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Upstream Petroleum Environmental Approvals & Management

NEWSLETTER #7

Welcome to Aventus Consulting's latest news. 2015 has been a year of mixed fortunes.

Let's start with happy news! Aventus celebrated its sixth birthday in July. This has been possible due to many clients who have rewarded Aventus with repeat business and word-of-mouth recommendations. It's truly appreciated.

The oil price collapse that sent shockwaves through the industry in November 2014 has posed the obvious challenge for 2015. Many operators have significantly cut their operating expenditure and scrapped or delayed exploration and development projects. This has had a major flow-on effect to contractors and consultants, large and small, including Aventus. While there appears no immediate end in sight to low oil prices, based on the highly technical data-gathering method of listening out for 'word on the street', Aventus believes we may have seen the bottom, with operators having adjusted to new conditions and project work appearing to increase slightly.



Puffin Field Subsea Equipment Decommissioning

Aventus Consulting has been working with [AGR \(Australia\) Pty Ltd](#), on behalf of [Sinopec Oil & Gas Australia \(Puffin\) Pty Ltd](#), to secure the environmental approvals for the decommissioning of the Puffin Field's subsea equipment. Offshore decommissioning projects are uncommon in Australia, and preparing these approvals has thus been challenging. Nonetheless, the Environment Plan (EP) and Sea Dumping Permit Application (submitted as a contingency in case some equipment cannot be recovered) are currently under assessment by NOPSEMA and the Department of the Environment, respectively. More information can be found at the [NOPSEMA website](#).

Streamlining of offshore petroleum environmental approvals

The end of February 2015 marked the one-year anniversary of the endorsement of NOPSEMA's environmental authorisation process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). An independent review of NOPSEMA's performance in meeting the objectives of this process has been undertaken, and found that NOPSEMA met all commitments under the Program,

with no formal recommendations and changed management arrangements deemed necessary. The report can be accessed on the NOPSEMA [website](#).

From a practitioner's perspective, the incorporation of EPBC Act requirements into Environment Plans prepared under the OPGGS Act has been relatively straightforward and pain-free, which is a pleasant change to recent amendments in the offshore petroleum approvals process.



Stunning views over the Arcadia Valley in the Santos GLNG fields.



A CSG well flaring in the Arcadia valley.



Giulio and the Santos GLNG EHSMS audit team.



View over the newly constructed GLNG Fairview 5 hub.



View of a recently rehabilitated portion of GLNG pipeline Right-of-Way through steep terrain.

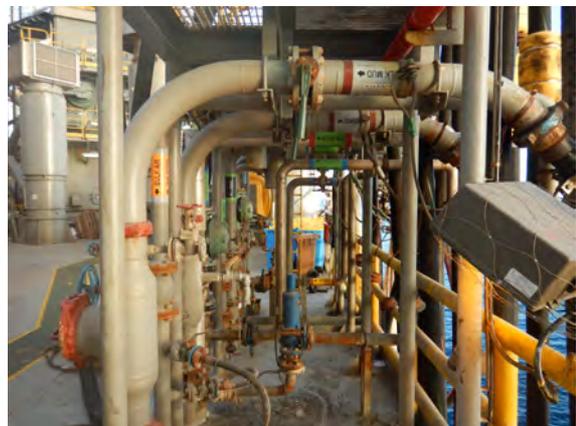
Great Australian Bight exploration update

Aventus completed preparation of the EP for BP's Great Australian Bight (GAB) exploration drilling program in September. The EP (together with the Oil Pollution Emergency Plan, prepared by Lynda Wilson of Karoo Consulting, and the Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plan framework, prepared by Petrina Raitt of Green Light Environmental) were submitted to NOPSEMA on the 1st of October 2015.

There has certainly been significant media and eNGO attention on the EP and NOPSEMA's assessment of it, due largely to this being the first deepwater drilling proposal in the GAB and associated concern over oil spill risks. Contrary to media reporting, NOPSEMA did not reject the EP. It is going through the usual process of revision and re-assessment that every submission undergoes. More information can be found on the [project](#) and [NOPSEMA](#) websites.



