge of sediment or soil into waterways or established drainage systems</li> <li>Minimise disturbance of soil, vegetation and drainage during site activities</li> <li>Minimise the creation of dust</li> <li>Prevent the contamination of soil to maintain the viability of soil resources</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling, stimulation and well testing</li> <li>Storage and handling of hazardous substances and wastewater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil erosion and sedimentation during operations</li> <li>Soil contamination from chemical and waste handling, storages and spills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field surveys completed to identify high risk soils</li> <li>Land Condition Assessment completed to ensure impacts to sensitive areas is avoided</li> <li>Location selected to avoid impacts to high risk soil types</li> <li>Erosion and Sediment Controls in place in accordance with the Velkerri civils EMP NT-2050-15-MP-031</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement of vehicles and equipment.</li> <li>• Camp activities, including camp wastewater irrigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil contamination from on-site drilling waste disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Wastewater Management Plan (Appendix E) implemented to ensure the appropriate management of wastewater produced by exploration activities.</li> <li>•Spill Management Plan (Appendix D) implemented to prevent, detect and respond to spills</li> <li>•Secondary containment will be implemented for all chemical storage and handling areas</li> <li>•Vehicles only permitted to drive on formed surfaces</li> <li>•All disturbed areas to be rehabilitated</li> <li>•All spills requiring site remediation will be cleaned up in accordance with the principles outlined in Schedule A of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Environmental performance standards:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>• NT Dangerous Goods Act and Flammable and Combustible Liquids Regulations and AS1940.</li> <li>• Erosion and Sediment Controls in place in accordance with the Velkerri civils EMP NT-2050-15-MP-031</li> <li>• Spill Management Plan (Appendix D)</li> <li>• Wastewater Management Plan (Appendix E)</li> <li>• NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</li> <li>• National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Measurement criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No vegetation clearing to be undertaken under EMP</li> <li>• No incidence of erosion and sedimentation causing material environmental harm. Material environmental harm' is defined in section 117AAB(1) of the Petroleum Act and in section 7.7.1 of the plan.</li> <li>• No spills of chemicals or wastewater that have resulted in material environmental harm</li> <li>• No offsite releases of wastewater</li> <li>• Zero onsite spills of wastewater &gt;2,500L</li> <li>• Zero wastewater transport spills</li> <li>• Zero wastewater tank overtopping events</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Records</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent of disturbances will be measured and uploaded to the Origin Geographic Information System (GIS)</li> <li>• Site inspections for soil erosion and related issues undertaken before and after the wet season</li> <li>• Weekly inspections of chemical and waste storage and handling areas</li> <li>• Weekly wastewater tank inspections to ensure structural integrity during use</li> <li>• Any spills to be cleaned up and reported as per the Spill Management Plan (Appendix D)</li> <li>• A third-party technical report outlining the drilling muds disposal strategy (if on-site burial is determined as being suitable)</li> <li>• Monitoring of rehabilitated sites will be undertaken annually until final rehabilitation success criteria has been achieved</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Residual Risk</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Scientific Uncertainty</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>
<p><b>ALARP Statement</b></p>	<p>The highest risk to soils is predominantly from erosion and sediment control. This risk was assessed as a 'moderate', with a 'low' consequence and 'possible' likelihood. The potential failure of a wastewater storage tank is also a risk to soil. With the implementation of the Petroleum Codes of Practice, the risk is ranked as 'low', with a 'serious' consequence, 'remote' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the Petroleum Codes of Practice, International Erosion Control Association Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC) standard, Origin Spill Management Plan, Origin Wastewater Management Plan and the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure. Controls above best practice are unlikely to reduce the risk to soils further. Based upon the</p>		

	risk being ranked as a 'moderate', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2.
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## 6.5.2 Surface Water

**Table 29: Environmental Values and Outcomes – Surface Water.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the quality and quantity of surface water to maintain the viability of ecosystems and surrounding agricultural systems.</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid and minimise the potential contamination caused by the discharge of sediment or contaminated storm water to waterways or established drainage systems.</li> <li>Contain any potential contaminants for treatment or disposal.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All drilling, stimulation and well testing activities</li> <li>Storage and handling of hazardous chemicals and wastewater</li> <li>Camp activities, including camp wastewater irrigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity altering natural drainage lines or sinks</li> <li>Access tracks and site pads create ponding and or erosion</li> <li>Contamination or pollution of surface waters through hydrocarbon, chemical or wastewater spill or leak</li> <li>Impacts associated with soil erosion such as increased water turbidity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separation distance from surface waters</li> <li>No use of surface water or discharge to surface waters</li> <li>Erosion and Sediment Controls in place in accordance with the Velkerri civils EMP NT-2050-15-MP-031</li> <li>Spill Management Plan implemented to prevent, detect and remediate any spills</li> <li>Wastewater Management Plan implemented to ensure the appropriate management of wastewater generate by activities.</li> <li>Routine site inspection to ensure erosion and sediment controls are functioning</li> <li>No additional clearing proposed</li> <li>Secondary containment used during the storage and handling of wastewater and chemicals</li> <li>Site bunded eliminating the risk off off-site spills</li> <li>All spills requiring site remediation will be cleaned up in accordance with the principles outlined in Schedule A of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> <li>Site rehabilitation to a safe, stable and non-polluting form consistent with the surrounding land use</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>Dangerous goods will be stored, handled, separated and signed as required by the NT Dangerous Goods Act and Flammable and Combustible Liquids Regulations and AS1940</li> <li>Spill Management Plan</li> <li>Wastewater Management Plan</li> <li>NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</li> </ul>	
<b>Measurement Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No use of surface water</li> <li>No release of drilling and stimulation wastewater to watercourses or areas surrounding the lease pad</li> <li>No spills or releases of sediment to watercourses causing material environmental harm. Material environmental harm' is defined in section 117AAB(1) of the Petroleum Act and in section 7.7.1 of the plan.</li> <li>No offsite releases of wastewater</li> <li>Zero onsite spills of wastewater &gt;2,500L</li> <li>Zero wastewater transport spills</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero wastewater tank overtopping events</li> </ul>			
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of any spills or off-site releases as per the Spill and Wastewater Management Plans</li> <li>Monitoring for soil erosion and related issues will be undertaken before and after the wet season, with records retained</li> </ul>			
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Low</b></td> <td style="width: 34%;"><b>Scientific Uncertainty</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Low</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Low</b>		
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk to surface water is predominantly from soil erosion during operations and is assessed as “low”. This is ranked as a ‘minor’ consequence, ‘unlikely’ likelihood event. The potential failure of a wastewater storage tank is also a risk to surface water. With the implementation of the Petroleum Codes of Practice, the risk is ranked as ‘low’, with a ‘serious’ consequence, ‘remote’ likelihood event.</p> <p>The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice, and International Erosion Control Association Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC) standard. Controls above best practice are unlikely to reduce the risk associated with erosion and sediment control or offsite release of wastewater further. Based upon the risk being ranked as a ‘low’, the risk is determined to be ALARP and ‘acceptable’ in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2.</p>			

