

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 7, 17 July 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	Completed	Mar 2018
	3	DIIS to prepare regulatory amendments	Underway	Q2-3 2018
	4	An “exposure draft” of the proposed regulatory amendments will be released for public comment.	Pending	Q4 2018
	5	Regulatory amendments to come into force	Pending	2019

Update to the Committee:

- DIIS continues to progress the implementation of the regulatory reforms announced by Minister Canavan in November 2017.
- Following consultation in March 2018, DIIS is currently finalising drafting instructions for the Office of Parliamentary Council to prepare the regulatory amendments to require the public comment period for exploration activities and the full publication of environment plans for all petroleum activities.
 - An exposure draft of the proposed regulatory amendments will be released for public consideration and comment later this year.
 - Regulatory amendments are expected to be finalised and come into effect in 2019.

Taskforce Outcome	Amend the Environment Regulations to give effect to increased transparency			
Work Stream	#2: Industry readiness for environment plan publication and public comment, and communicate Taskforce progress and achievement			
Project Leader	NOPSEMA (to be reviewed)			
Date	Meeting 7, 17 July 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Identify project risks and controls in the Transparency Taskforce Terms of Reference (ToR). Completed by NOPSEMA	Complete	Oct 2017
	2	Ensure each work stream identifies risks and opportunities and puts in place appropriate control measures to mitigate. Completed (and ongoing) by all work stream leads.	Complete	April 2018
	3	Steering Committee to review the risks and opportunities provided by the work streams using SWOT analysis	Ongoing	July 2018
	4	Records from Transparency Taskforce to be published on the NOPSEMA website, for the information of stakeholders and the public	Complete	March 2018
	5	NOPSEMA to coordinate finalisation and publication of a 2018 Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Taskforce sponsors to implement	Underway	July 2018
	6	APPEA to work with NERA on the Reference Case project review (see Work stream 6)	Underway	August 2018

Update to the Committee:

- NOPSEMA proposes to amend this Work stream to focus on “Industry readiness”, separating work relating to NOPSEMA’s own readiness for regulating after transparency into Work stream 4.
- Industry (via APPEA) has identified consistency in the process for Environment Plan development as an immediate area of focus that might improve the stakeholder experience with consultation.
- Industry has prioritised the Reference Case review process (outlined in Work stream 6) to understand whether the model can be used to improve Environment Plans and achieve standard consultation practices.



SWOT Analysis	Addressed by work plan?
<i>Strength:</i> Steering committee members provide access to a range of channels for external communication, which should be leveraged regularly.	Yes
<i>Weakness:</i> Independent nature of the work streams can result in inefficient planning and delivery of communications. Taskforce-wide plan of stakeholder engagement to be developed to coordinate efforts.	Yes
<i>Opportunity:</i> Use established channels to provide links to Taskforce information (e.g. industry/stakeholder websites, newsletters).	Yes
<i>Threat:</i> Given the long lead times to prepare environment plans, when regulatory amendments are first implemented public comment and publication processes may be inefficient, and as a result confidence in the regulatory regime may decrease. Mitigated by comprehensive engagement during development of regulatory amendments (work stream 1).	Yes

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 (items 1-6), DIIS (item 7)			
Date	Meeting 7, 17 July 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 – confirm this in terms of reference	Complete	Mar 2018
	6	Establish a Community Environmental Reference Group to provide feedback to NOPSEMA	Complete	Mar 2018
	7	DIIS to commence planning for Offshore Petroleum Information Sessions to engage with the community on current offshore petroleum issues	Underway	August 2018, then ongoing
	8	Steering Committee to consider the business case for an online offshore petroleum information portal, and alternative options to improve information accessibility.	Underway	

Update to the Committee:

Community drop-in information sessions

- The first series of Offshore Petroleum Drop-In Sessions will take place in South Australia in August 2018. Details on the timing and location of the sessions is provided below:

