

DECISION ON PROJECT REFERRED UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: Patricia-Baleen Gas Plant (Longtom Upgrade)

Proponent: Basin Oil Pty Ltd (Santos)

Description of Project:

Basin Oil Pty Ltd proposes to upgrade the Patricia-Baleen Gas Plant located off Ewings Marsh Road, 7km south of Newmerella. This proposed work is to support processing gas from the Longtom gas field 45km offshore in Bass Strait. The works will require that some additional plant be constructed within the existing gas plant footprint. In addition a new condensate holding yard is proposed to be erected on high ground to the north of the gas processing plant. The holding yard would contain up to 600m³ of condensate that would be removed by truck for offsite refining. The gas plant and condensate holding yard are proposed to be connected by an above ground pipeline approximately 1.5 km in length.

The attached aerial photograph and map show the location of the works.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has determined that an **Environment Effects Statement is not required** for this proposed gas plant upgrade, subject to the following condition:

The project as described in the referral accepted on 21 September 2006 is not varied in any manner that would have a potential to cause new or greater environmental effects.

Reasons for Decision:

The likely environmental effects are of local significance only since:

- sound environmental controls are proposed for the upgrade of the existing gas processing facilities, which will mitigate off-site environmental risks;
- the proposal does not require the removal of native vegetation;
- there is a low potential for ground disturbance and associated off-site drainage effects;
- there is very limited external visual exposure to the proposed facilities;
- the development of the Longtom gas field is unlikely to significantly affect onshore aquifer pressures or have other adverse onshore effects;
- the preparation and public exhibition of documentation associated with the EPA Works Approval and Planning Permit application processes will provide suitable processes for assessing and managing local environmental effects, having regard to the magnitude of the environmental risks involved.

