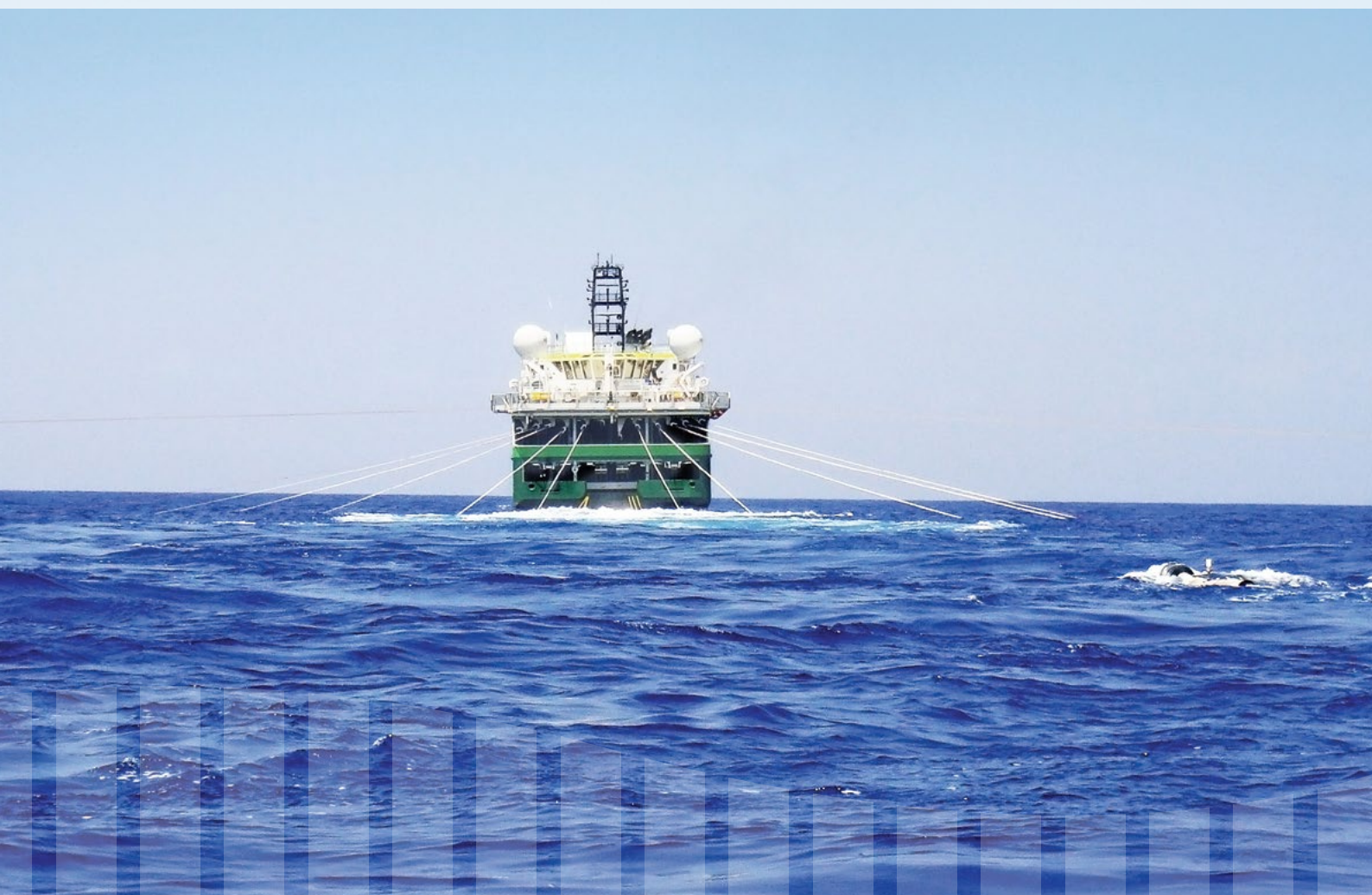


Offshore petroleum environmental approvals

May 2017

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is the regulator for health and safety, well integrity and environmental management for offshore petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters and in coastal waters where regulatory powers and functions have been conferred.