### 6.5.3 Groundwater

**Table 30: Environmental Values and Outcomes – Groundwater.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable use of groundwater to maintain the viability of the underground water sources to sustain future ecological and pastoralist users</li> </ul>				
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage exploration activities to prevent unsustainable depletion of groundwater resources</li> <li>Preserve groundwater quantity and quality for livestock supplies (the surrounding water use)</li> </ul>				
<b>Activity</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Potential environmental risks</th> <th style="width: 67%;">Key control summary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over-extraction of groundwater impacts on pastoral leaseholders</li> <li>Contamination of aquifers from surface and subsurface activities</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Extraction Licence obtained</li> <li>Separation distance of 11.4km between closest landholder extraction bore</li> <li>Control and impact groundwater quality bores installed</li> <li>Well Operations Management Plan to be approved by DPIR and implemented</li> <li>Aquifer protected through the use of multiple barriers</li> <li>Integrity validated prior to completing stimulation.</li> <li>No GDES within the vicinity of water extraction points</li> <li>Water extraction volume monitored and tracked</li> <li>No wastewater injection proposed.</li> <li>All spills or loss of containment requiring site remediation will be cleaned up in accordance with the principles outlined in Schedule A of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Potential environmental risks	Key control summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over-extraction of groundwater impacts on pastoral leaseholders</li> <li>Contamination of aquifers from surface and subsurface activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Extraction Licence obtained</li> <li>Separation distance of 11.4km between closest landholder extraction bore</li> <li>Control and impact groundwater quality bores installed</li> <li>Well Operations Management Plan to be approved by DPIR and implemented</li> <li>Aquifer protected through the use of multiple barriers</li> <li>Integrity validated prior to completing stimulation.</li> <li>No GDES within the vicinity of water extraction points</li> <li>Water extraction volume monitored and tracked</li> <li>No wastewater injection proposed.</li> <li>All spills or loss of containment requiring site remediation will be cleaned up in accordance with the principles outlined in Schedule A of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> </ul>
Potential environmental risks	Key control summary				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over-extraction of groundwater impacts on pastoral leaseholders</li> <li>Contamination of aquifers from surface and subsurface activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Extraction Licence obtained</li> <li>Separation distance of 11.4km between closest landholder extraction bore</li> <li>Control and impact groundwater quality bores installed</li> <li>Well Operations Management Plan to be approved by DPIR and implemented</li> <li>Aquifer protected through the use of multiple barriers</li> <li>Integrity validated prior to completing stimulation.</li> <li>No GDES within the vicinity of water extraction points</li> <li>Water extraction volume monitored and tracked</li> <li>No wastewater injection proposed.</li> <li>All spills or loss of containment requiring site remediation will be cleaned up in accordance with the principles outlined in Schedule A of the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure</li> </ul>				
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NT Water Act</li> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> </ul>				

<b>Measurement Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater take less than maximum permitted volume of 38ML for the activity</li> <li>• No material impairment of any surrounding pastoralist extraction bores associated with Origin's activities. Impairment is defined as a 1m drawdown in the static water level of the bore attributable to Origin's activities.</li> <li>• No material change in quality attributed to Origin's stimulation activities at the surrounding impact monitoring bore. Material change is defined as permanent (&gt;1 year) reduction of groundwater quality exceeding the ANZECC Guidelines for Livestock use</li> </ul>		
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater extraction rates (volume) and monitoring results (quality) to be retained</li> <li>• Groundwater extraction rates to be monitored continuously and cumulative take tracked weekly during drilling and stimulation operations</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Risk control effectiveness</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>Risks to groundwater resources from extraction and contamination is ranked as a 'low'. Through the adoptions of the controls with the Codes of Practice, the risk is assessed as having a 'serious' consequence and 'remote' likelihood. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice, API standards and the Water Act. Controls above best practice are unlikely to reduce the risk groundwater extraction. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

#### 6.5.4 Vegetation, Flora, Fauna and Habitat

**Table 31: Environmental Values and Outcomes – Vegetation, Flora, Fauna and Habitat.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the integrity of significant ecosystems</li> <li>• Maintain habitat elements for native flora and fauna, including species protected by EPBC Act and TPWC Act</li> <li>• Avoid impacts on high value habitat</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise disturbance to flora and fauna through the deployment of appropriate controls</li> <li>• No disturbance to high conservation areas</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle movements</li> <li>• Drilling, stimulation and well testing</li> <li>• Flaring</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance to environmentally sensitive areas and / or flora and fauna species</li> <li>• Loss or endangerment of threatened species</li> <li>• Loss of habitat</li> <li>• Vehicle collisions with fauna – fauna mortality</li> <li>• Wildlife access to sumps and wastewater tanks causing mortality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional clearing proposed under EMP</li> <li>• Field ecological surveys completed</li> <li>• Location selected to avoid impacts to high conservation areas</li> <li>• Site to be bunded to prevent off-site releases</li> <li>• Covered tanks to be utilised to store wastewater during the wet season.</li> <li>• All equipment to be washed-down and to have valid weed hygiene certificates</li> <li>• Weed Management Plan implemented (Appendix O) to prevent, detect and respond to weed infestations</li> <li>• Flares separated from vegetation and combustible material</li> <li>• Bushfire Management Plan implemented (Appendix Q) to prevent and respond to bushfire</li> <li>• Chemicals handled in accordance with Section 13.2 – API RP 100-2 - Managing Environmental Aspects</li> </ul>

		<p>Associated with Exploration and Production Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site fencing and tank wall design to prevent fauna access.</li> <li>• Onsite flaring will create noise and light that deters fauna and birds</li> <li>• Wastewater is highly saline- birds are unlikely to drink.</li> <li>• Routine inspections of wastewater tanks and adjacent to the lease pads to identify fauna mortality associated with site activities.</li> <li>• Additional fauna and bird deterrents to be deployed to minimise access to wastewater ponds.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> </ul>	
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No unauthorised clearing of vegetation</li> <li>• No fauna impacts due to wastewater storage or chemical exposure</li> </ul>	
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records of inspections will be maintained</li> <li>• Records of fauna deaths within wastewater storages and surrounding lease pads to be retained.</li> <li>• All incidents will be reported in Origin's incident reporting tool OCIS and corrective action initiated</li> </ul>	
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk to vegetation, flora and fauna is ranked as a 'low', with a 'minor' consequence, 'highly unlikely' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice and NT Land Clearing Guidelines. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk to flora, fauna and habitat. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>	

### 6.5.5 Weeds

**Table 32: Environmental Values and Objectives – Weeds (Biosecurity).**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the integrity of significant ecosystems and agricultural productivity</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the introduction of weeds</li> <li>• Avoid the spread of existing weeds</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle and equipment movement into and within the project area</li> <li>• Ongoing site maintenance and rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction or spread of weeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed Management Plan (Appendix O) implemented to prevent, detect and respond to weed infestations</li> <li>• Weed surveys conducted prior to activities</li> <li>• Dedicated Weed Officer nominated</li> <li>• Monthly weed surveys pre and post wet season in disturbed areas</li> <li>• Weeds will be managed and reported as per Weed Management Plan</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All equipment clean and to have valid weed hygiene declarations prior to accessing pastoral property</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>NT Land Clearing Guidelines</li> <li>Weed Management Planning Guide: Onshore Shale Gas Development Projects</li> </ul>		
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No introduction or spread of declared weeds resulting from Origin's activities</li> <li>Six-monthly weed inspections completed on all activity areas- including camp and drill pads, access tracks, borrow pits</li> </ul>		
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of weed distribution will be maintained within Origin's GIS and if required provided to the Weeds Officer at DENR</li> <li>Include annual reporting on the performance of weed management against NT-Records of weed inspections will be maintained</li> <li>All weed outbreak incidents will be reported in Origin's incident management system (OCIS) and corrective action initiated</li> <li>It is noted that under Section 9 of the Weeds Management Act that: <i>'The owner and occupier of land must... within 14 days after becoming aware of a declared weed that has not previously been, or known to have been, present on the land, notify an officer of the presence of the declared weed.'</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk of weed introduction and spread of weeds is ranked as a 'moderate' risk. The risk is assessed as a 'moderate' consequence, 'unlikely' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice and NT Land Clearing Guidelines. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk of introduction or spread of weeds. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'moderate' and consistent with standard civil or pastoral activities (regardless of industry), the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

