



Data period: July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Presented to: The Hon. Josh Frydenberg, Minister for the Environment and Energy

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is the sole regulator for environmental management of petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters, effectively eliminating the duplication of environmental authorisations that existed for relevant activities prior to February 2014.

In February 2014, NOPSEMA's environmental management authorisation process was endorsed by the Federal Minister for the Environment as a Program (the Program) that meets the requirements of Part 10, section 146, of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Following Program endorsement, NOPSEMA entered into administrative arrangements with the then Department of the Environment (DoE). The administrative arrangements set out NOPSEMA and DoE responsibilities for Program administration, including NOPSEMA's reporting of compliance with the endorsed Program as described in the *Streamlining Offshore Petroleum Environmental Approvals - Program Report*.

Under the Program, NOPSEMA cannot accept an environment plan that will result in unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act. The specific EPBC Act matters protected that are relevant to the Program are:

- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- wetlands of international importance
- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- listed migratory species
- Commonwealth marine area.

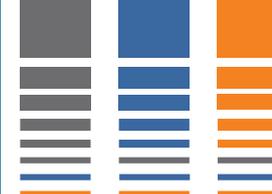
In 2015, the EPBC Act streamlining independent review found that NOPSEMA met all commitments under the Program and that the required processes and procedures are in place for the Program commitments to continue to be met in the future. The next review of the Program is scheduled to take place in 2020 as part of NOPSEMA's independent operational review.

Environmental management submissions and NOPSEMA decisions under the Program - 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	
Category	Number
Environment plan submissions ¹	38
Environment plan submissions in progress ¹	11
Offshore project proposal submissions in progress ¹	1
Decisions to accept offshore project proposals	0
Decisions to accept environment plans ²	33
Decisions to refuse to accept environment plans ²	1
Environment plans stopped/cancelled ²	3
Environment plan submissions accepted that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act	0

¹ based on year of submission (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)

² based on year of completion (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)





In May 2017, the administrative arrangements were updated to reflect key learnings and current agency arrangements and practices for administering the Program. These arrangements will be reviewed again as part of the scheduled Program review in 2020.

In May 2017, NOPSEMA also published a guideline on environment plan decision making (GL1721). The guideline explains how NOPSEMA makes an administrative decision to accept an environment plan under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 and the requirement for impacts on EPBC Act protected matters to be of an acceptable level.

NOPSEMA has also been working closely with Parks Australia to revise NOPSEMA's guidance note on petroleum activities within Commonwealth Marine Reserves (GN1565) to reflect contemporary expectations for titleholder consultation with the Director of National Parks. NOPSEMA will continue to ensure all guidance relevant to matters protected under the EPBC Act remains up-to-date and clear.

NOPSEMA will continue to report annually to the Minister for the Environment and Energy in this manner until the next review is completed.