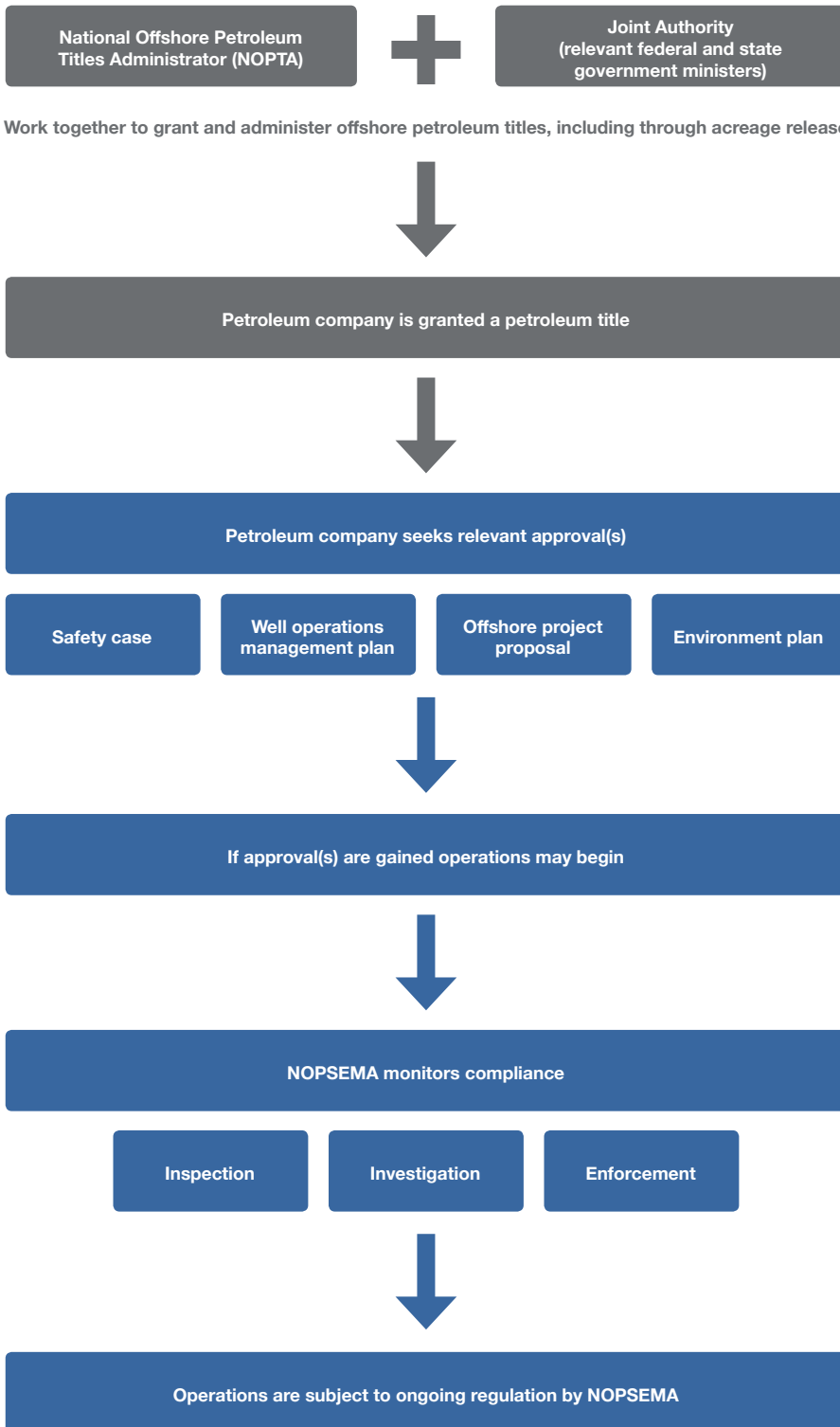


The offshore petroleum approval and regulatory process

The infographic below provides a broad overview of the approval and regulatory process for all offshore petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. For more information, visit nopsema.gov.au.

Legend

- NOPSEMA's remit
- Outside of NOPSEMA's remit



NOPSEMA has no role in granting or administering petroleum titles. For more information contact the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) at nopta.gov.au.