### 6.5.6 Waste Management

**Table 33: Environmental Values and Objectives – Waste.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the integrity of ecosystems and agricultural productivity</li> <li>Minimise the amount of waste generated on-site and disposed of off-site</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No adverse impacts on soil, surface water, groundwater, sensitive habitat and air quality</li> <li>Minimise creation of food sources or habitat for pest species</li> <li>Minimise waste generation through reduce, reuse, recycle programs</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling, stimulation, completion and well testing activities</li> <li>Operation of main and mini-camp, including irrigation of wastewater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminated land</li> <li>Encouragement of pest species to waste sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wastewater Management Plan (Appendix E) will be implemented outlining the requirements to prevent impacts associated with wastewater management</li> <li>The Spill Management Plan (Appendix D) will be implemented to prevent, detect and remediate spills.</li> <li>All wastes will be managed in accordance with the NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</li> <li>Treatment tanks will be used to evaporate wastewater to reduce offsite waste disposal requirements</li> <li>Sewage and grey water from camps will be treated on-site and irrigated as per the Department of Health Code of Practice for On-site Wastewater Management</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage of wastewater and wastes</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drill cuttings will be managed in accordance with the NT Petroleum Code of Practice, with on-site disposal used where a third-party assessment confirms it is safe to do so. DENR will be consulted where onsite disposal is proposed.</li> <li>Lease pad bunded to prevent waste spills offsite and prevent segregate overland flow.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>Origin's Wastewater Management Plan</li> <li>Origin Spill Management Plan</li> <li>NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</li> </ul>	
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All waste volumes tracked whilst on-site and in transport</li> <li>Waste transport certificates available for all wastes generated</li> <li>No off-site releases of wastewater or waste products</li> <li>Zero wastewater tank overtopping events</li> <li>Zero onsite spills of wastewater &gt;2,500L to grade (compacted lease pad surface)</li> <li>Zero wastewater transport spills</li> <li>No material environmental harm resulting from spills. Material environmental harm' is defined in section 117AAB(1) of the Petroleum Act</li> </ul>	
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste disposal records (tracking and disposal certificated) to be maintained and kept for audit purposes and provided to DPIR/DENR</li> <li>Records of all waste transfers triggered by a significant rainfall events to be retained.</li> </ul>	
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk from waste is ranked as a 'low'. The risk was assessed as being a 'minor' consequence, 'unlikely' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice and NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk associated with waste management. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>	

## 6.5.7 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas emissions

**Table 34: Environmental Values and Objectives – Air Quality (Dust and Emissions).**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural air environment with qualities conducive to suitability for the life, health and wellbeing of humans</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid environmental nuisance at sensitive receptors</li> <li>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Key control summary</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling, stimulation, completion and well testing activities</li> <li>Flaring</li> <li>Vehicle movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dust emissions</li> <li>Release of atmospheric contaminants from exhausts, venting and flaring</li> <li>Wellhead leaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The controls identified within the Methane Emissions Management Plan will be implemented as per Appendix P</li> <li>A reduced emission completion (separator and flare) will be used to reduce Volatile Organic Compound and GHG emissions</li> <li>A leak detection and repair program will be implemented</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dust suppression will be utilised near sensitive receptors.</li> <li>Equipment will be maintained in good working order to minimise emissions</li> <li>All pollutant emissions, including unplanned events and emissions from wastewater storage tanks will be reported via the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) Emission Estimation Technique Manual for Oil and Gas Extraction and Production Version 2.0</li> <li>All Greenhouse gas emissions shall be measured and reported in accordance with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS) National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Methane Emissions</li> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part B- Well Operations</li> </ul>		
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No valid complaints regarding dust / air quality resulting from Origin's activities. A valid complaint is a complaint that has been determined to be associated or reasonably associated with Origin's exploration activities.</li> <li>All complaints responded to and, where appropriate, corrective action taken in in consultation with the impacted stakeholder and DENR</li> </ul>		
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All complaints and subsequent actions are to be recorded in Origin's OCIS incident management system</li> <li>All venting and flaring of produced gas to be recorded, with a mass balance of actual greenhouse emissions that incorporates flare efficiency, by-pass calculations and estimate of venting.</li> <li>All emissions reported via the National Pollutant Inventory and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk from dust, equipment emissions and flaring on air quality is ranked as 'low'. The risk is assessed as being a 'minor' consequence, 'unlikely' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice; with site selection being the primary control. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk to air quality. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

### 6.5.8 Lighting, noise, vibration and visual amenity

**Table 35: Environmental Values and Objectives – Lighting, noise, vibration and visual amenity.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A rural acoustic, lighting, vibration and visual amenity environment conducive to the wellbeing of the community, including its social and economic amenity, and an individual, including the opportunity to have sleep, relaxation and conversation without unreasonable interference from civil works and water bore drilling operations</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage activities in accordance with occupational health and safety guidelines for noise, vibration and light exposure</li> <li>Avoid nuisance noise and vibration impacts on surrounding communities or exploration workers</li> <li>Minimise disruption to fauna and stock</li> </ul>

Activity	Environmental impacts and environmental risks	Key control summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling, stimulation, completion and well testing) activities</li> <li>flaring</li> <li>Vehicle movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nuisance noise impacts on surrounding communities or exploration workers through use of mechanical equipment</li> <li>Disrupting or altering fauna feeding, breeding or other activities through noise, vibration and lighting from use of mechanical equipment</li> <li>Interference with pastoral activities if noise, vibration and lighting affects behaviour of stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site separation distance from closest receptors is 50km+ and activity will not be directly visible</li> <li>Adjacent area not high conservation areas</li> <li>Short duration of drilling and stimulation activities</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> </ul>		
<b>Measurement Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No valid nuisance-related complaints received from sensitive receptors. A valid complaint is a complaint that has been determined to be associated or reasonably likely to be associated with Origin's exploration activities.</li> <li>All complaints responded to and, where appropriate, corrective action taken in consultation with the impacted stakeholder and DENR</li> </ul>		
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All complaints and subsequent actions are to be recorded in Origin's incident reporting tool OCIS</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Effective</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk of the activity on local amenity is ranked as 'low'. The risk is assessed as having a 'minor' consequence, 'unlikely' likelihood event. The risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the industry best practice requirements of the NT Petroleum Codes of Practice; with the location of the activity being the primary control. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk to aesthetics. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

## 6.5.9 Bushfires

**Table 36: Environmental Values and Objectives – Bushfire.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a natural fire regime of the region</li> <li>Protection of public, private infrastructure and equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise the risk of causing bushfires from Origin's activities</li> <li>Avoid impacts on environmental habitat and fauna, impacts on stakeholders, impacts on culturally-significant sites, public infrastructure and community lands</li> <li>Ensure proper health and safety plan for activities</li> <li>Prevent accidental fire risk and ensure safe storage of chemicals to prevent fire damage</li> </ul>

Activity	Environmental impacts and environmental risks	Key control summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling, stimulation and well testing (flaring) activities</li> <li>Ongoing site access</li> <li>Ignition sources from equipment, machinery and plant</li> <li>Inappropriate disposal of flammable items, such as cigarettes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation degradation</li> <li>Loss of fauna and habitat</li> <li>Increased erosion and impacts upon soil and surface water as a result of vegetation loss</li> <li>Damage to or loss of public infrastructure, private infrastructure and equipment or community lands</li> <li>Damage to or loss of culturally significant sites</li> <li>Loss of life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushfire Management Plan (Appendix Q) implemented to prevent and respond to bushfires.</li> <li>Firebreaks to be implemented around the lease</li> <li>The location of flares to have an appropriate buffer from flammable and combustible material, such as vegetation.</li> <li>Emergency Response Plan (Appendix R) implemented to outline the response requirements in case of an emergency</li> <li>Horizontal flare to be used with water curtains to dampen heat radiation</li> <li>Designated smoking areas provided</li> <li>Fire extinguishers located with every vehicle</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>NT Bushfire Management Act</li> <li>Origin's Bushfire Management Plan</li> </ul>		
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fires, other than the flare, occurring as a resulting from Origin's activities</li> </ul>		
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All incidents of fire to be recorded in Origin's incident reporting tool OCIS</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<p>The risk of fire introduction ranked as a 'moderate'. The risk is assessed as a 'severe' consequence, 'highly unlikely' likelihood event. The area is frequented by fire, with risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP that meet the Petroleum Codes of Practice, NT Bushfire Management Act and Origin's Bushfire Management Plan. Controls above best practice are unlikely to further reduce the risk of introduction of bushfire. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'moderate' and consistent with standard civil and pastoral activities (regardless of industry), the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

## 6.5.10 Cultural Heritage and Sacred Sites

Table 37: Environmental Values and Objectives – Cultural Heritage and Sacred Sites.

