

# Smoothing the transition to increased transparency

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The regulatory approval process for environment plans has not kept pace with the changing expectations of the community in regard to transparency and accountability. While the Australian Government undertakes a review of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) continues to pursue a number of work streams within the legislative framework to address this issue.



**NOPSEMA**

[nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au)



# WORK STREAMS TO SMOOTH THE TRANSITION TO INCREASED TRANSPARENCY

## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Open days
- Presentations
- Seminars
- Round tables
- Focus groups

## CONSULT AND ENGAGE

Exchanging views on the future of environmental approvals

## WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT

Improving the accessibility of information available online

## REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS

Continuing the work currently underway

## STREAMLINE EPS

Reducing unnecessary effort for titleholders to produce and stakeholders to review EP content

## STANDARDISE EP CONTENT

Ensuring consistency of language across the environmental approvals process.

Depending on the outcome of the Environment Regulations review, more work streams may be added in due course.

## POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF 'REFERENCE CASES'



**BETTER DECISIONS**



**REDUCED BURDEN FROM CONSULTATION**



**FASTER EP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**



**FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES**



**REDUCED ASSESSMENT TIMEFRAMES**

## 'REFERENCE CASE' CONCEPT

'Reference cases' identify and capture common environment plan (EP) content and typical environmental management practices. Titleholders will be able to refer to the published 'reference cases' and briefly explain their applicability to a specific activity. 'Reference case' content would not be required in the EP. EPs should then focus on the parts of an activity that are different, innovative, or more challenging to manage.

“Greater transparency and engagement with the community is required to support our social license to operate and regulate. Listening deeply, hearing without bias, and acting according to shared values is how the offshore petroleum industry will become a more valued part of the Australian community.”

Stuart Smith, NOPSEMA CEO

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

To cater for different circumstances and resource availability, NOPSEMA will be contacting stakeholders to participate in the project. NOPSEMA is seeking participants that can provide short-term secondments to NOPSEMA, expert personnel, information, content review and technical input, funding for consultancy services, and funding whole reference cases. NOPSEMA also welcomes input from those affected by offshore petroleum activities.

If you want to be part of the movement toward increased transparency email: [environment@nopsema.gov.au](mailto:environment@nopsema.gov.au).

# What is a 'reference case'?

A reference case is a 'thread' of logic in an environment plan. The thread can be drawn as follows:



For example:

During vessel operations (activity), the discharge of sewage and grey-water (aspect) changes the water quality (impact) on fish (receptor). The impact on fish can be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable levels with the introduction of a sewage treatment plant (control).

ACTIVITIES	ASPECTS	IMPACTS	RECEPTORS	CONTROLS
Vessel operations	Seabed disturbance	Predation of native species	Corals	Engineering design specs etc.
Geophysical surveys	Vessel movements	Changes to habitat	Seagrass	Equipment selection
Seismic surveys	Planned discharge of sewage	Collision with fauna causing injury or death	Fish	Management system
Drilling of wells	Physical presence	Changes to water quality	Benthic microalgae	Incident response
Facility construction	Light emissions	Decline in sediment quality	Mangroves	Personnel
Pipeline installation	Noise emissions	Decline in air quality	Non-coral marine invertebrates	Compliance
Pipeline hydrotesting	Atmospheric emissions	Changes to visual amenity	Microalgae	
Facility operations	Aircraft movements	Access restriction	Reptiles	
Hydrocarbon export	Planned discharge of brine	Behavioural change	Seabirds and migratory shorebirds	
Pipeline removal — Jay lift	Planned discharge of PFU	Loss of habitat	Marine mammals	
Facility toppling	Invasive marine species			

## Further information

NOPSEMA publishes policies, guidance notes, guidelines, and information papers at [nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au).

## Contact NOPSEMA

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