

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DMIRS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL SUBMISSIONS

DMIRS has recently identified there has been consistent deficiencies in environmental submissions — including both approvals and reporting documentation.

Key areas for improvement include:

- accuracy of information provided in Environment Plans. Environment Plans must reflect operational activities and should be developed in consultation with site personnel
- description of the environment must accurately reflect the operational area and values and sensitivities of that area
- demonstration of ALARP ('as low as reasonably practicable') and acceptability in accordance with the Environment Regulations and DMIRS Guideline for the Development of Petroleum and Geothermal Environment Plans in Western Australia.



DMIRS COMPLIANCE FOCUS FOR 2019–20

Focus areas for environmental inspections will include:

- Alignment of site activities with the approved Environment Plan. For example, the accuracy of the construction and layout of sites and other facilities
- Management of risks and impacts to native fauna
- Consistency of reporting with the Environment Regulations and approved Environment Plan. For example, the timeliness and content of activity commencement notifications and other environmental reporting requirements.

NEW AER GUIDANCE

- DMIRS is currently updating its guidance on the submission and content of Annual Environmental Reports (AERs) to improve consistency and provision of information to assess environmental performance of industry
- The new guidance will assist industry in preparing reports by clarifying DMIRS' expectations regarding the requirements of regulation 16 of the Environment Regulations



HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR FIVE YEARLY ENVIRONMENT PLAN REVISION?

Following the gazettal of the Western Australian State Petroleum (Environment) Regulations in 2012 and the subsequent approval of Environment Plans submitted during the transitional period, DMIRS reminds operators that a number of Environment Plans are nearing the five yearly regulatory revision timeframe.

To aid in continuous improvement, DMIRS has released additional guidance to assist operators in meeting industry best practice standards and regulatory requirements including:

- Guidance Note — Environmental Performance Objectives, Environmental Performance Standards and Measurement Criteria for Petroleum Environment Plans 2018
- Guideline for the Development of Petroleum and Geothermal Environment Plans in Western Australia 2016
- Guideline for Groundwater Monitoring in the Onshore Petroleum and Geothermal Industry 2016
- Guideline for the Development of an Onshore Oil Spill Contingency Plan 2016
- Chemical Disclosure Guideline 2013



For more information, contact petroleum.environment@dmirs.wa.gov.au.