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain both Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage values of the region</li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid disturbance or damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage artefacts or sacred sites</li> <li>Avoid impacts and disruption to activities of Indigenous stakeholders in culturally-significant areas</li> <li>Avoid impacts to non-indigenous heritage sites.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Environmental impacts and environmental risks</b>	<b>Critical control summary</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling, completion, stimulation and well testing activities</li> <li>• Vehicle movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to or loss of Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage artefacts or sacred sites</li> <li>• Disruption of activities of Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage assessment completed, including site surveys</li> <li>• NLC site clearances completed and AAPA certificates obtained; consent with relevant Traditional Owners obtained</li> <li>• On country meetings with Traditional Owners completed.</li> <li>• Area located away from any RWA's</li> <li>• All contractors made aware of RWA's and conditions within AAPA Certificates.</li> <li>• Training and awareness to cover cultural heritage awareness</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAPA Certificates</li> <li>• NT Heritage Act</li> </ul>	
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No unauthorised activities within or access to a Restricted Work Area or Heritage places</li> <li>• No non-compliances with AAPA certificate conditions</li> </ul>	
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A register will be kept of all occurrences of archaeological sites identified during the Project for provision to the NLC, the AAPA and Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture within DLPE</li> <li>• Ensure that site personnel and contractors report all new discoveries of archaeological or cultural artefacts. All work must cease and protection measures implemented until the area can be assessed</li> </ul>	
<b>Residual Risk</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk to community from the activity is ranked as 'low'. The risk is assessed as having a 'minor' consequence, 'remote' likelihood event. This is reflective of the absence of restricted work areas and implementation of risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP meet the Native Title Act and Sacred Sites Act requirements. Due to the limited nature of the activity and approvals granted (NLC Clearances and AAPA), additional controls are not required. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low', the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>	

## 6.5.11 Social Environment

**Table 38: Environmental Values and Objectives – Community.**

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance the livelihood and well-being of local communities and towns</li> <li>• Maintain the level of amenity and experience for tourists and local community members</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise impacts on the local community and services</li> <li>• Minimise safety risks to the public and other third-parties</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance partnerships with the local community, including using local contractors and maximising opportunities for local employment and training</li> <li>• Minimise reduction in the capacity of road infrastructure by maintaining the level of surface for the Stuart Highway in the vicinity of activities</li> </ul>

Activity	Environmental impacts and environmental risks	Critical control summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling, stimulation, completion and well testing activities</li> <li>• Vehicle and people movements</li> <li>• Transport of wastes and chemicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to third-party infrastructure</li> <li>• Loss of amenity for pastoralists and tourists</li> <li>• Increased traffic within the region impacts pastoralists and tourists</li> <li>• Safety hazard associated with increased truck movements, turn-ins and spills of wastewater and dangerous goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access agreements obtained from pastoralist covering all activities</li> <li>• Activities located in a remote location away from Stuart Highway and receptors; no loss in visual amenity or tourism experience expected</li> <li>• Camps will limit the use of local accommodation which will reduce the competition with tourists for accommodation</li> <li>• Workers to be flown into Daly Waters airport and transported to remote camps via busses to limit the</li> <li>• Small peak traffic movements (of 44 vehicle movements per day) during drilling rig mobilisation and demobilisation only lasting several days.</li> <li>• Equipment movements to consider time of day to reduce impacts on traffic</li> <li>• All chemicals and hazardous substances transported in accordance with the Transport of dangerous goods by road and rail (National Uniform Legislation)</li> <li>• Access track turn-in design has been undertaken with consultation and approval from DIPL; the design has incorporated the appropriate safe sight distance and signage</li> <li>• The intersection will be kept free of dirt and dust material, with traffic management utilised during cleaning activities</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement with directly impacted stakeholders outlining the nature of exploration activities and the limited future scope</li> <li>• Weed management plan implemented too prevent, detect and remediate weed infestations(Appendix O)</li> <li>• No labour competition with local pastoralists anticipated due to limited scope</li> <li>• Prioritise the use of local / regional labour, without creating competition with local pastoralists</li> <li>• Camps will be dry with no alcohol permitted</li> <li>• All staff and contractors to completed code of conduct training to ensure respectful dealing with local community members and tourists</li> <li>• Cumulative gas industry demand for labour is currently low, well within the capability of the existing community</li> <li>• Cumulative impacts from industrialisation of landscape is limited based upon current limited exploration scope.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental performance standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice for Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory Part A- Surface Activities</li> <li>• NT Petroleum (Environment) Regulations</li> </ul>	
<b>Measurement criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All complaints are responded to, with valid concerns addressed and actions implemented.</li> <li>• &gt;60% of addressable spend provided to NT businesses (addressable spend is defined as material and services where an NT service provider exists and is capable of providing the goods and services required).</li> </ul>	
<b>Records</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work instruction will be issued to all contractors relating to access constraints</li> <li>• All complaints recorded in Origin's incident reporting tool OCIS</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Access Agreements closed out at completion</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Risk</b>	Low	<b>Scientific Uncertainty</b>	Low
<b>ALARP Statement</b>	<p>The risk to community from the activity is ranked as 'low'. The risk is assessed as being a 'minor' consequence, 'remote' likelihood event. This risk is reflected by the scale of the activity, remote location and the risk mitigation measures outlined in the EMP. Due to the limited nature of the activity, additional controls further reduce the risk to community. Based upon the risk being ranked as a 'low' and consistent with standard small-scale project activities (regardless of industry), the risk is determined to be ALARP and 'acceptable' in accordance with the rationale within Section 6.2, with no further risk reduction warranted.</p>		

## 7 Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy outlined in this section provides a summary of how Origin intends to implement and assure the controls to manage the environmental risks associated with the regulated activities. Specifically, the strategy seeks to demonstrate how the controls identified in section 6 and the Environmental Risk Assessment are implemented to ensure the environmental risks and impacts are mitigated to a level ALARP.

### 7.1 Corporate Environmental Policy

Origin's activities are governed by the Origin Health, Safety and Environment Management System (HSEMS). This system is underpinned by Origin's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Policy (Figure 41) which is designed to:

*“Conduct our business in a way that causes no harm to the health and safety of people and has no unforeseen impacts to the environment”.*

### 7.2 Environment, Health, and Safety Management Systems

Origin has a mature HSEMS which contains the policies and procedures that Origin has in place to manage and minimise the impact from its activities. In addition to meeting legal requirements, Origin's activities are also governed by several additional internal directives and risk control directives designed to ensure best practice in environmental risk management.

An overview of the Origin HSEMS and the associated directives is provided in Figure 40.