Adelaide	Monday 20 August	9.00 – 11.30am	Adelaide Convention Centre North Terrace, Adelaide
Port Lincoln	Monday 20 August	4.30 – 7.00pm	PIRSA Lecture Theatre 1 Hindmarsh St, Port Lincoln
Victor Harbor	Tuesday 21 August	4.30 – 7.00pm	Victor Harbor Bowling Club Flinders Parade, Victor Harbor
Kangaroo Island	Wednesday 22 August	4.30 – 7.00pm	Kingscote Town Hall 43 Dauncey Street, Kingscote

- Organisations that will be represented at the drop-in sessions include DIIS, NOPTA, NOPSEMA, Parks Australia, SA Department of Resources and the SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

- Following the South Australian consultation round, DIIS will undertake a review of the drop-in sessions to inform the format and scheduling of future sessions. It is expected that sessions will be held in Victoria, Western Australia and Northern Territory over the coming years.

Improving accessibility of oil and gas information

- At Steering Committee meeting 6 (17 April 2018), the Taskforce discussed the need to improve the accessibility and discoverability of information on the oil and gas industry on the internet.
- On 9 July 2018, DIIS held a teleconference with non-government Taskforce members to discuss the business case for an offshore information portal, and alternative options to improve information accessibility.
- DIIS is now considering the feedback received at the teleconference.

SWOT Analysis	Addressed by work plan?
<i>Strength:</i> Planning for the South Australian information sessions is well underway, and stakeholder awareness is increasing. Consolidated information or guides would improve community understanding.	No
<i>Weakness:</i> Regulatory processes applying to offshore petroleum are delivered by a range of agencies, which can be difficult for external stakeholders to navigate. Some stakeholders may be unable or unwilling to attend the information sessions.	No*
<i>Opportunity:</i> Ministerial commitment to community information, which facilitates resourcing and planning of information sessions.	Yes
<i>Threat:</i> Establishment and maintenance of internet-based information requires sustainable resourcing. A clear business case and objective for a new portal has not been developed.	No

* Work plan action 8 may result in a task to address this

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 7, 17 July 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	Underway	Dec 2018
	4	Draft policy and guidance changes to clearly communicate amended assessment process and system, in collaboration with Work stream #1	Underway	Dec 2018
	5	Review NOPSEMA's Environment Plan Assessment Policy in relation to transparency of decision-making, in light of the amendments to the Environment Regulations. Also review NOPSEMA's policy on provision of Statements of Reasons under the <i>Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977</i> .	Underway	Dec 2018
	6	Review, and update if necessary, the capability and capacity of NOPSEMA's Activities Submissions and Summaries webpage to cater for publication of environment plans and public comment processes	Underway	Dec 2018

Update to the Committee:

- NOPSEMA has developed an internal work plan to prepare for and deliver changes to the environment plan assessment process. Implementation will commence with a SWOT analysis based on current understanding of regulatory amendments, while NOPSEMA continues to work with DIIS to understand the fine detail of the amendments as they are developed.
- A scoping process has also commenced for potential upgrades to the NOPSEMA website to facilitate user-friendly and efficient online public comment and publication.



SWOT Analysis	Addressed by work plan?
<p><i>Strength:</i> NOPSEMA has a close working relationship with DIIS, which should facilitate early notice of regulatory amendments as they are developed. NOPSEMA’s existing system can be built upon to deliver public comment and publication. The current website structure also already allows for add-ons by other jurisdictions.</p>	Yes
<p><i>Weakness:</i> Development work will have to be undertaken in parallel with regulatory amendment process by DIIS (work stream #1).</p>	Yes
<p><i>Opportunity:</i> Online system for public comment and publication can be tested thoroughly prior to first day of implementation, which should mitigate technical problems. If well-delivered, community confidence in NOPSEMA’s regulatory process should be strengthened. Promotion and visibility at the time of delivery would capitalise on this. An expanded, fit-for-purpose online system would facilitate more efficient data management for NOPSEMA, and more effective notifications to the community.</p>	Yes
<p><i>Threat:</i> Volume of public comments and website traffic that will be generated when environment plans are first published is unknown, and if high may result in large administrative workload for NOPSEMA. If poorly-delivered, community confidence in NOPSEMA’s regulatory process would be eroded, and assessment timeframes could also be affected. Thorough testing prior to delivery should mitigate this.</p>	Yes

