Assessment process for offshore project proposals

The infographic below provides a broad overview of the offshore project plan (OPP) assessment process. Proposals are assessed against the requirements of the Environment Regulations. Proposals vary in their complexity and scope, as such assessment timeframes will vary. For more information see nopsema.gov.au.

- ** NOPSEMA may seek further written information from the proponent at any stage of the assessment process. This may affect the assessment timeframe.**

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### Stages

1. **Stage 1**
   - **Preparation:** Proponent prepares the OPP
   - **Submission:** Proponent submits the OPP to NOPSEMA for assessment
   - **Assessment:** NOPSEMA determines if the OPP is suitable for website publication and public comment
     - **Requirements MET:** NOPSEMA publishes the OPP on its website to facilitate public comment
       - **Public provide comment on the published OPP**
       - **Proponent considers the public's comments**
         - **Submission:** Proponent submits the OPP addressing public comment to NOPSEMA for assessment
         - **Assessment:** NOPSEMA commences assessment of the OPP
           - **Requirements MET:** NOPSEMA makes a final decision to accept the OPP and closes the assessment
             - **OPP ACCEPTED:** NOPSEMA makes a final decision to accept the OPP and closes the assessment
               - **Opponent MAY SUBMIT environment plans for project activities**
             - **Requirements NOT MET:** NOPSEMA makes a final decision to refuse to accept the OPP and closes the assessment
               - **OPP NOT ACCEPTED:** Proponent may consider preparing a new OPP and start the assessment process from the beginning.

2. **Stage 2**
   - **Requirements MET:** NOPSEMA determines the OPP is suitable for website publication and public comment
   - **Requirements NOT MET:** NOPSEMA determines if the OPP is suitable for website publication and public comment
     - **OPP ACCEPTED:** NOPSEMA publishes the OPP on its website
       - **Statement of reasons is published on NOPSEMA's website**
     - **OPP NOT ACCEPTED:** NOPSEMA makes a final decision to refuse to accept the OPP and closes the assessment
       - **Opponent MAY NOT SUBMIT environment plans for project activities**

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The acceptance of an OPP does not provide the approval for an offshore petroleum activity to commence. Each activity within a project must also have an accepted EP in place before it can begin.