GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Mines, Petroleum and Exploration**

Guideline

Criteria for assessment: Petroleum, geothermal energy and greenhouse gas exploration permits

Consultation version

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Contents

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the assessment and ranking criteria for applications for exploration permits made under sections 31 and 33 of the *Petroleum, Geothermal Energy and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 1967* (PGEGGSA) and sections 21 and 23 of the *Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* (PGGS(SL)A), (together, "the Acts").

The Acts provide for three classes of exploration permits:

- petroleum exploration permits (PGEGGSA and PGGS(SL)A), which may also authorise exploration for a regulated substance (such as hydrogen or helium);
- geothermal energy exploration permits (PGEGGSA only); and
- greenhouse gas (GHG) storage exploration permits (PGEGGSA and PGGS(SL)A).

The details of this guide apply to assessments of applications for all permit types unless otherwise specified.

References in this guide to petroleum titles include applications where Regulated Substance Rights have also been applied for, unless otherwise specified.

2. Clarifications

- An application must meet the lodgement requirements of sections 31 of the PGEGGSA and 21 of the PGGS(SL)A before it can be assessed. Applications are deemed invalid if not accompanied by all required elements. Note:
  - There is no authority under the Acts to refund application fees for any reason, including when an application is deemed invalid.
  - An application for a petroleum exploration permit, which includes Regulated Substance Rights, must explicitly state the request to include Regulated Substance Rights in the application form at lodgement. A request to include Regulated Substance Rights cannot be added to an application post-lodgement.
  - An application for a GHG exploration permit must, if the Minister has specified that additional information is required under section 30(3) of the PGEGGSA or section 20(3) of the PGGS(SL)A for advertised blocks, be accompanied by that information to be considered.
- Applications will be assessed on the information contained in the written application, together with any additional information requested by the Minister. Further information should also be submitted in writing.
- The first two permit years are collectively referred to as the "firm period" and represent the minimum work commitment guaranteed to be undertaken by a permittee.
  - To assess the financial resources available to an applicant, only firm period work commitments will be considered.
  - To assess an applicant's proposal for work, the entire work program will be considered.

- The Minister must be reasonably satisfied that the applicant has adequately addressed the Minimum Criteria (MC1 to MC4, see 3.1 to 3.4) to be deemed deserving of grant.
- Where more than one deserving application for the same block(s) is under consideration, the Minister has powers under the Acts to grant a permit to whichever applicant, in the Minister's opinion, is most deserving of the grant, having regard to criteria made publicly available (this guideline).
- In accordance with the Acts, the Minister may rank the applicants in the order in which they are deserving of the grant, having regard to these published criteria. Deserving applicants shall be ranked in accordance with the Ranking Criteria (RC1 to RC4, see 4.1 to 4.4).
- Applications assessed as not deserving of grant are excluded from the ranking of applications.
- To be deemed the preferred applicant, the Minister must be reasonably satisfied that the application is the most deserving of the grant. Relevant considerations may include (but are not limited to):
  - the likelihood of achieving the fullest assessment of the potential within the permit area; and
  - the ability to fund the work commitments and any required decommissioning, rehabilitation, or remediation activities.
- In accordance with the Acts, the Minister may at any time request further information in connection with an application.
  - Failure to provide any requested information may result in the application being assessed as not deserving and/or subsequently refused.
  - An applicant may also be required to furnish information of the continued suitability in respect to the criteria outlined, until such time as a formal offer to grant the exploration permit has been made.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the Minister may refuse an application under sections 32(1)(b) of the PGEGGSA and 22(1)(b) of the PGGS(SL)A if:
  - the application is deemed not deserving of the grant by failing to meet the Minimum Criteria; or
  - the application is not ranked the preferred application in accordance with the Ranking Criteria.
- If the Minister is of the opinion that two or more applicants are equally deserving of the grant of an exploration permit after assessment against the methodology, the Minister may request that the applicants propose additional work and expenditure commitments, to be completed within the firm period, in order to determine the most deserving applicant.
- If the preferred applicant elects not to proceed past a preliminary offer, then a preliminary offer to grant may be made to the next deserving applicant, and so forth.
- Application areas that do not proceed to a preliminary offer may be reserved under sections 28 of the PGEGGSA and 18 of the PGGS(SL)A for a future acreage release.
- Any reference to the Minister within this guide also refers to any departmental officer delegated specific powers of the Minister and thus empowered to make determinations on the Minister's behalf.

