

Taskforce Outcome	Amend the Environment Regulations to give effect to increased transparency			
Work Stream	#1: Regulatory amendment process to give effect to the agreed government policy position			
Project Leader	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS)			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Minister approved policy recommendations arising from consultation and transparency review	Completed	Nov 2017
	2	DIIS to discuss a proposed framework for the public comment period and publication of environment plans with key stakeholders	Underway	Mar 2018
	3	DIIS to prepare regulatory amendments	Underway	Q3-4 2018
	4	An “exposure draft” of the proposed regulatory amendments will be released for public comment.	Pending	(likely Q3-4 2018)
	5	Regulatory amendments to come into force	Pending	(likely 2019)

Update to the Committee:

- In November 2017, the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, approved a series of changes to improve consultation and increase transparency of Australia’s offshore oil and gas regime. Changes will include:
 - improved public consultation on potential new offshore petroleum exploration areas;
 - establishing a register of interests for stakeholders interested in being consulted on future activities in an area;
 - publishing the environment plans submitted by petroleum companies before they carry out any exploration or other activities in an area;
 - inviting public consideration of the environment plans for offshore exploration activities;
 - community information sessions in areas where petroleum activities are being, or will be, carried out.
- DIIS has commenced work to develop regulatory amendments to implement the approved policy outcomes of the consultation and transparency review.
- As part of the development of these regulatory amendments, DIIS will work closely with stakeholders to inform the final regulatory amendments, as follows:
 - DIIS and NOPSEMA will meet with key stakeholders to discuss a proposed framework of changes to facilitate the public comment period and full publication of environment plans.
 - Discussions will be held in March in Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne and will involve a range of stakeholders who have previously been engaged as part of the review, including industry, ENGOs, fishing associations and government. Invitations to these discussions will be distributed mid-February.
 - Feedback from these meetings will inform the design of the framework prior to commencing the drafting of regulatory amendments.
 - In addition, DIIS is preparing a paper for the next Upstream Petroleum Resources Working Group Meeting on 21 March 2018, to update State and Territory Governments on the development of changes. This will allow DIIS to brief government stakeholders on progress and to seek feedback on the draft framework for regulatory change.

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- An “exposure draft” of the proposed regulatory amendments will be released for public consideration and comment in the second half of 2018.
 - Separate to the consultation and transparency review, DIIS will undertake an assessment of the publication requirements for information relating to inspections and incident reports. This work will commence in 2018 and will be progressed independently of the implementation of the recommendations of the consultation and transparency review.



Taskforce Outcome	Amend the Environment Regulations to give effect to increased transparency			
Work Stream	#2: Monitor industry and regulator readiness for environment plan publication and public comment, and communicate Taskforce progress and achievement			
Project Leader	NOPSEMA			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Identify project risks and controls in the Transparency Taskforce Terms of Reference (ToR)	Complete	Oct 2017
	2	Ensure each work stream identifies its risks and puts in place appropriate control measures to mitigate	Underway	Feb 2018
	3	Steering Committee to review the project risks and controls provided by the work streams	Underway	Feb 2018
	4	Records from Transparency Taskforce to be published, for the information of stakeholders and the public	Underway	Mar 2018
	4	Develop a plan of stakeholder engagement on the Taskforce and work stream activities	Pending	
	5	Create key messaging for the Taskforce and Q&A's for each work stream	Pending	

Update to the Committee:

- At meeting 4, the committee decided it would take a larger role in managing the risks associated with the transition to increased transparency by reviewing the opportunities and threats associated with each work stream, as an update at each meeting. An example is presented below for review.
- This work stream will be used to communicate the progress and achievements of the Taskforce to the industry and other stakeholders, to facilitate readiness for regulatory change.
- A public briefing on the Taskforce on 7–9 March 2018 was flagged in brochures at the December briefing. Work stream leads and the committee are to review the scope, content and planning for this briefing, in context of the other communications planned (e.g. by work stream 1 and 6).
- In addition, a stakeholder engagement plan for the remainder of 2018 will be developed, in consultation with all work stream leads.
- At meeting 4, the committee agreed to publish records from the Transparency Taskforce. Details to be decided in Meeting 5, first records to be published after review and approval, by March 2018.

