

Minister's Opinion

Guidance for petroleum title holders affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts upon the Western Australian community and various sectors of the business community, with the State Government having declared a State of Emergency on 15 March 2020.

The State Government acknowledges that the measures taken by various levels of government to restrict the spread of COVID-19 will challenge the sector in a way that hasn't been seen before. Industry is already reporting the impacts COVID-19 is having on planned work programs.

While affected petroleum title holders can already apply for suspensions and extensions to their work commitments on force majeure grounds, the Government wishes to acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 measures and make it clear that applications made on these grounds will be considered.

Applications for suspensions and extensions on the grounds of COVID-19 are to be:

- made no earlier than three months prior, and no later than the end date, of the current permit year in which the holder is seeking the suspension and extension.
- accompanied by evidence which establishes that the ability to complete the required work commitments has been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or government responses to the pandemic.

An approved suspension and extension does not prevent proponents from undertaking work should the COVID-19 situation change within that time.