3. Minimum criteria

This section details the minimum criteria that will be used to determine if an application for an exploration permit is deserving of grant and will be considered in ranking an application where more than one application is deserving of grant.

Table 1 in "Appendix 1: Minimum criteria and comparative assessment of competing bid applications" provides for the initial application assessment for both sole and competitive bids.

MC1: Technical ability/technical advice available to the applicant

The applicant should demonstrate the available expertise to manage and undertake the commitments, obligations and operations relevant to an exploration permit.

MC2: Financial capacity of applicant

Applications should be accompanied by documents in support of the financial capacity and ability of the applicant to fund the firm period of the work program.

MC3: Work and expenditure

Applications should be accompanied by proposals of work and expenditure in respect of the blocks specified, and geological evaluation and exploration rationale for the work program.

MC4: Consideration of other matters

Evidence of pre-work and/or planning for environmental, Native Title, heritage and other land use concerns may be favourably considered by the Minister. The Minister may also consider the applicant's past performance in Australia or elsewhere.

3.1 Minimum Criterion 1 (MC1): Technical ability/technical advice available to the applicant

The purpose of MC1 is to assess the ability and expertise of the applicant to manage the commitments/obligations and operations relevant to the proposed permit.

The applicant must satisfy the Minister of their available technical capacity and competence to manage the proposed work program day-to-day in a proper and workmanlike manner, aligned with evolving industry best practice and regulatory requirements. This includes but is not limited to, negotiating land access agreements (Native Title and private land), compiling environment plans or well management plans.

This will include the technical capacity and experience of key personnel and/or sub-contractors, and particulars of their current and previous involvement in other relevant natural resource and/or GHG activities.

Evidence of technical capability should adequately reflect any unique challenges likely to be encountered during the proposed exploration work program.

An applicant should provide specific details and evidence of:

- The technical qualifications of the applicant and those of its key employees.
- The technical advice that is available to the applicant by way of consultants or other providers.
- The financial capacity to engage any expertise required.
- The ability to comply with the regulatory requirements for registered title holders (or their nominated operators) in Western Australia.
- The applicant's successful track record, if any, in conducting similar or relevant work program activities in a proper and workmanlike manner and in accordance with the evolution of industry best practice.

3.2 Minimum Criterion 2 (MC2): Financial capacity of applicant

The purpose of MC2 is to assess the ability of the applicant to fund the commitments of the proposed work program, as well as address any accompanying liabilities such as decommissioning, rehabilitation and remediation.

The applicant must provide a statement detailing the financial resources currently available to them. It is insufficient to only provide a statement attesting to how the proposed work program is intended to be funded – an applicant cannot satisfy this criterion with a statement that funds will be sourced at a later date.

At minimum, this statement must provide particulars of the applicant's current financial resources that are available to fund the proposed work program for permit years one and two (including any subsequent costs of decommissioning, rehabilitation and remediation resulting from the work undertaken in these permit years).

The applicant must also articulate how funds will be secured to allow for later elements of the proposed work program to be undertaken.

Where an applicant holds interest in other titles within Western Australia, the applicant must also be able to demonstrate their access to financial resources sufficient to meet the title-related commitments of the application in addition to the existing titles, including work programs, decommissioning, rehabilitation, and remediation requirements.

Where an applicant does not have sufficient financial resources to fund the proposed work program, evidence of the ability to fund the work program from alternate sources is required. For instance, a parent company (or other investor) may execute a deed of guarantee or a letter of financial support. In these cases, the parent company or other investor must provide evidence of their ability to provide this financial support. This evidence must accompany the application at time of lodgement.

Specific details of the financial resources available to the applicant should be lodged in the form of:

- The most recent financial statement prepared in accordance with the ASX listing rules. The statement must have been completed within the previous 12-month period, at the time of lodgement.
- A current financial statement prepared by either a Certified Practicing Accountant or a Chartered Accountant. The statement must have been completed within the previous 12-month period, at the time of lodgement.
- A current bank statement. The bank statement must be no older than one month at the time of lodgement.
- A cash flow statement. The cash flow statement must be no older than three months at the time of lodgement.

Note: If an applicant is relying on a parent entity's accounts to demonstrate financial capacity, details of funding methods and any guarantees between the entities must be provided. The financial assessment that would have applied to the applicant will instead apply to the parent entity to determine financial capacity.