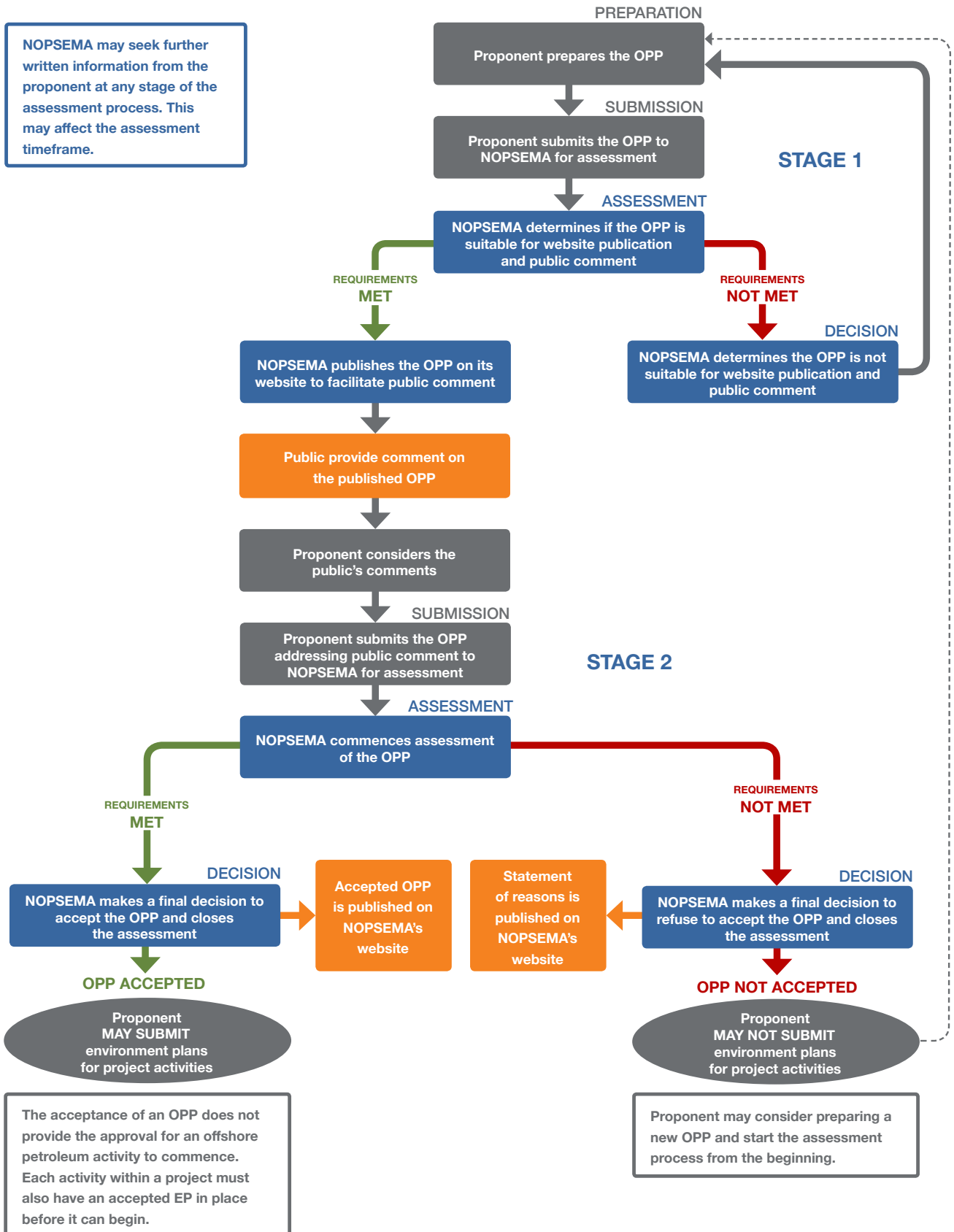
For more information about the assessment process see nopsema.gov.au.

Assessment process for offshore project proposals

The infographic below provides a broad overview of the offshore project proposal (OPP) assessment process. Proposals are assessed against the requirements of the Environment Regulations. Proposals vary in their complexity and scope, as such assessment timeframes will vary. For more information, visit nopsema.gov.au.

