

Tamarind development drilling applications

Submission Reference no: 78

David Bishop, **Atlas Professionals NZ Ltd (David Bishop)**

Submitter Type: Organisation

Source: Email

Clause

Do you have the authority to make this submission on behalf of the person named on this form?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

Do you intend to have a spokesperson who will act on your behalf (e.g. a lawyer or professional advisor)?

Position

No

Notes

Clause

Do you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing?

Position

No I/we do not wish to speak to my/our submission at the hearing

Notes

Clause

Do you wish to receive regular updates from the EPA about the progress of this application?

Position

Yes I/we wish to receive all communications relating to this application.

Notes

Clause

What decision do you want the Board to make and why? Provide reasons in the box below.

Position

Grant

Notes

See attachment for full submission.

12 June 2018

Environmental Protection Agency

Re; Tamarind development drilling applications

To Whom it may concern

Atlas Professionals, formerly known as Programmed Marine, is a global recruitment and HR services provider for the Energy and Marine sectors. In Australia and New Zealand, Atlas Professionals supports numerous clients within the offshore oil and gas sector with the full cycle of recruitment, manning and associated support services. Atlas has approximately 800 staff across Australia and New Zealand.

Having been involved with the large majority of previous drilling and exploration programmes in New Zealand, and as an employer of local labour on board drilling rigs; semi-submersibles, jack ups, drills ships and numerous support vessels, Atlas Professionals has seen firsthand the stimulation such a campaign provides to the local economy. The value added to the region is vast, and for a company such as ourselves it extends both to those directly employed by such a campaign and by those indirectly affected such as engineering firms, valve suppliers, transport companies, even the local corner coffee shop.

With the oil price having been at its recent low levels for the last 3 or 4 years, the number of offshore exploration programmes and investment in New Zealand has declined, and has resulted in a number of highly skilled employees moving overseas, or to follow alternate career paths. As a business we have put safeguards in place for a number of these skilled offshore employees, including competency training, adhoc workover manning, onshore drilling and so on. However to continue to retain their skillsets and experience within New Zealand, the presence of an offshore exploration programme would be very welcome to avoid these valuable skills being lost overseas permanently.

Additionally, Atlas Professionals currently employs 57 staff on board the FPSO Umuroa, a facility which sits on Tamarinds existing production permit. The inability to further explore the potential of their permits has the possible scenario of seeing the decommissioning of the FPSO Umuroa, and the subsequent loss of a significant number of Atlas Professional employees. Conversely a successful exploration programme may well see the extension of this facilities time in New Zealand, supporting numerous highly paid, skilled employees and their families for years to come.

Atlas Professionals write in full support of Tamarinds proposed upcoming drilling campaigns.

Yours faithfully,




David Bishop
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