3.3 Minimum Criterion 3 (MC3): Work and expenditure

The purpose of MC3 is to assess whether the proposed work and expenditure is acceptable to the Minister and appropriately addresses any exploration or appraisal risks, or field development requirements as identified in the exploration rationale.

3.3.1 Rationale

Applicants must provide a geological evaluation and exploration rationale for the full six-year proposed work program. This information will be used as the basis for assessing that the proposed work program addresses the perceived exploration risks.

An applicant should provide, as applicable, the specific details of:

- The applicant's geological evaluation of the area, including any potential petroleum system(s) and play(s), prospect(s) and/or lead(s), any geothermal resource(s), or potential GHG storage formation(s) and injection site(s).
- The applicant's assessment of relevant existing data.
- The rationale underlying the proposed work program with sufficient detail to support that program.
- How the commitments in the proposed work program will explore and develop the understanding of any potential petroleum system(s) and play(s), prospect(s) and/or lead(s), any geothermal resource(s), or potential GHG storage formation(s) and injection site(s).
- For GHG Exploration Permit(s) - Any assessment of the impact of legacy wells on any potential GHG storage formation(s) and injection site(s).

3.3.2 Work

Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed work program will significantly progress the understanding of any potential petroleum system(s) and play(s), prospect(s) and/or lead(s), any potential geothermal resource(s), or potential GHG storage formation(s) and injection site(s) and develop the geological knowledge of the release area.

An applicant should provide a six-year work program that:

- states work program activities precisely to avoid ambiguity;
- is credible, coherent and supportable, and does not contain any contingent work;
- includes firm period commitments that are sufficient to enable work program commitments in later permit years;
- only includes work proposed to be undertaken within, or in respect to, the area to which the exploration permit will be subject;
- specifies the quantity, type, and timing of any new geochemical, geological, and/or geophysical surveying to be undertaken;
- specifies the quantity, type, and timing of geochemical, geological, and/or geophysical survey data to be purchased or licensed, and/or processed or reinterpreted;
- specifies the number, target depth and timing of wells to be drilled, provided there is an adequate technical rationale for siting the wells; and
- does not rely upon re-entry or repurposing of any legacy wells.

Additionally, applicants should be aware that the following will be considered in assessing the proposed work programs:

- It is expected that purchased or licensed reprocessed data will have been reprocessed from raw data.
- Proposed work considered equivalent or inferior to work previously carried out will not be considered exploration work for the purpose of progressing the assessment of the application area.
- The early elements of the proposed work program should be sufficient to enable the later elements to proceed and be aligned with the exploration strategy.
- Pre-purchased, non-exclusive survey data cannot form part of the proposed work program; but any interpretation of that data will be considered in assessing the relative merits of the proposed work program.
- Non-exclusive survey data proposed to be purchased after the award of an exploration permit may form part of the work program if this will not disadvantage other applicants who have purchased the data prior to making an application.

Exploration activities may incorporate data acquisition and/or exploration well(s) and include geological and geophysical surveying, exploration and appraisal drilling, study and testing of discoveries.

Geotechnical studies may include activities such as regional interpretation, regional basin modelling, seabed bathymetry analysis (offshore only), play-based exploration, geophysical mapping, core analysis, integrated geological and geophysical evaluations. The number and type of studies should be specified.

The proposed work program will be assessed having regard to the number of wells and the data obtained from them. The work program should clearly itemise the number, type (for example, slim-hole, stratigraphic), and timing of exploration wells to be drilled, provided there is a coherent rationale. Specific data, if relevant, to be collected in wells such as conventional core, drill stem test, injectivity test may be provided. It is generally expected that companies will drill at least one well in the first six years of an exploration permit.

3.3.2.1 Petroleum resources (and regulated substances)

The proposed petroleum work program will be assessed having regard to:

- Work intended to appraise a known petroleum resource cannot form part of the proposed work program unless it can be demonstrated to have a significant exploration component.

3.3.2.2 Geothermal energy resources

The proposed geothermal work program will be assessed having regard to:

- Drilling of shallow (approximately 400m) wells should be backed by sound technical rationale.
- Geothermal wells drilled as doublets will be considered as separate wells for each unique well path.

