



Department of Industry and Resources

Environmental Requirements for Geothermal Operators in WA

Geothermal operators are required to submit an application to the Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR) for proposed exploration or production activities.

These applications should be accompanied by an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This plan should describe the activity, the physical and biological environment and the environmental impacts and risks¹ associated with the activity. The document should then describe how the proponent will manage, monitor, mitigate and rehabilitate the environmental impacts and risks associated with the activity in order to protect the environment..

The EMP must also contain sufficient information to allow DoIR to determine if the project requires referral to the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)². The EPA will then determine the level of assessment required, and where appropriate, set Ministerial conditions for the project.

Information relating to environmental assessment processes and requirements for geothermal exploration and production activities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of relevant Commonwealth and State government agencies are provided in the document '*Environmental Assessment Processes for Petroleum Activities in Western Australia*', which can be found at:

<http://www.doir.wa.gov.au/840.aspx#3904>

Contact details of relevant government offices and website hotlinks to relevant State and Commonwealth environmental legislation are available within this document.

DoIR is also able to assist operators in how to structure their environmental documentation. Contact details for DoIR's Petroleum Environment Branch Environmental Assessors can be found at:

<http://www.doir.wa.gov.au/2323.aspx>

¹ Proponents are expected to identify all the key environmental impacts and risks of their proposal by conducting a risk assessment
² Or any relevant State or Commonwealth agency