

# Information

A valuable resource in the management of health, safety and the environment in the offshore petroleum industry

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is charged with regulating occupational health and safety and environmental management in the offshore petroleum industry.

Sharing information through industry experience is an integral part of NOPSEMA being able to exercise its regulatory functions effectively and transparently.

Information sharing can also make a valuable contribution to the offshore petroleum industry by expanding knowledge, enabling innovation and even saving lives by learning from others' experiences.

NOPSEMA already publishes a wide variety of public sector information (PSI) and is working towards increasing publication.

## What is Public Sector Information?

PSI is information, including information products and services, generated, created, collected, processed, preserved, maintained, disseminated, or funded by or for the government or public institutions, taking into account [relevant] legal requirements and restrictions (Government 2.0 Taskforce, 2009 p. 4).

## Information handling by NOPSEMA

NOPSEMA collects information from industry duty holders through the exercise of inspection and investigation powers and through regulatory assessment and reporting processes. The offshore regulatory regime is designed to encourage full and open sharing of information between industry and NOPSEMA.

**NOPSEMA must consider confidentiality, privacy and security matters that may restrict the use and disclosure of this information.**

In addition to making information publicly available, NOPSEMA shares performance and operational data directly with individual duty holders.



## Information published by NOPSEMA

- guidance notes
- information papers
- safety alerts
- presentations
- environment plan summaries
- industry activity data
- NOPSEMA activity data
- freedom of information (FOI) releases.



## Value of access to information

Following major offshore incidents in Australia and overseas, considerable public sector information is available that includes:

- reports of major public inquiries and government responses
- expert reports and evidence presented in legal proceedings
- documents accessed and published under FOI
- collaborative data published on public government websites.

These events also prompted:

- major amendments to the offshore legislative regime in Australia
- government participation in global networks for environmental protection.

Sharing information will support prevention of future offshore incidents by:

- providing insight into causes and contributing factors
- identifying best practices to improve risk management and emergency response strategies
- improving collaboration between government agencies and with industry
- identifying and rectifying deficiencies in regulatory regimes.

Unlike other valuable resources, information is not diminished by use. Indeed, the value of information can be enhanced when it is openly accessible and reused frequently (OAIC, 2011 p. 2).

## Information publication as an enforcement tool

Publication of enforcement information:

- raises awareness of the law and consequences of non-compliance
- deters similar conduct
- promotes better practices.

New legislation will allow NOPSEMA to publish safety and environment enforcement notices issued under the offshore regime on its website.

## Conclusion

NOPSEMA believes there is significant value in the information it collects, uses and generates which should be shared with the offshore petroleum industry.

**Increased information publication will support and enhance NOPSEMA's accountability and transparency as Australia's offshore petroleum regulator.**

This will expand industry knowledge and innovation on key safety and environmental risks, as well as being an effective enforcement tool to promote industry compliance.

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