3.3.2.3 Potential GHG storage formation

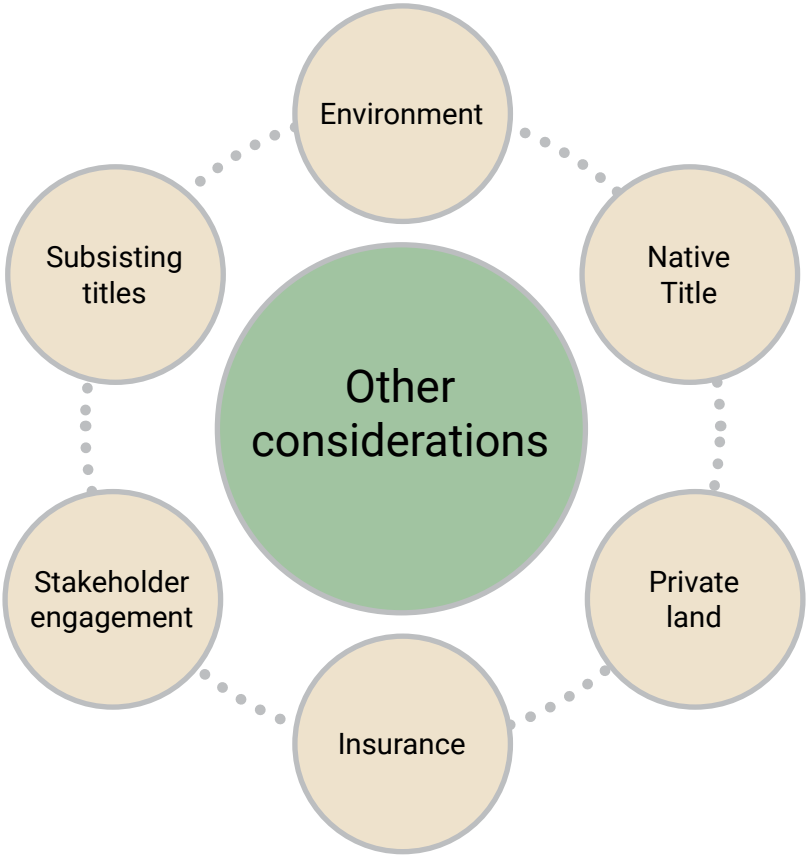
The proposed GHG storage work program will be assessed having regard to:

- Studies performed in relation to the integrity of legacy wells forming part of the work program provided these do not involve a new activity on a well from a subsisting petroleum or geothermal title.
- Explaining how the program seeks to define the fundamental suitability determinants of any potential GHG storage formation(s).

3.3.3 Expenditure

Each commitment expressed in the proposed work program must be accompanied by an indicative cost expressed in Australian dollars.

Applicants should note that the indicative cost will be considered in the assessment of the applicant's knowledge of exploration techniques.



3.4 Minimum Criterion (MC4): Consideration of other matters

The purpose of MC4 is to consider any other relevant matters. These may include other statutory approvals required, stakeholder engagement policies, subsisting titles and other potential obstacles that may impact the work program, along with the applicant's current and past involvement in exploration and development, including work commitments for other relevant tenure.

3.4.1 Past performance

The Minister may consider the applicant's past performance in Australia or elsewhere. An applicant listed on the Departmental Non-compliance Register due to failure to comply with the requirements of the Acts and the *Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Pipelines Act 1969*, and/or associated regulations, will be requested to provide sufficient, compelling evidence to justify why the circumstances leading to poor past performance have been mitigated or resolved such that the chance of reoccurrence is as low as reasonably practical.

Applicants may provide details of past performance in respect to:

- Assessment and compliance with State and Commonwealth legislation, including but not limited to:
  - *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA)
  - *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
  - *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (WA)
  - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth);
- negotiating private land access agreements;
- negating potential land access barriers that may impact on the proposed work program;
- working with Aboriginal stakeholders on cultural heritage matters including management of any known Aboriginal sites;
- negotiating 'in good faith' under the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA); and
- reserved land under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*.

Consideration is given to situations where one or more of the applicants were participants in permits cancelled due to failure(s) in meeting work program commitments.

Any prior cancellation is considered, and the circumstance of the default is relevant, however, weighted consideration is given to cancellations within the previous five years. Where this is deemed a significant decision-making factor in the potential offer of a permit to a separate applicant, the applicant shall be given the opportunity to establish that the earlier failure was not relevant to the current situation and that default would not occur if the permit were to be awarded.

