

POLICY	SEISMIC SURVEY STANDARD CONDITIONS
2011	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Seismic Surveys are a non destructive method of mapping subsurface stratas. The process involves generating a vibration at the natural surface level and recording reflection waves using a series of geophones spaced out at regular intervals. This policy explains the conditions Moree Plains Shire Council will seek to impose on surveying activities proposed within its Local Government Area

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Seismic Surveys have been carried out in the region recently to detect potential sources of coal seam gas, in accordance with Exploration Licences issued by the NSW Government.

2.2 State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (SEPP 2007) recognises the importance to NSW of mining, petroleum production and extractive industries.

2.3 Subject to certain exemptions, SEPP 2007 allows development for the purposes of petroleum exploration to be carried out without consent. The definition of petroleum under SEPP 2007 includes any naturally occurring hydrocarbon, whether in gaseous, liquid or solid state.

2.4 The Exploration Licence instruments state that, prior to carrying out any exploration activities, a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is required to be submitted to the Department of Industry & Investment (DII) to enable a determination to be made under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

2.5 Council regulates the local environmental plans applicable to PEL 470. The application of SEPP 2007 overrides the zoning permissibility controls in the local environmental plans, as activities covered by SEPP 2007 are permissible without consent.

3. SCOPE

3.1 Council will seek to apply this policy to all applications for Seismic Surveying and associated activities, on Council owned land, in particular road reserves.

4. OBJECTIVE

Drafted by:	Engineering Department	Adopted:		Dated:	April 2011	GM's Signature:	
MANEX Reviewed:		Council Reviewed:		Resolution No.		Pages:	1 of 3

- 4.1 The objective of this policy is to reduce the potential for confusion and contention within the Shire, when Seismic Surveys are carried out on the Shires roads under State Government issued Exploration Licenses.

Note: this Policy can only be enforced if it is endorsed and supported by the applicable NSW Government Department (ie Department of Industry and Investment at the time of writing this policy).

5. POLICY STATEMENT

Council will expect the following conditions to be satisfied by any organisation planning to carry out Seismic Surveys (or similar) on Shire owned land, in particular road reserves;

- 5.1 Pay Council \$300 (ext GST) to allow Council to publish a public notice advertising the intended Seismic Survey works.
- 5.2 Attend a Council meeting to brief Councillors of the intended works at least one (1) month prior to works commencing.
- 5.3 Submit a Traffic Management Plan (prepared by a suitably qualified expert) to Council's Director of Engineering at least one (1) month prior to survey works commencing.
- 5.4 Notify the Director Engineering Services in writing, 24 hours prior to Seismic Survey work commencing and concluding.
- 5.5 Conduct roadside slashing to the satisfaction of the Director Engineering Services on all roads intended to be surveyed 2 - 4 weeks prior to actual survey works commencing.
- 5.6 Meet the reasonable cost of Moree Plains Shire Council providing an onsite representative to monitor the Seismic Survey works.
- 5.7 Letter box drop to all residents adjacent to the proposed Seismic Survey works with a notice endorsed by Council's Director Engineering Services.

6. DELEGATION

- 6.1 The General Manager is authorised, pursuant to Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, to allow a matter that does not conform to a Policy to proceed if the General Manager is of the opinion that the variation from the Policy is of a minor nature.

7. DISPUTE PROCEDURE

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7.1 The General Manager will arbitrate disputes in relation to the operation of this Policy. The General Manager's decision may be appealed by referring the matter to the Council via a formal Notice of Motion from a Councillor.

8. References

9. Attachments

Nil

10. Review

10.1 This policy is to be reviewed on an annual basis from the date of its original adoption by Council and in accordance with Section 4.4 of the Policy on Policy Making.

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