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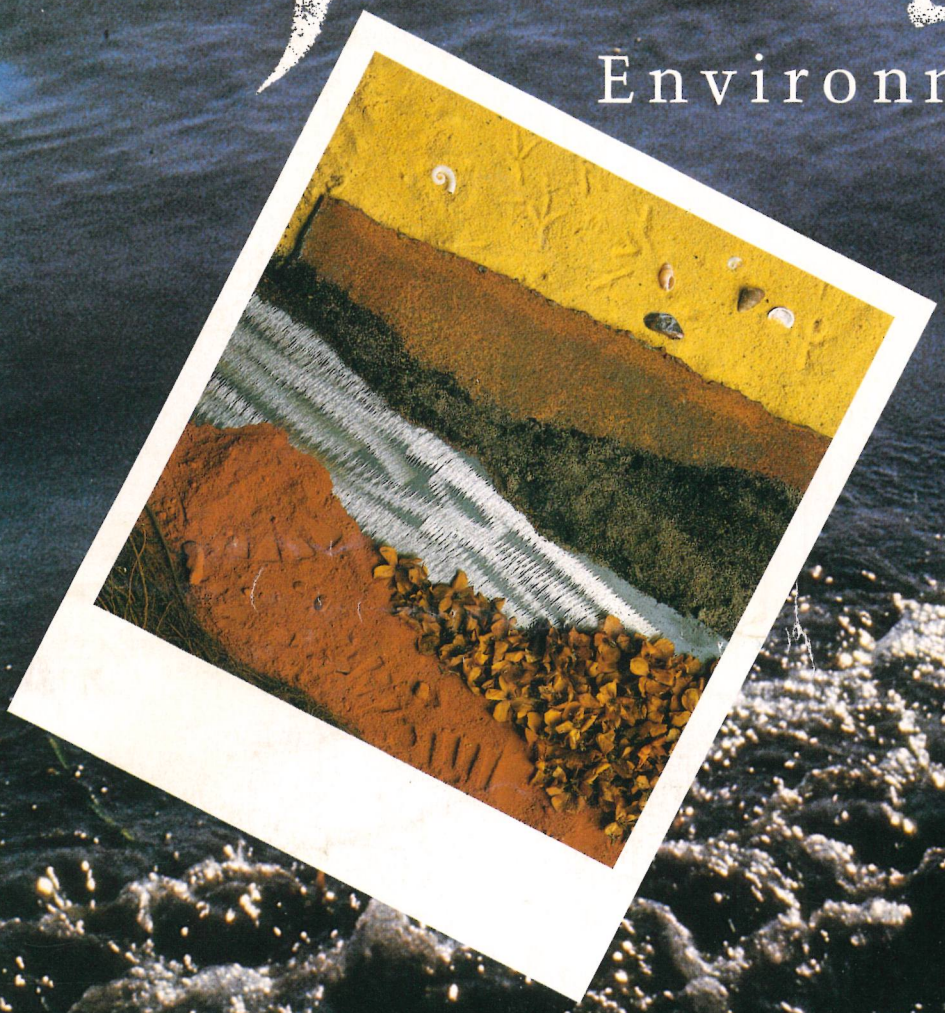
Varanus Island

Environmental Guidelines



BOND
PETROLEUM

Varanus Island

Varanus Island is one of thirty-four small islands which form the Lowendale group. These islands are located off the North-West coast of Western Australia approximately 131km west of Karratha and 81km north of Onslow.

Named after a goanna that inhabits the island, Varanus is 2.5km long and 600m wide at its widest point. The development is located in that area.

To carry out the Harriet development, the Petroleum Division of Bond Corporation Pty. Ltd. leased a portion of the island from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in whom the responsibility for the island is vested.

A C Class Reserve status has been given to the island to protect sea bird nesting sites, turtle nesting sites and resident fauna and flora.

Islands have a particular environmental value as they are largely protected from the indirect impact of changes brought about by development on the mainland. The islands' isolation is a form of protection for its wildlife.

Conversely, because islands are isolated, any developmental changes that occur on the island have significant effects. The wildlife is particularly vulnerable and cannot escape the environmental impact. Therefore, there must be controls and restraints in place. Potential long term problems on Varanus Island include the introduction of weed plants and pest animals such as mice and rats.

To prevent and combat environmental problems a wide range of protective conditions are in force on Varanus. The lease document from CALM is lengthy, however, an understanding of it will bring about an awareness that good housekeeping and care on environmental issues by the people working on or visiting the island is all that is required to guarantee compliance. The conditions set forth in the lease are legally binding upon visitors and workforce including contractors.