3.4.2 Subsisting titles

Where an application is over an area which could result in subsisting titles being issued, applicants are encouraged to detail in the application:

- the relevant existing petroleum, geothermal energy or GHG titles current at the time of application lodgement which intersect the application area;
- any potential impacts to the existing operations on an underlying title, demonstrating how these are intended to be mitigated or managed, which may include:
  - a description of discovered petroleum pools, geothermal energy resources or potential/ eligible GHG storage formations within the subsisting titles, or where there may be an impact on another title;
  - the outcomes of any consultation undertaken with existing title holders; and
  - whether the applicant intends to explore in the same geologic intervals as any declared locations (petroleum or geothermal) or declared GHG storage formations within subsisting titles;
- how the proposed work program and expenditure is achievable without interference with subsisting titles.

3.4.3 Other considerations

Applicants may include in their exploration permit application particulars of:

- Other statutory approvals required to undertake the proposed work or operations, including environmental, Native Title and other land use planning considerations.
- Policies for managing stakeholder engagement and sensitivities surrounding other land users and land uses.
- Potential obstacles that may impact the proposed work program and how such barriers could be overcome such as land use, infrastructure, or seasonal restrictions.
- Details of the applicant and its relationship to any major corporation or group, substantial shareholding, directors, principal business activity, and place of incorporation or principal place of business.
- Where the applicant is a foreign company, its acknowledgement of the requirements for approval by the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB), and/or proposal for registering an Australian entity.
- The applicant's current and prior involvement in exploration and development in other national or international jurisdictions, including work commitments for other petroleum, geothermal energy, GHG or other resource tenure.

4. Ranking criteria

The ranking criteria are used to comparatively assess two or more applications for the same area that are deemed deserving of grant, having each satisfied the minimum criteria.

Per the Acts, in the case of an acreage release in which multiple applications for the grant of an exploration permit have been deemed deserving of grant, the Minister may employ a two-step methodology to determine the most deserving applicant.

Table 2 in "Appendix 1: Minimum criteria and comparative assessment of competing bid applications" provide for a comparative assessment of competing bids to identify the most deserving applicant.

Only applicants deemed as deserving will be ranked using Table 2.

The following criterion will be used to rank multiple deserving applications to identify which is deemed 'preferred' as the most deserving of grant.

4.1 Ranking Criterion 1 (RC1): Work and expenditure

The applicant's work program and expenditure will be assessed with consideration to the optimum use of the State's resources and advancement of geological knowledge.

The criteria for ranking assessment are (in no particular order):

4.1.1 Technical evaluation

Applicants that demonstrate a better, more progressed geological evaluation and exploration rationale evaluation of the application area for one of the following will rank higher:

- the petroleum exploration potential; or
- the geothermal energy exploration potential; or
- the greenhouse gas storage potential.

The quality of the technical assessment of the geological evaluation and exploration rationale is considered above the quantity and size of any potential petroleum system(s), play(s), prospect(s), and/or lead(s) geothermal resources, or potential GHG storage formations identified in the application.

4.1.2 Relevance of work

The following will be considered when ranking the relevance of proposed work programs:

- that early elements of the proposed work program be sufficient to enable the later elements to proceed and be aligned with the exploration strategy;
- that the design of exploration operations are targeted to reducing the exploration uncertainty and risk related to the identified potential petroleum system(s), play(s), prospect(s), and/or lead(s)geothermal resources, or potential GHG storage formations identified;
- where multiple exploration targets are identified, work that is designed to investigate the different targets will be considered greater than work targeting an individual target; and/or
- the significance of any work performed in reducing the exploration uncertainty and risk related to the identified potential petroleum system(s), play(s), prospect(s), and/or lead(s)geothermal resources, or potential GHG storage formations identified.

Preference will be given to applicants that propose a credible work program that demonstrates a more rapid progression toward the development of a resource or
GHG storage.

Greenhouse gas permits

- Work designed to more thoroughly define the fundamental suitability determinants of any potential GHG storage formation(s) will be preferred.

4.1.3 Timing of work

For the purposes of the ranking of deserving applications, work proposed for earlier permit years (especially the firm period) will carry higher weighting than work proposed for later permit years.

4.1.4 Quantity of work

In general, greater quantities of work will be ranked higher provided that the work is considered relevant and necessary to reducing the exploration uncertainty and risk related to the identified potential petroleum system(s), play(s), prospect(s), and/or lead(s)geothermal resources, or potential GHG storage formations identified.

Note: the quantity of work will be based on the amount and quality of the work proposed and not the estimated expenditure.

