

# Performance Report

## EPBC Streamlining

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020



**Data period:** 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

**Presented to:** The Hon. Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment

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 2019 to 30 June 2020. Further information about the endorsed Program is available at [nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au).

| Regulatory activity                    |  | 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Submission type                        | Category   | Number                      |
| Offshore project proposal <sup>1</sup> | Accepted for public comment <sup>2</sup>   | 1                           |
|  | Accepted <sup>3</sup>  | 1                           |
|  | Assessments in progress – for public comment <sup>4</sup>  | 2                           |
|  | Assessments in progress – for acceptance <sup>4</sup>  | 1                           |
| Environment plan                       | Accepted <sup>5</sup>  | 33                          |
|  | Assessments in progress <sup>4</sup>   | 10                          |
|  | Decisions - Refuse to accept <sup>5</sup>  | 0                           |
|  | Assessments stopped/cancelled <sup>5</sup>   | 0                           |
|  | Acceptances that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | 0                           |

- <sup>1</sup> 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. Further information about OPPs, including their status is available at [nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au).
- <sup>2</sup> 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. Based on year of acceptance for public comment (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)
- <sup>3</sup> The final accepted OPP. Based on year of completion (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)
- <sup>4</sup> Based on year of submission (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)
- <sup>5</sup> Based on year of completion (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)

During the reporting period, NOPSEMA continued to implement the Program Administrative Arrangements. This included sharing information with the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) about NOPSEMA's regulatory activities such as environment plan assessments, inspections and enforcement actions. NOPSEMA also engages with DAWE on a range of matters, including to ensure clarity and consistency of approaches to application of EPBC Act policies and instruments, such as Recovery Plans.

NOPSEMA continues to apply and improve its regulatory practice to ensure that Program objectives are being met. Under contract, NOPSEMA also continues to provide regulatory advice to the Department in relation to assessments under the EPBC Act.

NOPSEMA has contractual arrangements in place with the Australian Antarctic Division and utilized these provisions to seek specialist marine mammal advice during the reporting period.

The Program requires that a review takes place every five years after the initial review, which was undertaken one year after the Program arrangements were in effect. The first of the five-yearly reviews will occur during the next reporting period and NOPSEMA is committed to working with the DAWE and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to ensure that the review is efficient and effective.