

EPBC Streamlining Performance Report

Reporting period: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Presented to: The Hon Matthew Canavan MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia

On 28 February 2014, NOPSEMA was endorsed as the sole regulator for petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. This report provides a summary of NOPSEMA's performance under the streamlined arrangements for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Further information about the endorsed Program is available at nopsema.gov.au.

Regulatory activity		1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018
Submission type	Category	Number
Offshore project proposal ¹	Accepted for public comment ²	1
	Accepted ³	1
	Assessments in progress	0
Environment plan	Accepted	37
	Assessments in progress	10
	Decisions—Refuse to accept	1
	Assessments stopped/cancelled	0
	Acceptances that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	0

1. The offshore project proposal (OPP) process streamlines decision-making on the overall environmental acceptability of offshore projects in Commonwealth waters and is designed to deliver equivalent environmental outcomes to the environmental impact assessment process under the EPBC Act.
2. NOPSEMA publishes OPPs that are open for public comment following its determination that the OPP is suitable for publication. The public then have an opportunity to review and provide comment on the OPP.
3. The final accepted OPP.

During the reporting period, NOPSEMA continued to implement the Program Administrative Arrangements. This implementation included sharing information with the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE) about NOPSEMA's regulatory activity (environment plan assessments, inspections and enforcement actions), and providing advice to DEE on post-approval matters relating to prior *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval conditions.

In March 2018, NOPSEMA assessed and accepted an offshore project proposal (OPP) for the development of the Barossa Area following eight weeks of public consideration and comment. This was the first OPP to be accepted under the endorsed program. NOPSEMA is aware that a number of proponents are considering OPPs for future offshore developments. Under the current arrangements some of these OPPs may also require referral under the EPBC Act due to jurisdictional issues and the complexity of the project. NOPSEMA will continue to engage with the DEE on this matter and provide support as appropriate.

During the reporting period, NOPSEMA worked closely with Parks Australia to ensure the new management plans for marine parks and associated authorisations including class approvals are clear, limit unnecessary regulatory burden and are able to be implemented by NOPSEMA while ensuring the appropriate standards of environmental protection are maintained. In addition, NOPSEMA worked with Parks Australia on preparing regulatory guidance that explains the implications of the new management plans for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities. NOPSEMA continued to maintain contractual arrangements with Australian Antarctic Division for the provision of specialist marine mammal advice and utilised this provision on a number of occasions.

Key statistics on industry and NOPSEMA performance are provided to you on a quarterly basis; the latest National Quarterly Performance Report is attached. NOPSEMA will continue to provide this report annually.