Taskforce Outcome	The community has confidence in the offshore petroleum regulatory regime			
Work Stream	#3: Communication and engagement initiatives to increase transparency of key offshore petroleum industry processes and associated regulatory frameworks			
Project Leader	NOPSEMA (to be reviewed)			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Establish Transparency Taskforce	Complete	July 2017
	2	Conduct introductory event and produce brochure	Complete	July 2017
	3	Start the Reference Case Project website	Complete	Sept 2017
	4	End of year briefing on the Transparency Taskforce and Reference Case Project	Complete	Dec 2017
	5	Continue to extend membership of the Transparency Taskforce Steering Committee	Underway	Dec 2018
	6	Establish a Community Environmental Reference Group to provide feedback to NOPSEMA	Underway	Mar 2018
	7	DIIS to commence planning for Offshore Petroleum Information Sessions to engage with the community on current offshore petroleum issues	Underway	Q3 2018
	8	Establish an information portal that provides a single gateway for all online traffic searching for information about offshore petroleum activities and regulation in Australia.	Pending	

Update to the Committee:

- The committee to review the Project Leader role for this work stream, now that the earlier tasks by NOPSEMA have been completed or taken over by others.
- Expressions of interest have been received from 16 applicants to a Community Environmental Reference Group that will provide feedback to NOPSEMA. NOPSEMA will progress these with the aim to have the group in place by the end of March.
- DIIS has commenced early planning for community Information Sessions on current petroleum issues, and changes to environment plan publication and public comment. The first of these sessions will be conducted in South Australia in Q3 2018.

Taskforce Outcome	The community has confidence in the offshore petroleum regulatory regime			
Work Stream	#4: System updates to deliver regulatory amendments facilitating public comment and environment plan publication			
Project Leader	NOPSEMA			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Establish a community information access pathway on the NOPSEMA website for non-titleholder visitors	Complete	Aug 2017
	2	Review the NOPSEMA website for adequacy of communicating information about the work of the Transparency Taskforce (e.g. Steering Committee records)	Complete	Feb 2018
	3	Review capability of NOPSEMA's internal regulatory management system in light of any changes to the Environment Regulations	Pending	
	4	Review the capability and capacity of NOPSEMA's Activities Submissions and Summaries webpage to cater for publication of environment plans and public comment processes	Pending	

Update to the Committee:

- NOPSEMA is in discussion with DIIS on a framework for proposed changes to facilitate environment plan publication and public comment (see work stream #1). As this matures, NOPSEMA will be able to commence development of changes to its internal regulatory management system and website to facilitate implementation of the amended regulations.

Taskforce Outcome	Reduced size and complexity of environment plans			
Work Stream	#5: Alignment of regulatory interpretation to deliver efficient and effective environmental assessments			
Project Leader	NOPSEMA			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Information paper entitled “Considerations for five-year environment plan revisions” published	Complete	Jan 2018
	2	NOPSEMA to provide activity-specific advice to titleholders during preparation of environment plan revisions	Underway	Dec 2019
	3	Produce an EP Glossary to standardise the language used in preparing and consulting on environment plan content to reduce misunderstandings and communication issues.	Pending	

Update to the Committee:

- Information paper entitled “Considerations for five-year environment plan revisions” published with NOPSEMA’s advice to industry on key focus areas and requirements for upcoming revisions of long-term environment plans.
- NOPSEMA is offering activity-specific advice to titleholders via meetings during preparation of environment plan revisions, to consolidate information gathered through regulatory activities.
- Committee to review best leader of the EP Glossary initiative, which is intended to standardise common environment plan content, similar to the reference case project (work stream #6).

Taskforce Outcome	Reduced size and complexity of Environment Plans			
Work Stream	#6: Reduce unnecessary effort for titleholders to produce, and stakeholders to review, environment plan content by extracting common and typical content			
Project Leader	National Energy Resources Australia (NERA)			
Date	Meeting 5, 15 February 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Develop four reference cases as proof of concept	Underway	28 Feb 2018
	2	Proof of concept consultant's report	Complete	31 Jan 2018
	3	Project handover, stocktake, and analysis	Underway	28 Feb 2018
	4	Identify and prioritise future reference cases	Pending	30 Mar 2018
	5	Reference case framework and development process	Underway	30 Mar 2018
	6	Prepare business case for long-term owner of reference cases	Pending	30 May 2018

Update to the Committee:

- NERA will lead this work stream for an interim period and have appointed a project manager to maintain momentum for the next 6 months.
- NERA will perform a stock take and prepare a business case for industry to evaluate the long-term options for the reference case concept.
- Engaging with industry to understand how the reference case project aligns with the objectives and outcomes sought by the industry in 2018.
- Short workshops are scheduled throughout February to agree the final content of the three remaining 'proof of concept' reference cases.
- Scoping industry-led initiatives complimentary to the reference case project that could deliver further efficiency and productivity gains.

Risks and Opportunities:

- Opportunity to align industry views on the merits of reference cases when framed by the context of NERA's knowledge priorities; enabling effective collaboration, social licence to operate, unlocking future resources, efficient operations, and regulatory framework optimisation.
- Risk that industry fails to back the project without a clear vision and understanding of the value proposition of the project and the return on investment.
- Risk that project momentum is lost without sufficient resourcing to complete the listed initiatives.
- NOPSEMA and fishing representative bodies are keen on the concept and see both short and long-term benefits to making their interaction with the offshore petroleum industry more efficient.