

Environmental regulation of offshore petroleum activities: challenges and opportunities

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Montara 2009







- NOPSA established in 2005 for regulation of safety
- Productivity commission in 2009 recommended a single national regulator
- Montara Commission of Enquiry returned the Final Response and 105 recommendations (92 accepted) in 2011
- Government response:
 - Establish a single, independent national regulator for Petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters and in waters where state responsibilities have been conferred
 - The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) was established on 1 January 2012
 - NOPTA for administering titles

Vision

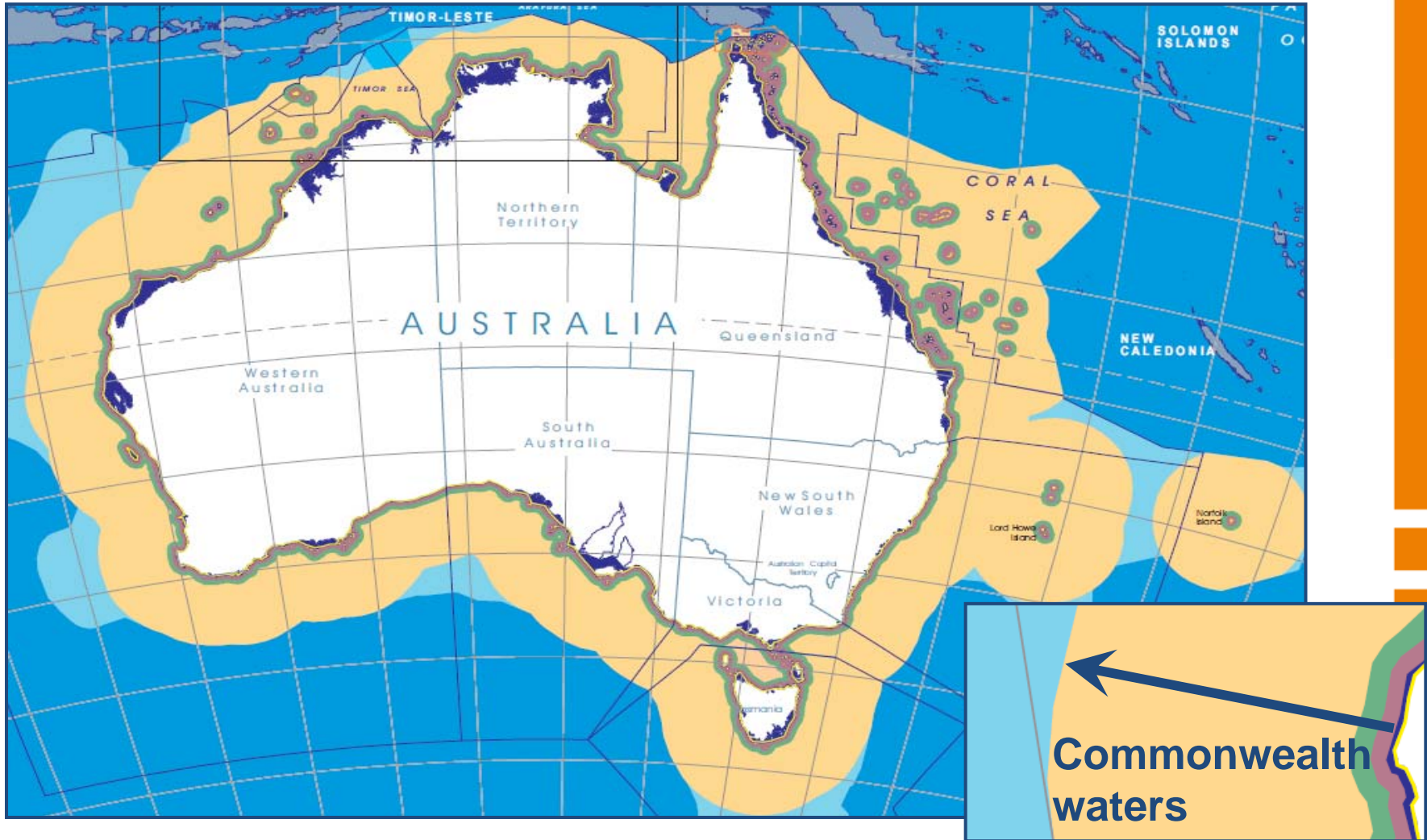
A safe and environmentally responsible Australian offshore petroleum industry

Mission

To independently and professionally regulate offshore safety, integrity and environmental management

- *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and Environment Regulations 2009
- An accepted Environment Plan is required in order to undertake activities
- The primary responsibility for ensuring environmental management including oil spill response lies with the operator, nominated by the title holder
- NOPSEMA funded through cost recovery mechanisms
 - Environment Plan levy

- Develop and implement – effective environmental monitoring and enforcement strategies
- Investigate – environmental incidents
- Report – to Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers as appropriate
- Advise – on matters relating to environmental management
- Cooperate – with NOPTA and other Commonwealth agencies



- Change – same Act and Regulations but new Regulator
- Focus on preventing environmental incidents and managing them if they occur
- Three sets of regulations requiring a consistent and independent approach to application
- Guide operators to achieve best environmental outcomes with risks at ALARP but without being prescriptive
- Encourage transparency in monitoring outcomes
- Assess operators activities in uncertain environments or with knowledge gaps
- Ensure operators are responsible for actions and outcomes
- Account for cumulative impacts from long term activities or multiple operators or impacts outside of the permit area

- Leverage off existing systems and processes from NOPSA
- Identify lessons learnt from Montara – operations and monitoring
- Establish new best practice guidelines for consistent and thorough scientific monitoring and oil spill planning – seek input from industry and scientists
- Standardise data collection methods
- Assess outcomes of monitoring and look for refinements
- Whole of country approach allows us to start looking at cumulative impacts
- Identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for regional monitoring by appropriate agencies
- Mutually beneficial outcomes with other regulatory bodies, industry and marine science groups

Any Questions?



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