



**Data period:** 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

**Presented to:** The Hon. Matthew Canavan  
Minister for the Environment

On 28 February 2014, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) was endorsed as the sole regulator for petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. Under the streamlined arrangements, NOPSEMA is committed to refusing to accept an environment plan for activities that will result in unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), including:

- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- Wetlands of international importance
- Listed threatened species and ecological communities
- Listed migratory species
- Commonwealth marine areas.

Under the streamlined arrangements, NOPSEMA also committed to enter into administrative arrangements with the then Department of the Environment. These arrangements were finalised and agreed to in July 2014. As part of these arrangements, NOPSEMA reports on the status of compliance with the commitments specified in Tables 2 and 3 of the *Streamlining Offshore Petroleum Environmental Approvals - Program Report* (Program Report). Reporting commitments against Table 2 are listed below.

**Table 2 - Commitments relating to EPBC Act Part 3 protected matters**

Environmental authorisations and decisions relating to EPBC Act Part 3 protected matters 2015-17	
Category	Number
Environment plan submissions <sup>1</sup>	37
Environment plan submissions in progress <sup>1</sup>	11
Offshore project proposal submissions <sup>1</sup>	0
Decisions to accept environment plans <sup>2</sup>	33
Decisions to refuse to accept environment plans <sup>2</sup>	2
Environment plans stopped/cancelled <sup>2</sup>	3
Environment plan submissions accepted that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of EPBC Act <sup>2</sup>	0

<sup>1</sup> based on year of submission (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016)

<sup>2</sup> based on year of completion (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016)





### Commitments relating to administration of the program

NOPSEMA reported against the commitments relating to administration of the program in Table 3 during June 2014. Those commitments were specific and time-bound and, as such, NOPSEMA has met the relevant requirements.

The administrative arrangements provide for a review following their finalisation and then every five years thereafter, while endorsement is in place. NOPSEMA is working with the Department of the Environment and Energy to review the administrative arrangements. Agencies will continue to apply the agreed 2014 administrative arrangements until the review is complete.

Development of EPBC Act-related guidance was also completed. In November 2015, NOPSEMA, in consultation with Parks Australia, developed a guidance note on petroleum activities with Commonwealth Marine Reserves (CMRs). This guidance supports interpretation of transitional management arrangements that are in place during the CMR review and prior to management plans being published.

As a part of the endorsement of NOPSEMA's environmental authorisation process (the Program), the authority committed to an independent review of its performance in meeting the Program's objectives following the first 12 months of operation. The review was completed in August 2015 and the review report was endorsed by the Minister for the Environment's delegate on 4 September 2015. The reviewer concluded that no formal recommendations were required. Several observations and opportunities for improvement were identified which NOPSEMA has accepted and is implementing.

The next review of the Program is scheduled to take place in 2020 and NOPSEMA will continue to report annually to the Minister for the Environment.