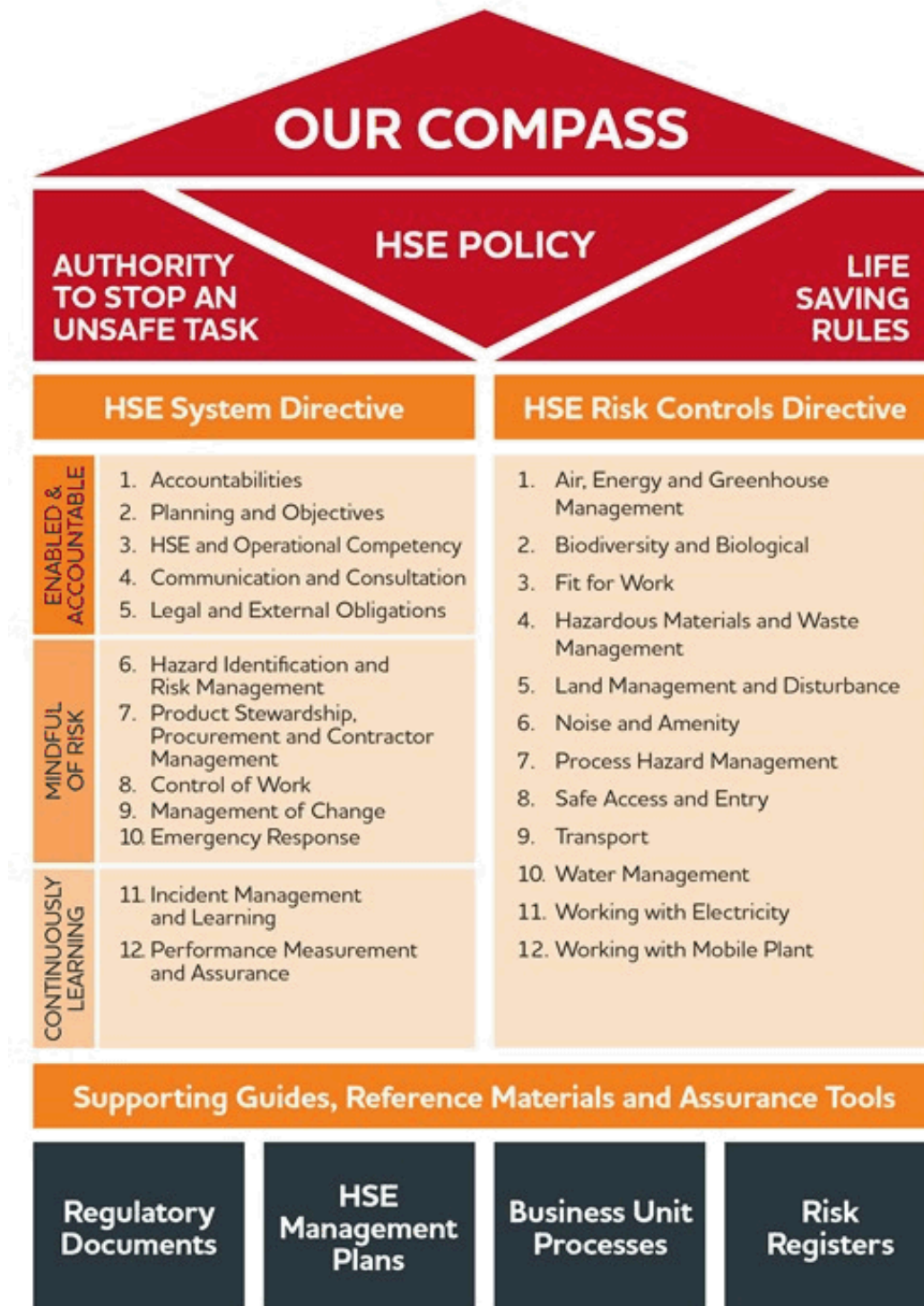


Figure 40: Origin's HSEMS Structure.

## OUR HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY



**OUR PRINCIPLE OF DUE CARE**

We care about the wellbeing of our people and our impact on the environment.

**OUR HSE ASPIRATION**

To conduct our business in a way that causes no harm to the health and safety of people and has no unforeseen impacts to the environment.

**OUR HSE ACTIONS**

We all believe that our HSE aspiration is achievable and we embrace our responsibility for supporting it by:

<p><b>Always mindful of risk</b></p> <p>Recognising that risk is present in every task we do and taking the time to identify and understand these risks and manage them safely and responsibly.</p>	<p><b>Enabled and accountable</b></p> <p>Taking ownership and using our authority, resources, systems and competencies to manage the risks associated with our work. We stop work when confronted by an unknown hazard and proceed only when satisfied we can continue safely and responsibly.</p>	<p><b>Continuously learning</b></p> <p>Being open and transparent about how well we are doing and relentless in learning from our experience to manage our risks. We work together effectively, welcome any feedback and recognise that we can always do better.</p>
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Our Compass and HSE Management System set out how we will implement this policy.



**Frank Calabria**  
CEO  
Origin Energy

ORG-HSE-POL-001 November 2016

Figure 41: Origin's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Policy.



## 7.3 Roles and Responsibility

The following sections describe in detail the management strategies for specific components of the landscape, such as soil, ground water and vegetation, and the cultural and social environment, in relation to the different impact-causing activities that may occur.

The management hierarchy is illustrated in Figure 42. Each management area has been assigned to specific positions within the exploration team as follows:

- **Asset Manager** – Responsible for the overall operations in the Origin’s activities in the exploration permit area.
- **Project Manager** – Oversees the whole planning and execution of the exploration program and is the person ultimately responsible for ensuring all other parties are working within the HSE guidelines. The Project Manager’s role is predominantly office-based. The Project Manager will be responsible for notifying the Minister, the occupier of the land on which the activity is to be carried out and the owner of the land on which the activity is to be carried out (unless the owner is also the occupier).
- **Civil Construction Superintendent** – Person based in the field responsible for ensuring all areas of operations and construction are carried out in accordance with the EMP and Origin’s HSE Policy. All contractors report to this position, who is responsible to the Project Manager.

This role will also cover the role of the Weeds Officer, who will be responsible for:

- Planning and execution of weed monitoring requirements, including baseline weed assessments and ongoing monitoring both during periods of gas-related activities as well as during the target identification period of February to May.
- Facilitate training all workers (including contractors) in weed management requirements, with support from the Northern Territory Government Regional Weed Officer - Onshore Shale Gas Development.
- Oversight of implementation of weed control mechanisms including but not limited to wash-downs and proactive weed control programs.
- Ensuring all reporting requirements are met.
- Act as the designated point of contact for, and rapidly responding to, any civil-related complaints and incidents in accordance with the pre-determined strategies in this EMP or relevant ERP.
- Review and update of WMPs to remain effective in communication with relevant landholders and Regional Weed Officer - Onshore Shale Gas Development in consideration of monitoring results and emerging weed issues for both gas and pastoral operations.

**Drilling and Completions Lead** – Person responsible for ensuring the drilling, stimulation and well testing activities are designed and implemented in accordance with the NT legislation and Codes of Practice.

- Ensures all drilling, completion and stimulation activities are undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum Code of Practice.
- Selection and design of equipment and practices to manage environmental risk.
- Responsible for selecting and engaging drilling, stimulation and well testing contractors.
- Ensuring all contractors comply with the contract terms including compliance with the EMP requirements.

**Drilling and Completions Superintendent** – Person responsible for ensuring the drilling, stimulation and well testing activities are executed in accordance with the works program, EMP and Origin’s HSE Policy. This role reports to the Growth Assets Drilling and Completions Lead.

