



55

ENQUIRIES: James Cook- Ph 9235 8108

OUR REF: 11/0576

YOUR REF:

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive Officer
Woodside Energy Ltd
Woodside Plaza
240 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear [REDACTED]

JAMES PRICE POINT DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT - GROUND CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

It has come to the attention of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, that contractors purportedly working under your direction in the James Price Point (JPP) development precinct may be undertaking activities in an Aboriginal site without authorisation of the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites (Registrar) or Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Minister) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA).

Section 17 AHA makes it an offence for a person to excavate, destroy, damage, conceal or in any way alter any Aboriginal site without authorisation of the Registrar under section 16 or the consent of the Minister under section 18.

Officers of the Department of Indigenous Affairs have been conducting a range of compliance and recording activities in the JPP precinct in recent weeks. Whilst conducting their duties, officers identified a place to which section 5 of the AHA may apply. In accordance with section 15 of the AHA officers are now under a duty to report its existence to the Registrar and if deemed necessary a police officer.

The Department understands its officers alerted Woodside contractors to the existence of the Aboriginal site in the area where Woodside is currently conducting ground clearance work. We understand DIA advised Woodside contractors that DIA identified what has the potential to be a registered site and that by continuing to clear the area there is the potential to commit an offence under section 17 of the AHA.

The Department understands that Woodside contractors held a telephone discussion with Woodside and were instructed to continue work.

In accordance with section 51 AHA we request Woodside and any employee or contractor acting under its direction to immediately cease carrying out any ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the identified Aboriginal site until Departmental officers can properly examine the Aboriginal site and provide a report to the Registrar. Any further obstruction of officers acting in execution of this Act may constitute an offence under section 54 of the AHA.

We request that Woodside furnish the Department with copies of any authorisations that may have been issued to Woodside or its contractors that authorise activities on the land that would otherwise breach the AHA.

Yours sincerely


James Cook
Snr Compliance Officer

8 July 2011

Cc Jo Franz, Director Heritage & Culture Branch
cc Dr Kathryn Przywolnik, Registrar of Aboriginal Sites