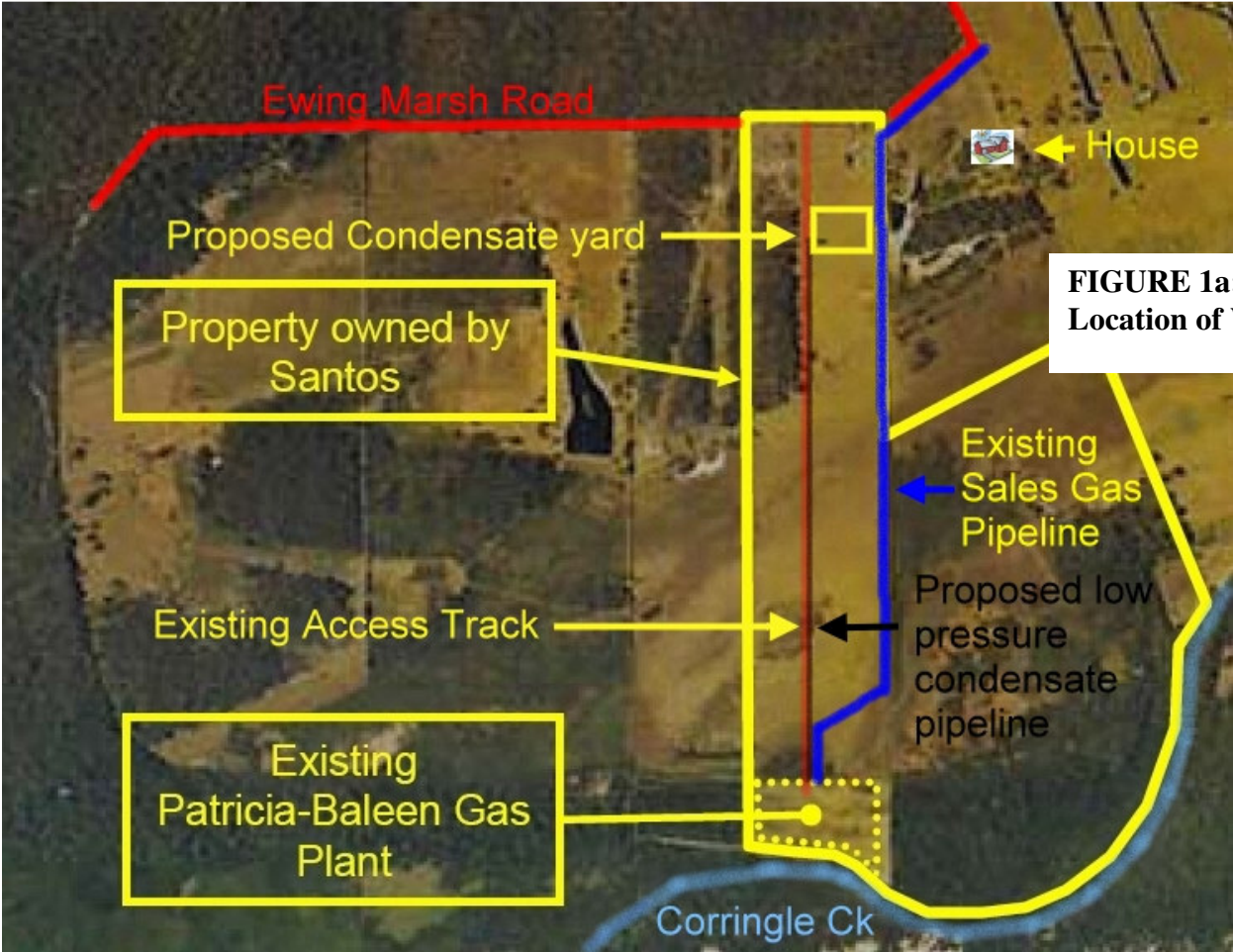


FIGURE 1a:
Location of Works

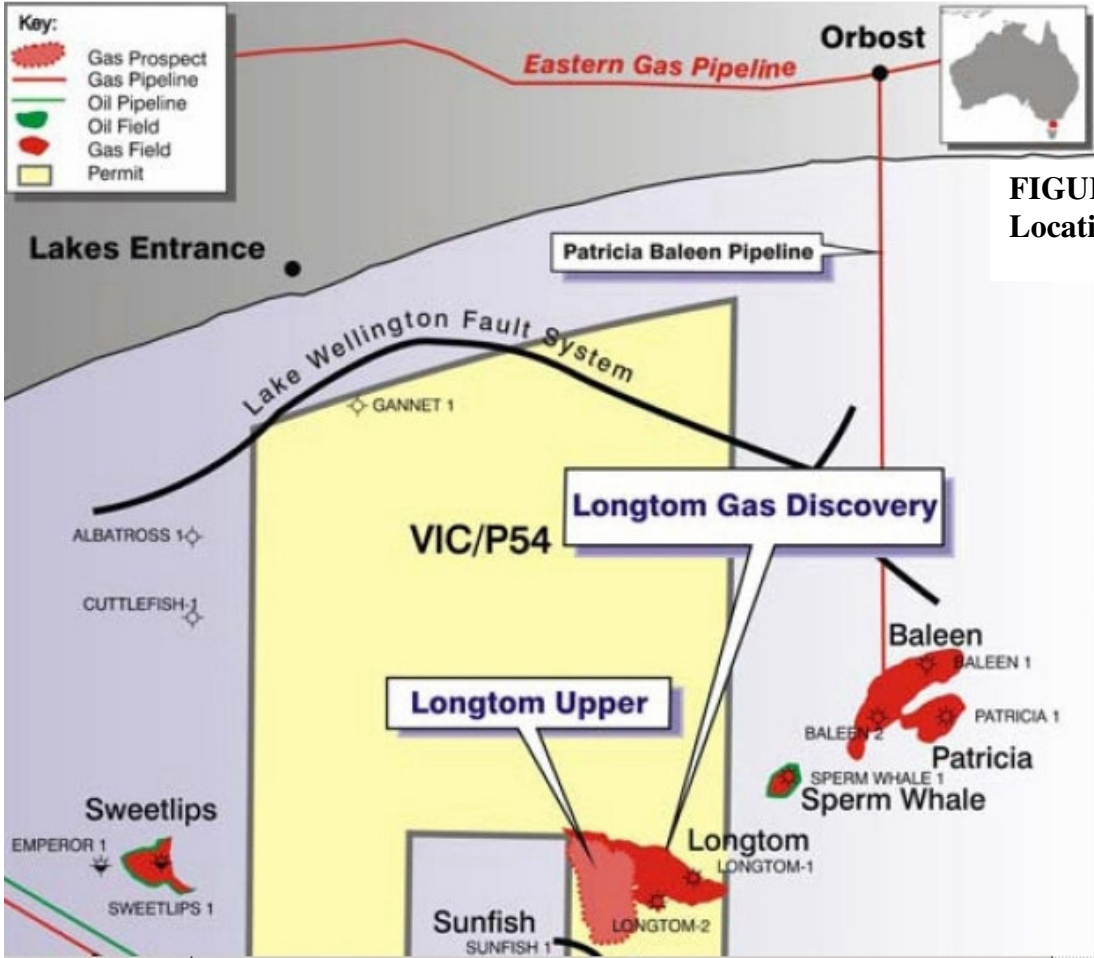


FIGURE 1b:
Locality Plan