- Ensures all drilling, completion and stimulation activities are undertaken in accordance with the NT Petroleum Code of Practice.
- Selection and design of equipment and practices to manage environmental risk.
- Responsible for selecting and engaging drilling, stimulation and well testing contractors.
- Ensuring all contractors comply with the contract terms including compliance with the EMP requirements.



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**Well Site Representative** – Person based at the well pad responsible for ensuring all areas of drilling, completion and well testing are carried out in accordance with the EMP and Origin's HSE Policy. All drilling, stimulation and well testing contractors report to this position, who reports to the Drilling and Completions Superintendent.

This role will also cover the role of the Weeds Officer, who will be responsible for:

- Planning and execution of the drilling, stimulation and well testing activities when on-site, including understanding and communicating the environmental requirements of this plan.
  - Facilitate training of all workers (including contractors) in accordance with the management of weeds, spills, waste, emissions and other aspects.
  - Ensuring all reporting requirements are met.
  - Act as the designated point of contact for, and rapidly responding to, any drilling, stimulation and well testing environmental incidents and emergencies in accordance with the pre-determined strategies in this EMP or relevant ERP.
  - Undertake field inspection and assurance activities.
- **Lead Contractor** – A nominated member within each contracting company (Drilling, Stimulation, Well Testing service providers) that are responsible for delivering the commitments outlined in this plan. The Lead Contractor for each service provider will comply with the nominated contractual terms and work instructions issued under this EMP. The Lead Contractor must ensure all staff are aware of their obligations, are approximately trained and that procedures and controls are fully implemented and complied with.
- **Civil Design Engineer** – An individual or organisation that provides professional or expert advice in the field of civil engineering and design. They determine the best locations, design, materials and construction techniques for undertaking a project to ensure it meets the needs of the end user.
- **Health Safety and Environment Representative (HSE Representative)** – Origin representative providing guidance and advice to site personnel on the day-to-day management of the environment. This role will also support the nominated Weeds Officer, specifically in the planning and reporting phases.

**Field Personnel** – All staff including Origin and contractors that are working on in the exploration permit areas. Responsible for day-to-day management and reporting of environmental aspects.

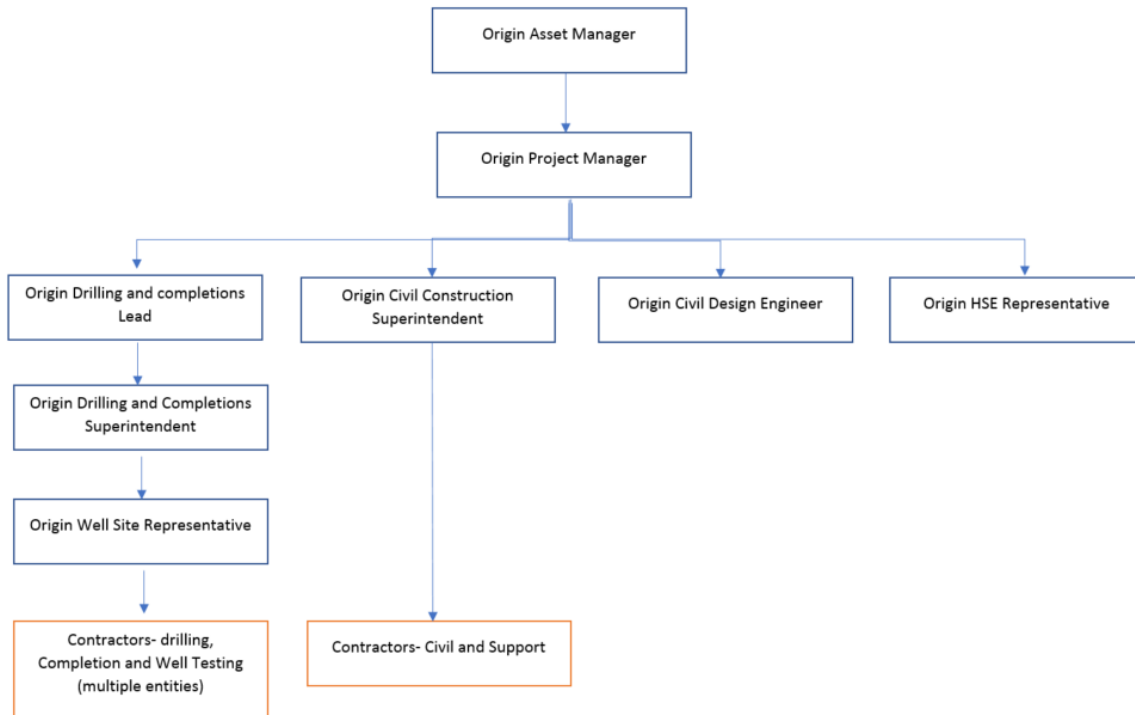


Figure 42: Beetaloo Project Organisation Chart.

## 7.4 Training and Awareness

Origin's HSEMS outlines the policies and procedures governing the training and competency of all personnel (staff and contractors) to ensure they can fulfil their obligations under this EMP and the broader Origin HSEMS.

The majority of work undertaken under this will be via contractors under supervision of Origin staff. Assuring the level of training and competency of the selected contractors and supervisors is therefore a major focus of the HSE EMS implementation strategy.

These systems include:

- General Origin HSE induction
- Contractor HSE prequalification process
- Contractor management system
- Site-specific inductions
- Task-specific training, procedures and competency requirements

Contractors will be required to demonstrate they have appropriate systems, procedures and training to manage specific risks covered under this EMP prior to award. The following aspects will be considered during tender award:

- Maturity of HSE systems and process.
- Previous HSE performance
- Existing procedures and training:
  - Weed identification and management
  - Refuelling procedures

- Procedures for avoidance of potential fauna habitat and any identified heritage sites
  - Hazardous material and waste management procedures
  - Spill management
  - Incident notification and management processes
- Internal training programs
  - Internal auditing processes

All staff and contractors entering the site will be required to attend a site-specific induction. The induction covers the following aspects:

- Regulatory requirements for the area, including specific conditions on the exploration permits and agreements with the NLC
- Environmental considerations and special procedures to be used for environment protection, as well as protection of archaeological and cultural sites within the permit areas
- Safety procedures covering the safe use of vehicles, equipment and explosives first aid and HSE in remote area operations
- Emergency response training
- Landowner sensitivities, including Aboriginal communities and their specific cultural requirements
- Procedures for handling any culturally or archaeologically sensitive materials that may be discovered

Provide training in safe storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids

## 7.5 Environmental Commitment Summary

The responsibility for general environmental monitoring rests with all personnel engaged on the project. More specifically, Origin's Drilling Completion Lead and Well Site Representatives are responsible for delivering the relevant components of this plan.

The program environmental commitments are outlined in Appendix S are sourced from the risk assessment (Appendix N). The implementation and compliance against these risk controls will be assessed as part of the annual environmental report (refer Monitoring, assurance and non-conformance management in Section 7.8).

Specific commitments will be to:

- record of information to track performance, including non-conformances and corrective actions
- inspect and monitor of operational controls on-site via regular environmental monitoring
- assess the level of conformance with objectives and targets detailed in this EMP

The Operating Company Representative will undertake random site inspections and direct such action as may be considered necessary to protect, minimise or rectify any environmental concerns.

The Operating Company Representative will undertake random site inspections and direct such action as may be considered necessary to protect, minimise or rectify any environmental concerns.

## 7.6 Work instructions

The work covered under this EMP will be executed by external contractors with Origin oversight. Efforts are therefore focused on effective contractor management, to ensure third parties are compliant with the relevant EMP commitment and contractual requirements. An overview of Origin's EMP implementation strategy is provided in Figure 43.