In addition to the conservation rules, Bond Petroleum has a few rules of conduct which are in place to improve the quality of the workplace and provide a pleasant environment for everyone. These are to be adhered to at all times and are enumerated in the following sections.

These requirements must be read and understood by you to ensure that you can play your part in protecting the environment of the area.

Convolvulaceae

Varanus acanthurus brachyuriss

REQUIREMENTS

These requirements will apply to all persons. Failure on the part of any person to fully comply may be regarded as a breach of contract and incur the appropriate penalties.

Furthermore, breach of the environmental/lease requirements could lead to charges under the Wildlife Conservation Act or other legislation in Western Australia. The Island Superintendents are Wardens under the Act and have the authority to arrest transgressors. Environmental requirements are in addition to industrial and personal safety regulations and requirements.

Fire. The company has designated burning areas for prescribed types of rubbish and approved barbecues. No other open air fires permitted. A "hot work" permit system governs welding at all times. Fire fighting and prevention is an inherent part of employment on the island. Any fire observed should be reported immediately and appropriate steps taken to control the extent of the fire until help arrives.

Access. The leased area has clearly defined roads and walkways. Access for work is permissible over the entire lease area except where inhibitory fences or safety notices are established, for example the "hot work" areas. Recreation activities are allowed in the lease area with the exception of the bonded oil storage area. Areas adjacent to the lease area, mostly relating to mutton bird rookeries, mangroves and sandhills are sensitive to foot traffic so no access is permitted.

Vehicles are restricted to existing roads at all times. Permission of the Island Superintendent must be obtained for any off-road access at any time and for any reason.

Foot access along beach tidelines is permitted, bearing in mind that trampling on turtle nesting areas can cause considerable damage. The established paths along the coast to fishing and other recreation areas should be used at all times.

Other Islands. Visits to islands other than Varanus are acceptable only with prior approval from the Island Superintendent.

Quarantine. A policy of quarantine, wash down and sterilisation has been successfully carried out by the company during the construction and operation of this development.

Unauthorised Plant Introduction is most likely to come from workforce or visitors' footwear and clothing carrying seed, from aggregate/fill imported from the mainland and from vehicles brought onto the island. Mice, cockroaches and similar pests could be introduced in imported material not subjected to the quarantine program. Please assist the program by ensuring your gear is clean when brought to the island. No pets are permitted on the island and no imported plants may be grown without the written consent of DCALM.

Fauna and Flora. Since the purpose of the reserve is the protection of fauna and flora, no firearms or fauna taking devices are permitted on the island; no poisons are permitted; turtle nests and young are not to be interfered with; bird rookeries are not to be interfered with and any unnecessary damage or disturbance to flora or fauna is a breach of our requirements.

Litter. Litter is any uncontrolled waste material and ranges from cans, cigarette packs and butts to blown plastic material, welding rod stubs and the like.

Despite the possibility that litter may be biodegradable, all litter should be placed in bins provided for the purpose or brought back to camp where bins are available.

Particular care should be taken with paper and plastic which can become litter under the influence of wind. Remember, plastic litter kills marine life.

Spills. Spills, particularly oil and chemical spills, should be prevented. Any accidental spill must be reported immediately to the senior supervisor available.

Fishing. General fishing rules for the island are those Acts, Regulations and Notices applying to amateur fishermen in Western Australia.

No professional fishing will be carried out from the island. Those wishing to take rock lobster must be in possession of an amateur fisherman's licence.

There is a daily bag limit of ten fish. Netting or fish traps are prohibited.

Taking shells, corals or other reef inhabitants is strictly prohibited.

Parties. Parties for fishing, barbecues or picnics should advise their numbers, destination and ETR to the island supervisor for approval. All litter from such parties should be cleared up at the time.

Personal Safety. Reef and beach life can be dangerous to man and a number of island plants are toxic.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, LEAVE IT ALONE

A few simple rules to follow are:

- Always wear boots or shoes and gloves when exploring reefs.
- Check the posters in the messhall which describe the more dangerous animals.
- In case of an injury, keep calm and immediately seek medical aid.

Personal Behaviour. We also require that all employees and visitors observe the following:

- Refrain from fighting.
- Refrain from bringing illegal substances on the island.
- Be moderate in drinking beer and drink only during rest hours.