4.1.5 Type of work

Exploration work that has the highest potential to reduce the key exploration uncertainties and risks will be ranked higher.

- New data acquisition is generally considered more favourably than studies or reprocessing of existing data.
- Acquisition of 3D seismic is generally considered of greater value than 2D seismic, but dependant on survey size, survey coverage and location.
- Drilling of wells and well tests are generally ranked superior to seismic surveys.
- Appropriate and superior use of survey acquisition and processing technology will be considered favourably.

4.1.6 Capability

If relevant, applicants that have identified risks that may prevent the proposed work program being completed in the firm period and have demonstrated intent to mitigate those risks will be assessed more favourably.

This may include the particulars identified in Minimum Criterion (MC 4) (3.4.3).

4.2 Ranking Criterion 2 (RC2): Financial capacity

The applicant that can demonstrate their access to financial resources sufficient to meet the title- related commitments of the application in addition to any existing titles held, including work programs, monitoring, decommissioning, rehabilitation, and remediation requirements will be assessed more favourably and ranked higher than an applicant that cannot articulate how funds will be secured.

Applicants able to provide evidence that shows they have access to a sufficient asset base to repay its liabilities, are not a high financial risk in terms of debt position and have sufficient financial leverage to fund the firm period work program (at a minimum), will be assessed more favourably.

4.3 Ranking Criterion 3 (RC3): Technical capability

Superior relevant technical qualifications and experience of employees and contractors will rank higher than those lesser qualified. Applicants that can demonstrate a prior working relationship or demonstrate existing agreements with third party contractors will be regarded more favourably.

4.4 Ranking Criterion 4 (RC4): Consideration of other matters

The Minister may take into consideration the applicant's past performance in relation to previous petroleum, geothemal, mineral or greenhouse gas tenure in Australia, or if relevant, elsewhere.

4.4.1 Past performance

Applicants that have previously demonstrated successful execution of the proposed operations, either in the State, or in another jurisdiction will be ranked higher.

Any history of failure to satisfy work commitments in previous or existing titles may be considered during ranking.

Particular consideration is given in situations where one or more of the applicants were participants in permits that had been cancelled because of a default in meeting work program commitments.

4.4.2 GHG only – Source of greenhouse gas substance to be initially injected and stored

Preference may be given to applications that can demonstrate the availability of a GHG stream for permanent storage or describe the expected provision of a GHG stream. A decision on whether an applicant has an available stream of GHG for injection will take into account several factors including:

- in the case of GHG associated with a petroleum accumulation, whether a petroleum retention lease or production licence has been awarded over the field that is to be the source of the GHG substance;
- in the case of GHG from other sources, whether substantial investment has been committed to feasibility and design processes for the capture and/or transport of the GHG substance;
- the maturity or stage to which the overall project has advanced (for example, to Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) study, or a final investment decision);
- the nature of any agreements between the applicant and capture and transport facility or facilities, where relevant;
- the expected timeframe in which a GHG stream is expected to become available for injection; and
- the public interest, including taking into account such factors as the best use of the total storage capacity available for the area and the amount of GHG proposed to be stored.

Suitable evidence substantiating the above factors should be provided by the applicant.

5. Refusal to grant an exploration permit

Applicants should note that the Minister may refuse to grant a permit to an applicant in accordance with sections 32(1)(b) of the PGEGGSA and 22(1)(b) of the PGGS(SL)A. While the Acts do not specify the grounds for refusing to grant a permit, reasons may include:

- The application is assessed as not deserving of the grant of a permit.
- The application is assessed as deserving but inferior to that of another deserving application.
- The work program bid is inadequate to significantly advance the understanding of the petroleum, geothermal energy resource, or GHG storage potential of the area.
- The work program bid is not supported by a sound technical assessment.
- The Minister is not satisfied that the applicant possesses the financial or technical capacity to complete the work program bid.
- The Minister is not satisfied the applicant possesses the financial capacity to facilitate the proposed work program, or in addition to other guaranteed work program commitments in other titles which the applicant and/or parent company has an interest.
- The Minister is not satisfied that, based on past performance, the applicant will comply with permit conditions.

6. Re-release of acreage

Acreage release areas may be set aside under the reserve provisions of the Acts to be re-released, at the discretion of the Minister, if:

- the Minister does not receive an application considered deserving of the award of an exploration permit, or
- a deserving applicant is refused prior to the grant of an exploration permit.