An instrument referred to as a 'work instruction' is the main mechanism by which Origin cascades the relevant environmental commitments to each contractor. The work instructions are designed to be a contractual document that outlines the minimum compliance requirements for a specific activity. The work instructions contain:

- Key compliance and system documents;

- A list of compliance commitments and responsible person for a specific activity;
- A list of inspections, procedures and other tools required to implement the content of the EMP;
- Monitoring and reporting requirements;
- 'Hold Points' which require a deliverable to be completed prior to entry into a new activity phase (i.e. prior to mobilisation, operation and demobilisation); and
- Maps illustrating the approved disturbance areas and any restricted work areas.

The work instructions form a critical implementation and assurance tool in that an Origin representative must sign off the 'Hold Points' to ensure the various commitments have been achieved. This provides a clear, documented approach to demonstrate compliance which can be audited against.

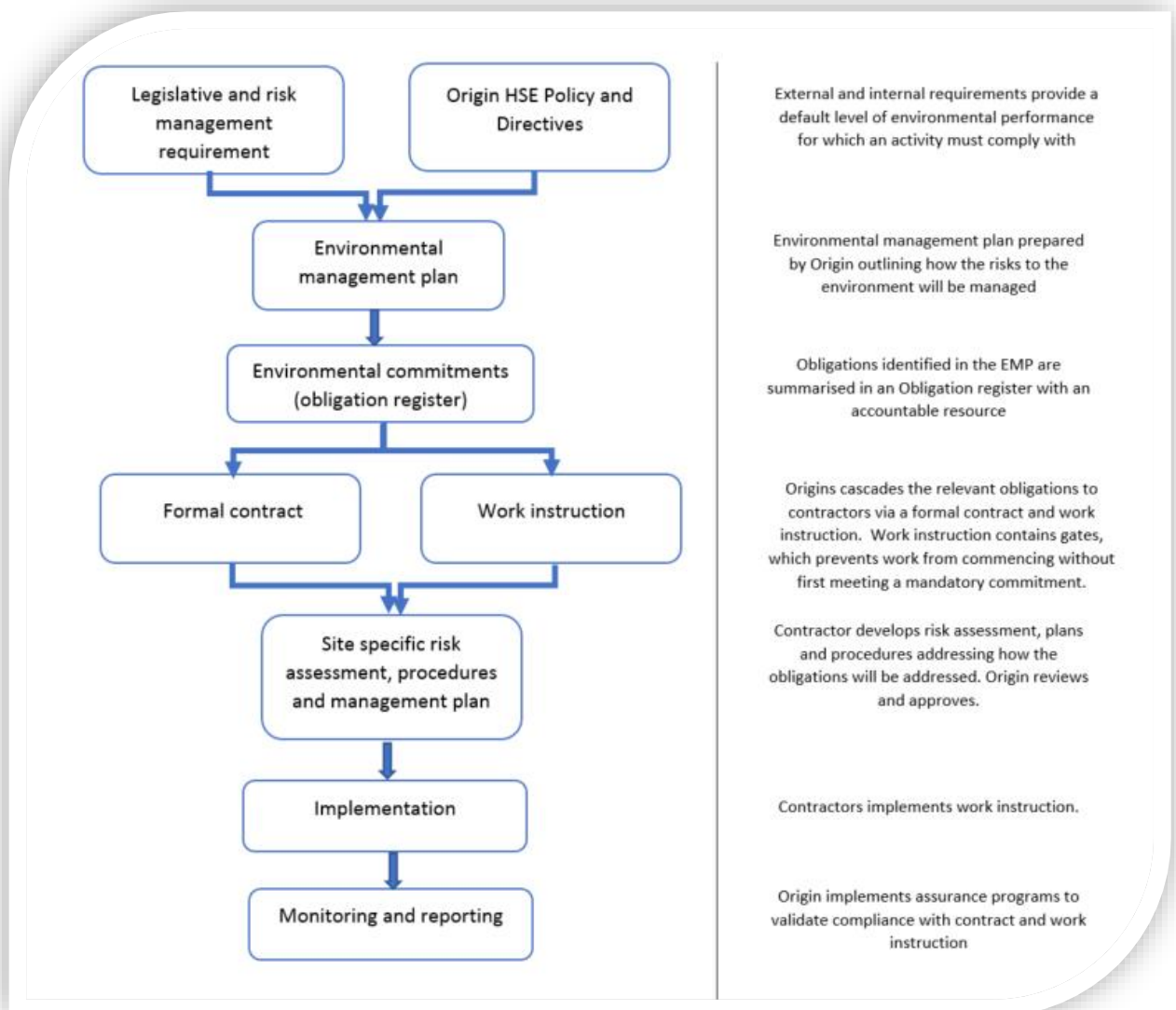


Figure 43: EMP implementation overview flowchart.

## 7.7 Incident Reporting

Incident reporting and investigation provides the mechanism to prevent a recurrence. All personnel are required to proactively report all incidents, near-misses and identification of potential hazards.

Origin utilises an online incident management and reporting system. Any environmental incident, near miss or observation is reported through the online incident reporting system. All personnel are encouraged to report minor events to act as an alert to environmental risks and to maintain a program of continual improvement.

### 7.7.1 Reportable Environmental Incident Reporting

The Petroleum (Environment) Regulations define a reportable incident as an incident arising from a regulated activity that has caused, or has the potential to cause, material environmental harm or serious environmental harm as defined under the Petroleum Act. This also includes any potential or actual damage to a sacred site.

Material environmental harm' is defined in section 117AAB(1) of the Petroleum Act to mean environmental harm that:

- (a) is not trivial or negligible in nature;
- (b) consists of an environmental nuisance of a high impact or on a wide scale;
- (c) results, or is likely to result, in not more than \$50 000 or the prescribed amount (whichever is greater) being spent in taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the environmental harm or rehabilitate the environment; or
- (d) results in actual or potential loss or damage to the value of not more than \$50 000 or the prescribed amount (whichever is greater).

An interest holder must notify (this may be oral or in writing) DENR of a reportable incident as soon as practicable but no later than two hours after the first occurrence of the incident or after the time the interest holder becomes aware of the incident.

The DENR Onshore gas non-compliance hotline can be notified at 1800 413 567.

Any verbal report to DENR must be followed up by a written report from the Project Manager within 24 hours after giving verbal notice in accordance with the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations. An initial report about a reportable incident must be given as soon as practicable, but not later than three days after the incident occurs, and must include comprehensive details about the following:

- I. the results of any assessment or investigation of the conditions or circumstances that caused or contributed to the incident;
- II. the nature and extent of the material environmental harm or serious environmental harm that the incident caused or had the potential to cause;
- III. any actions taken, or proposed to be taken, to clean up or rehabilitate an area affected by the incident;
- IV. any actions taken, or proposed to be taken, to prevent a recurrence of a similar incident.

A final report must be given as soon as practicable but no later than 30 days after the clean up or rehabilitation is complete. This must include a root cause analysis.

### 7.7.2 Recordable incidents

The Petroleum (Environment) Regulations define a recordable incident as an incident arising from a regulated activity that:

- I. Has resulted in an environmental impact or environmental risk not specified in the current plan for the activity; or
- II. Has resulted in a contravention of an environmental performance standard specified in the current plan for the activity; or
- III. Is inconsistent with an environmental outcome specified in the current plan for the activity; and
- IV. Is not a reportable incident.

An interest holder must notify (this may be oral or in writing) DENR of a recordable incident as soon as practicable but no later than 15-days after the reporting period (agreed period or each 90-day period after the day on which the EMP is approved).