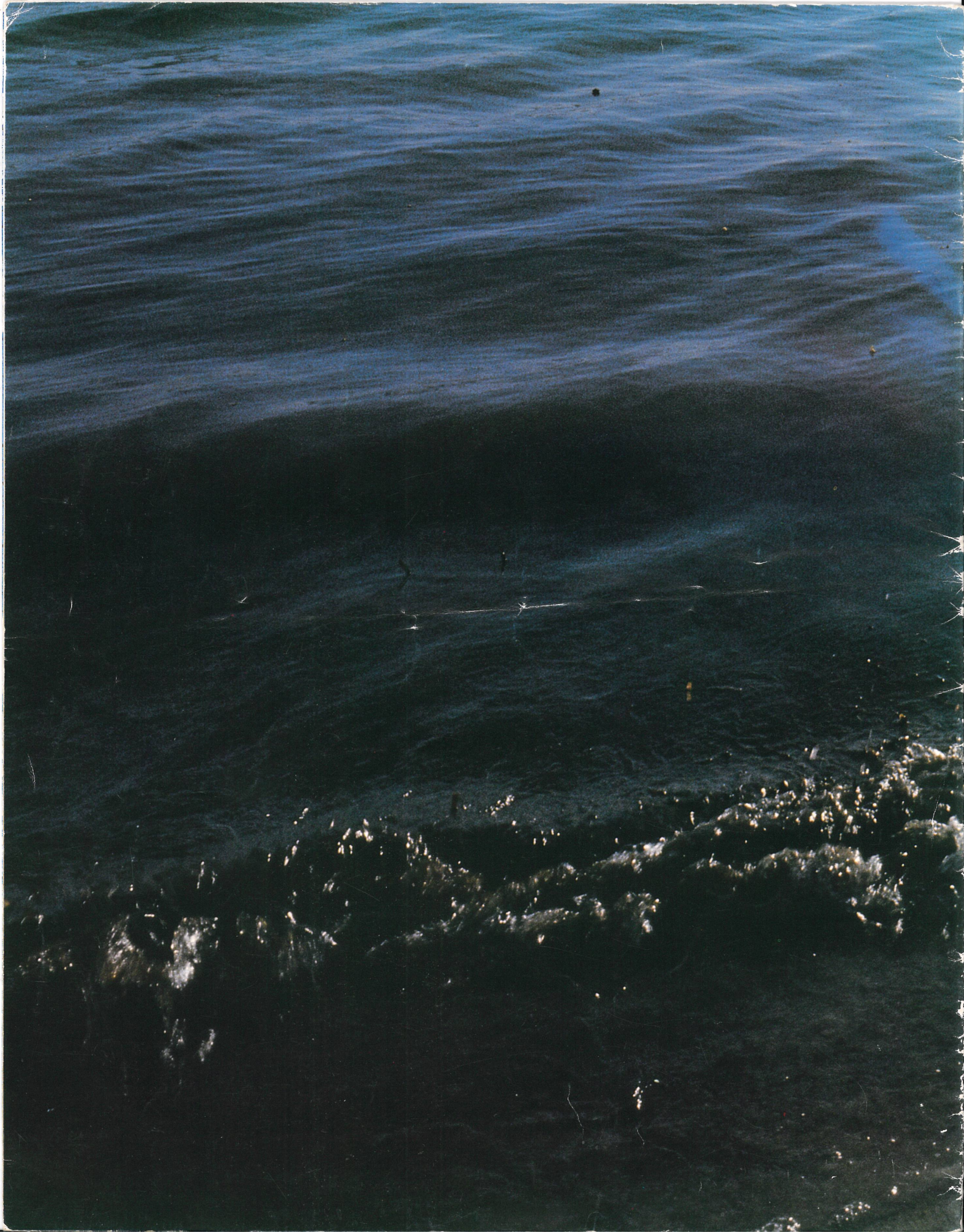
Company Policy. It is the policy of the Bond Corporation Petroleum Division to promote an affirmative action programme for women.

The basic objective of the programme is to ensure recognition of the policy that all employees and applicants for employment are treated according to their skills, qualifications, abilities, and aptitudes irrespective of sex.

CONCLUSION

Varanus Island and the surrounding ocean is home to a wide range of plants, animals and sea life. It is temporarily your home as you are associated with the Bond Harriet Oilfield operations. It is the Company's obligation to restore the area after the completion of this project. This restoration will be made much simpler and more effective by your personal involvement in meeting the requirements of this document.

Varanus Island was a fine place before you came here. Make it your business to keep it that way.

Thank you

Enjoy your stay!