



**Data period:** 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

**Presented to:** Minister for the Environment  
The Hon. Greg Hunt MP

On 28 February 2014, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) was endorsed as the sole regulator for petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. Under the streamlined arrangements, NOPSEMA is committed to not accepting an environment plan for activities that will result in unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), including:

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

Under the streamlined arrangements, NOPSEMA also committed to enter into specified administrative arrangements with the Department of the Environment. These arrangements were finalised and agreed to in July 2014. As part of these arrangements, NOPSEMA reports on the status of major environmental investigations and on compliance with the commitments specified in tables two and three of the *Streamlining Offshore Petroleum Environmental Approvals - Program Report* (Program Report). Reporting commitments against table two are listed below.

**Program commitments relating to EPBC Act Part 3 protected matters**

Environmental authorisation and decisions		1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015
Category	Number	
Environment plan submissions	71	
Environment plan submissions accepted	52	
Environment plan submissions accepted that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of EPBC Act	0	
Environment plan submissions refused acceptance	0	
Environment plan submissions returned or cancelled	4	
Environment plan submissions under assessment	15	
Offshore project proposal submissions	0	

NOPSEMA reported against the commitments in table three of the Program Report during June 2014. Those particular commitments were specific and time bound such that NOPSEMA has now met its commitments in relation to the implementation and administration of the Program under table three.

As a part of the endorsement of NOPSEMA’s environmental authorisation process (the Program), the authority committed to an independent review of its performance in meeting the Program’s objectives following the first 12 months of operation. The review commenced in March 2015 and is due to be completed in August 2015. Upon completion of the review, NOPSEMA will submit a report to the Minister for the Environment for consideration. NOPSEMA will consider feedback and implement necessary recommendations. NOPSEMA will also continue to work cooperatively with the Department of the Environment on other areas identified for their attention as part of the review.