Expressions of interest can be lodged via the call for nomination process.

Note: Nomination for acreage release areas may be submitted to DMPE at any time to acreagerelease@dmpe.wa.gov.au. Acreage release areas nominated outside of the published nomination period will be assessed as part of the next formal nominations process.

Appendix 1: Minimum criteria and comparative assessment of competing bid applications

Phase 1: Minimum criteria assessment of three competing applications

Minimum criteria assessment of application			
Application	**A**	**B**	**C**
MC1 Technical capability			
MC2 Financial capacity			
MC3 Work and expenditure			
MC4 Consideration of other matters			

Key:

Satisfied	Not satisfied

In the above scenario, application A is deemed not deserving of grant.

Phase 2: Ranking assessment of the two remaining deserving applications

Comparative assessment for competing bid applications		
Application	**B**	**C**
RC1 Technical capability		
RC2 Financial capacity		
RC3 Work and expenditure		
RC4 Consideration of other matters		
Most deserving rank	**1**	**2**

Key:

Superior	Relevant but inferior	Significantly inferior	Equal

In the above scenario, application B is deemed most deserving.

Appendix 2: Petroleum exploration permit – An example of a six-year petroleum exploration permit work program

Year of term	Start date	End date	Quantity	Minimum work commitments		Indicative expenditure ($AUD)
				Description	Activity	
1	01/07/2021	30/06/2022	1,000 line-km	Aeromagnetic survey	Acquire and process 2000 km^2 of airborne magnetic data	
			1	Geophysical studies	Interpretation of new and existing data	
2	01/07/2022	30/06/2023	400 km	2D seismic reprocessing	Reprocess existing raw 2D seismic data	
3	01/07/2023	30/06/2024	200 km^2	3D seismic acquisition and processing	Acquire and process new 3D seismic data	
4	01/07/2024	30/06/2025	1	Well planning	Exploration well planning and approvals	
5	01/07/2025	30/06/2026	1	One Exploration well	Targeting x formation to a minimum depth of 3000 m	
6	01/07/2026	30/06/2027	1	Geotechnical studies	Post well evaluation	

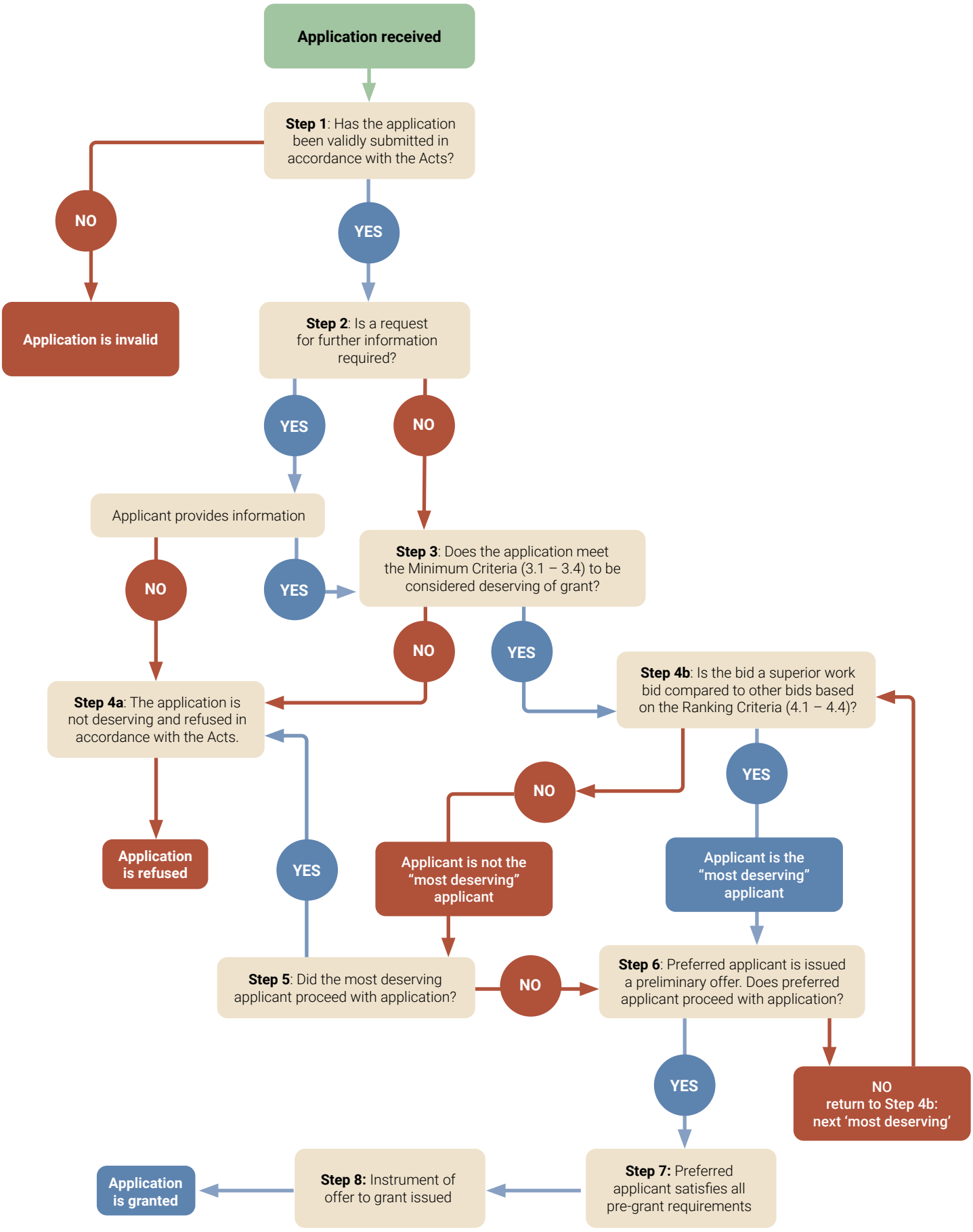
Appendix 3: Geothermal exploration permit – An example of a six-year geothermal energy exploration permit work program