### 7.7.3 Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 incident reporting

In accordance with the WMPC Act, where contaminants or waste is not confined within the land on which the petroleum activities are undertaken (i.e. the approved disturbance areas where the petroleum activity is occurring), the operator has a duty to notify of incidents causing or threatening to cause pollution as soon as practicable, but no less than 24 hours after becoming aware of the incident.

A notifiable incident is defined as an incident that causes, or is threatening or may threaten to cause, pollution resulting in material environmental harm or serious environmental harm.

A notification must include:

- (a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution;
- (b) the place where the incident occurred;
- (c) the date and time of the incident;
- (d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur;
- (e) the attempts made to prevent, reduce, control, rectify or clean up the pollution or resultant environmental harm caused or threatening to be caused by the incident; and
- (f) the identity of the person notifying

The notification shall be made to the NT EPA Pollution Hotline 1800 064 567.

## 7.8 Monitoring, assurance and non-conformance management

In addition to regular monitoring as set out in this document, audits assessing compliance with this EMP and associated work instructions will be undertaken by Origin during the commencement of the activity. System deficiencies, adverse or potentially adverse environmental conditions arising from site activities may be subject to the issue of environmental non-conformances or corrective action requests. These non-conformances or corrective actions shall be logged, and remedial actions identified and implemented. The status of corrective actions will be tracked and reported annual in the annual environmental report.

Audits of implementation of the EMP commitments will be completed for each activity or at least annually. The results will be included in the annual environmental report.

**Table 39: EMP audit schedule.**

Audit Type	Scope of Audit	Frequency	Responsibility
Annual Assurance	Compliance against EMP commitments and risk management controls	Annually	Origin HSE Representative

## 7.9 Emergency Response Plan

An Emergency Response Plan has been developed covering the proposed activities within the EMP. The ERP provides a broad framework for managing potential emergency incidents to minimise the potential risk to human safety and the environment.

The ERP covers the following aspects pertinent to the drilling and stimulation activities and associated infrastructure:

- Spills and loss of containment
- Bushfires
- Medical emergencies.
- Flooding
- Emergency incident reporting

The ERP will be reviewed every three years to ensure the content is continually kept up to date. A copy of the ERP is provided in Appendix R.

## 7.10 Reporting

Internal and government reporting on performance standards will be carried out by the Origin authorised representative, and distributed to Origin management and the DENR, in accordance with Section 35 of the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations. Quarterly and annual reports will be completed to summarise the compliance with this EMP, whether the environmental outcomes and performance standards in the plan were met and the details of any recordable and reportable incidents.

**Table 40: EMP Reporting Schedule.**

Frequency	Report detail	Recipient
Prior to the commencement of construction and drilling	A commencement of construction or drilling activity notification	a) The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources b) The occupier of the land in which the activity is carried out c) The owner for the land for which the activity is to be carried out
Only if required	Incident report summarising reportable incidents	DENR and DPIR
Quarterly	Quarterly incident report summarising recordable incidents, activity summary and ongoing compliance against measurement criteria during the period (during operational activities)	DENR
Annually	An annual environmental report will be prepared and submitted to the Minister covering the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summary of the works completed under the EMP during the reporting period</li> <li>- Summary of performance against measurement criteria</li> <li>- A summary of environmental incidents that occurred during the year (i.e. reportable and recordable incidents that occurred)</li> <li>- Any environmental studies or research associated with the activity</li> <li>- Technical improvements</li> <li>- Consultation undertaken</li> <li>- Annual weed management performance reporting against NT-2050-15-MP-0016</li> <li>- Results of related research or of an ongoing monitoring program</li> <li>- The relevant records outlined with Section 6.5 Environmental Risk Management Summary tables</li> </ul>	Origin management DENR

## 7.11 Record Keeping

The following records will be retained within Origin's Document Management system for a period of fifteen (15) years

- The original EMP and each revision
- Reports, including monitoring, audit and review reports
- records linked to measurement criteria, commitments and statutory reporting requirements;
- induction records;
- waste certificate records;



- hazardous goods manifests;
- fuel usage;
- weed inspections;
- non-compliances and corrective action records;
- internal audits and inspection records; and
- management of change records.
- Records of emissions and discharges to the environment
- Stakeholder engagement records
- Calibration and maintenance records
- Records of reportable and recordable incidents
- All documents developed or received by the interest holder in relations to matter to which the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations apply.

To the extent these documents are 'prescribed records' for the purpose of the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016, they will be kept for the longer of five years following the period during which the petroleum interest is in force and 15 years after the record comes into existence.

## 7.12 Management of Change.

A management of change process will be implemented to ensure any changes to activities are appropriately assessed and communicated to ensure no additional un-intended risks or impacts are introduced. Changes can be implemented to optimise environmental outcomes or to improve operational efficiency. This allows adaptive management and the ability to use appropriate technologies.

Most changes will not change the risk profile of the exploration activities and will continue to comply with the existing EMP condition outcomes. Other changes may introduce a new risk not covered under the approved EMP and will require further notification of the EMP.

Examples requiring external notification under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations include:

- A change that will introduce a new or increased level of environmental impact or risk
- Changes in activity not covered by the original scope of the EMP
- A major revision to management plans that will materially change the management strategy, volumes or key controls proposed by the plan.

The addition of a drilling and stimulation chemical requiring a tier 2 and above assessment

## 7.13 EMP Review

Implementation of this EMP will be continually monitored and revised as required based on monitoring and audit results, complaints, employee and stakeholder feedback, change to the proposed work program or a material increase in risk level.

A formal review, update and resubmission of this EMP will be undertaken every five years.

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Woinarski, J.C.Z and Ward, S. 2012. Threatened Species of the Northern Territory: Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus (frontatus) whitei*. Department of Land Resource Management, Northern Territory Government.

## 9 Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym	Meaning
°C	Degrees Celsius
%	Percentage
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AICS	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances
ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council
API	American Petroleum Institute
APPEA	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
AS	Australian Standard
BMP	Bushfire Management Plan
CAS number	Chemical Abstracts Services number
CEEVNT	Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened
CLA	Cambrian Limestone Aquifer
CLC	Central Land Council
Cth	Commonwealth
DoH	Department of Health (NT)
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOTEE	Department of The Environment and Energy (Cmwth)
DPIR	Department of Primary Industries and Resource (NT)
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EPA	Environment Protection Authority (NT)
EIS	Environment Impact Statement
EP	Exploration Permit (e.g. EP76, EP98 and EP117)
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
ERS	Emergency Response Plan
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
GPS	Global Positioning Device
GDE	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Ha	hectare
HFS	Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation





# Environment Management Plan

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Acronym	Meaning
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
HSEMPs	Health, Safety and Environmental Management Plans
HSEMS	Health, Safety and Environment Management System
IBA	Important Bird Area
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
JV	Joint Venture
Km	Kilometre
km <sup>2</sup>	Square Kilometres
km/hr	Kilometres per hour
LAG	Local Aboriginal Group
LOS	Level of Service
m	metre
Ma	Millions of years ago
MD	Measured Depth
MEMP	Methane Management Plan
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
mTVDGL	metre True Vertical Depth below ground level
Mm	millimetre
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NGERS	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme
NICNAS	National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme
NLC	Northern Land Council
NORMs	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials
NPI	National Pollutant Inventory
NT	Northern Territory
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PER	Public Environment Report
RWA	Restricted Work Area
SPMP	Spill Management Plan
SWL	Standing Water Level
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TIA	Traffic Impact Assessment



# Environment Management Plan

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Acronym	Meaning
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TO	Traditional Owner
TVDSS	True Vertical Depth from Surface Sea level
<i>TPWC Act</i>	<i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>
TRH	Total Recoverable Hydrocarbons
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
WEL	Water Extraction Licence
WMP	Weed management Plan
WoNS	Weed of National Significance
WWMP	Wastewater Management Plan