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 7, 17 July 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	Conduct holistic review of environment plan assessment guidance, starting with invitation for stakeholders to give feedback on key documents and identify areas for improvement/clarification.	Underway	August 2018

Update to the Committee:

- In preparation for updates required to implement changes to the Environment Regulations, NOPSEMA has issued an invitation for stakeholders to give feedback on its guidance documents on environment plan assessment, particularly:
 - Environment plan assessment policy
 - Environment plan content requirements guidance note
 - Environment plan decision making guideline
 - Environment plan summaries guideline
 - Consultation information paper
- Comments on any of NOPSEMA’s other published environmental management guidance documents are also welcome. An online comment form ([survey](#)) is available on the NOPSEMA website until 20 July 2018. NOPSEMA will aim to publish a report by the end of 2018 to collate the comments received and report on changes to its guidance as a result of this feedback.
- NOPSEMA seeks feedback from the Steering Committee on how other jurisdictions wish to be involved or informed on progress of the review and actions arising in Work stream 4.

SWOT Analysis	Addressed by work plan?
<i>Strength:</i> Industry, regulator and all stakeholders have a focus in this area to improve clarity. A structured system is already in place for communicating NOPSEMA’s interpretations and how to apply the Regulations, which can be built on.	Yes
<i>Weakness:</i> In aspects of environmental regulation where the scope for interpretation is too broad, it is very difficult to achieve consistent application in the absence of established standards for processes or performance.	No
<i>Opportunity:</i> Clarify areas where NOPSEMA can increase certainty on meeting objective-based criteria.	Yes
<i>Threat:</i> Independent, global nature of titleholder companies often leads to differing approaches to environmental management.	Yes

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 7, 17 July 2018			
Work Plan	ID	Initiative	Status	Timeframe for completion
	1	Develop four reference cases as proof of concept	Underway	May 2018
	2	Proof of concept consultant's report	Complete	Jan 2018
	3	Project handover, stocktake, and analysis	Underway	May 2018
	4	Identify and prioritise future reference cases	Pending	TBC
	5	Reference case framework and development process	Underway	TBC
	6	Prepare business case for long-term owner of reference cases	Underway	TBC
Actions adopted by NERA from Work Stream 5	7	Produce an Environment Plan Glossary to standardise the language used in preparing and consulting on environment plan content, to reduce misunderstandings and communication issues, with input from NOPSEMA.	Underway	TBC
	8	Develop improved method for applying Australian and international standards to environmental impact and risk assessment, and environmental management, to standardise environment plan content.	Underway	TBC
	9	Seek stakeholder feedback on priority areas where prescription or guidance could increase the efficiency of developing environment plans, and the best way to communicate this information.	Complete	June 2018

Update to the Committee:

- The reference case project has been under review since 23 May. The review was scheduled to finish on 20 June but has been extended to 20 July to ensure feedback can be collated from all relevant parties. Link: [Reference Case Project Review Terms of Reference](#)
- Review next steps are for NERA and APPEA to prepare a recommendation report for NOPSEMA, APPEA, and NERA to determine the next phase of the project, if any.
- Actions 4 – 8 are underway through the review. Timeframes for completion will be set after the reference case review is completed, and so are marked “to be confirmed” (TBC) above.
- Action 9: The review included a survey of attendees at the 27 June Information Session which is available on the reference case website's [News and Media page](#).



SWOT Analysis	Addressed by work plan?
<i>Strength:</i> Collaborative initiative aligning industry practices and sharing experiences	Yes
<i>Weakness:</i> Industry resourcing required to extract benefits, which limits speed of progress	Yes
<i>Opportunity:</i> Project opens large productivity opportunities in environmental approvals	Yes
<i>Threat:</i> Reference cases present environmental management practices for portions of petroleum activities, without the full context of the environment plan. Potential misinterpretation by external readers is managed by careful scoping and explanation of how the reference case is applied.	Yes