Year of term	Start date	End date	Quantity	Minimum work commitments		Indicative expenditure ($AUD)
				Description	Activity	
1	01/07/2021	30/06/2022	1	Geological and Geophysical Studies	Integration of Airborne Gravity, Gravity Gradiometry	
			1	Seismic Interpretation and Geophysical Modelling	Including borehole and stress indicators	
			20	Magnetotelluric Survey	20 sites	
2	01/07/2022	30/06/2023	150 km	Purchase 2D seismic data	150 km data purchase	
			1	Geothermal studies	Reinterpretation of available seismic data	
			500 line-km	3D seismic survey	500 km acquisition	
3	01/07/2023	30/06/2024	1	Well planning		
			1	Geothermal exploration well – shallow	Minimum depth of 300 m	
4	01/07/2024	30/06/2025	1	Geothermal exploration well – deep	Minimum depth 3000 m Demonstrate closed-loop circulation, heat recovery	
5	01/07/2025	30/06/2026	1	Well study	Post well analysis	
6	01/07/2026	30/06/2027	1	Commercial studies	Preliminary feasibility study report	

Appendix 4: GHG exploration permit – an example of a six-year GHG exploration permit work program

Year of term	Start date	End date	Quantity	Minimum work commitments		Indicative expenditure ($AUD)
				Description	Activity	
1	01/07/2021	30/06/2022	1,000 line-km	2D seismic reprocessing	Reprocess existing 2D raw seismic data	
			8	Legacy well studies	Use available information for legacy well integrity assessment	
2	01/07/2022	30/06/2023	1	Geological and geophysical studies	Seismic interpretation, reservoir, seal and fault studies, and preliminary risk assessment	
3	01/07/2023	30/06/2024	200 km²	3D seismic acquisition and processing	Acquire and process new 3D seismic data	
			1	Well Planning	Planning for 1 exploration well	
4	01/07/2024	30/06/2025	1	One Exploration well	Targeting xx Formation to a minimum depth of 1500m, including injectivity test, routine and special core analysis	
5	01/07/2025	30/06/2026	1	Geological and geophysical studies	Static and dynamic modelling of storage formation, 1D geomechanical studies	
6	01/07/2026	30/06/2027	1	Geological and geophysical studies	Dynamic modelling of injected CO_2 plume migration, uncertainty analysis	
			1	Planning	Risk management and Measurement, Monitoring and Verification (MMV) planning	
			1	Engineering studies	Pre-FEED studies	
			1	Studies	3D Mechanical Earth Model	

Process flow: Decision tree methodology for comparative assessment of competing bid applications to identify the most deserving applicant.



Government of Western Australia

Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

8.30am – 4.30pm

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