View of the Yolla platform flare from the West Telesto jack-up drill rig.



The bunkering station on the West Telesto jack-up drill rig.

Auditing update

Project compliance auditing continues to form a key plank of Aventus' business. Audits were undertaken at an onshore extended reach drill site in southwest Victoria, offshore drilling in the Bass and Gippsland basins on the *West Telesto* and post-commissioning audits continue on the QCLNG project in Queensland. It's always great to get to site and see how operators implement their environmental management conditions and commitments, and to assist in identifying opportunities for improvement.

A management systems audit was also undertaken for the operations phase of the GLNG Project, which involved visiting water storage and treatment facilities, well leases in various phases of development, gas processing and compression facilities, pipelines and camp sites.



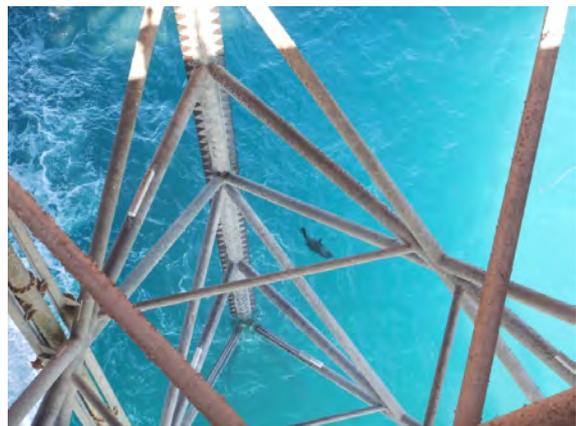
The difference in natural pasture regeneration between areas subject to grazing and those fenced off from grazing along the QCLNG gathering lines is evident.



A fauna escape ladder is pictured here in one of the QCLNG CSG water storage ponds.



Posing on the West Telesto drill rig, with the Ninety Mile Beach visible in the background. This well was drilled only 6.5 from the coastline.



One of many seals observed frolicking among one of the drill rig's legs.

Industry forums

Giulio attended the APPEA HSE Conference held in Perth in September. While the Crown Complex can never compete with the old conference stomping grounds of Coolum (Qld) in terms of ambience and intimacy, it was nonetheless a great event with many interesting presentations and terrific networking opportunities.

Congratulations to Woodside Energy for scooping up just about every award on offer!

In May, Giulio attended the APPEA Conference held in Melbourne. It was a great event with over 2,000 people in attendance, some great exhibits, high quality presentations and of course great networking opportunities. While there was an air on pessimism among contractors and consultants regarding the hit to workloads as a result of operators cutting expenditure due to the low oil price, there appears to be optimism among operators regarding the potential for unconventional gas, especially in central and northern Australia. Thanks to Chevron for the great freebies – my kids loved playing with the inflatable LNG tanker in the bath!

The [EIANZ](#) session ‘Making EIA in Victoria work’ in April at the Herbert Smith Freehills offices in Melbourne was another great event. This proved a good opportunity to network with other environmental and legal professionals regarding Victorian environmental approvals, and discuss solutions to working through challenging government approvals frameworks.



The APPEA 2015 Conference held at the Melbourne Convention Centre.



Did you score your Aventus Consulting freebies at one of the conferences?

Charity update

In just over six years, Aventus has proudly donated over \$17,000 to charities in the areas of environment, health and social well-being.

Key environmental organisations being supported include the [Australian Wildlife Conservancy](#), [Bush Heritage Australia](#) and [Trust for Nature](#). The thread between these most worthy organisations is their hard work in conducting on-the-ground restoration of native ecosystems.

Onshore approvals

While Aventus is best known for its offshore environmental expertise, keep in mind that Giulio has extensive experience in preparing onshore approvals (with a Construction EMP recently prepared and approved). If you need assistance with onshore environmental approvals, don't hesitate to get in touch.



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