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NOPSA: Competent and respected safety regulator - findings of Independent Review

A three-yearly independent review into the operational effectiveness of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) has found the agency to be an effective regulator that is coping well with its dynamic regulatory mandate.

Completed by the Independent Review panel on 29 November, the Second Triennial Review of the Operational Effectiveness of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority found NOPSA to have markedly improved its resources, procedures and early engagement initiatives since the Authority's first operational review conducted in 2008.

Initiated by the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism and mandated in legislation, the latest review was conducted by a group of independent panel members with extensive experience in community and corporate sectors associated with the petroleum industry.

Commencing the review on 8 July 2011, the panel issued a background document and invited written submissions from industry and other stakeholder groups regarding NOPSA's performance since its establishment in 2005 and in particular over the past three years.

Peak industry bodies Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA), the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) and the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), as well as major industry operators, Australian and international regulatory bodies and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) all made direct presentations to the review panel.

The panel also met the NOPSA board, the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and numerous state officials to gain a wide range of viewpoints on NOPSA and its effectiveness as a national regulator.

The panel's overall assessment of NOPSA, including recommendations for managing the Safety Authority's transition to NOPSEMA next year, have been documented in a report and presented to the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, the Hon. Martin Ferguson for his consideration.

"In framing our report, the Panel was mindful of the extensive reviews and subsequent reforms undertaken over the past three years and the ongoing implementation process attached to recommendations and findings arising from those Reviews," said Panel Chairman Mr Chris Raper.

"The forthcoming establishment of NOPSEMA will be another significant challenge."

A copy of the [full report, including key findings and recommendations](#) has been published on NOPSA's website at: www.nopsa.gov.au. For faster access, you may also download the [main body of the report](#) and the [submissions](#) separately.

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