Legend

- NOPSEMA
- Proponent
- Public comment / publication

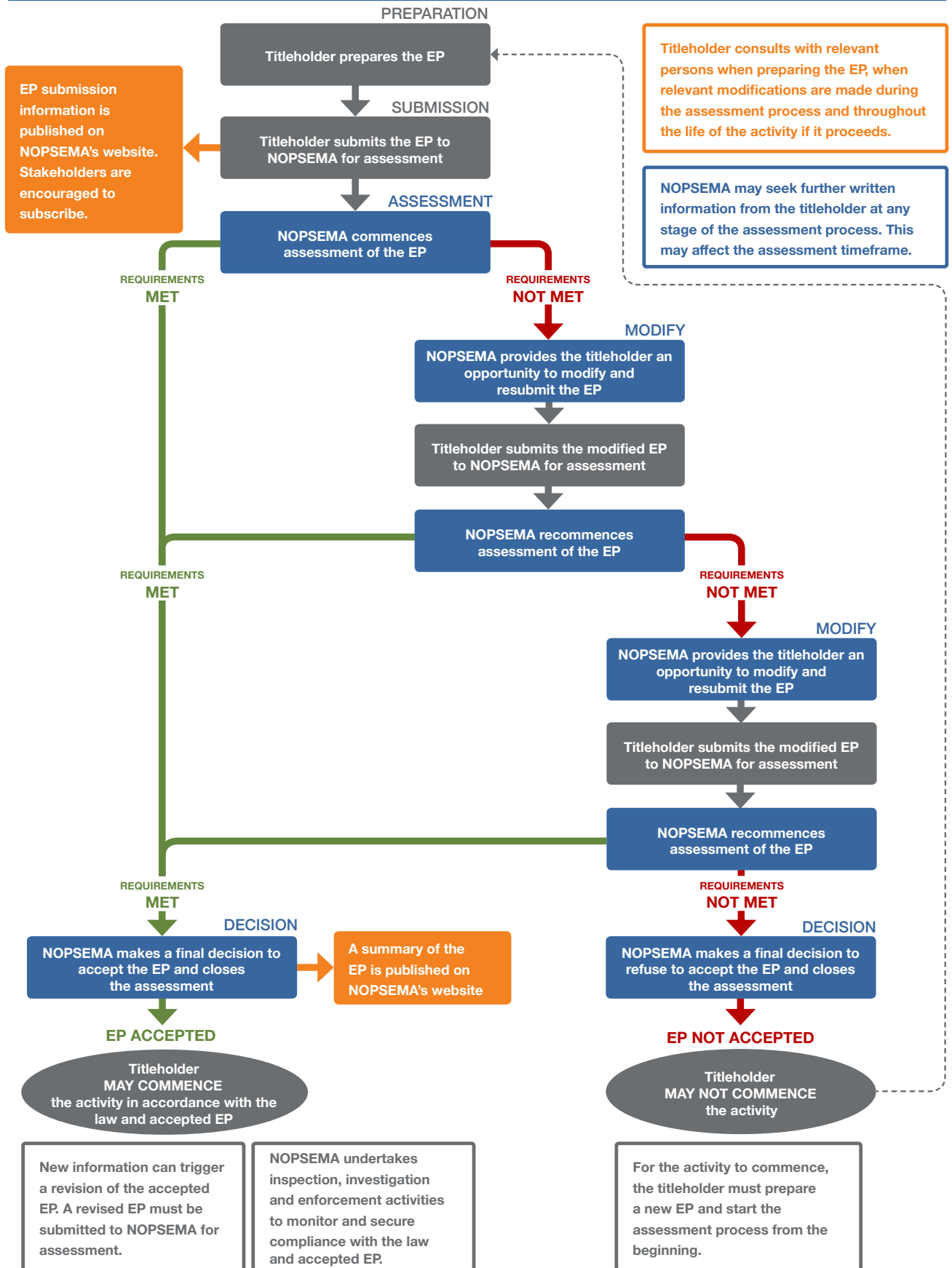


Assessment process for environment plans

The infographic below provides a broad overview of the environment plan (EP) assessment process. Plans are assessed against the requirements of the Environment Regulations. Plans vary in their complexity and scope, as such assessment timeframes will vary. For more information, visit nopsema.gov.au.

Legend

- NOPSEMA
- Titleholder
- Consultation





What environmental approvals are required for offshore petroleum activities?

There are two main types of environmental approval documents that may be required before an offshore petroleum activity can commence. The type of activity proposed will determine if one or both are required.

Offshore project proposal (OPP)

An OPP is required for offshore development projects where one or more offshore activities are planned for the recovery of petroleum. This may include the construction, commissioning and operations of facilities and pipelines as well as production drilling. This would not include drilling for exploration or appraisal activities, or other exploration activities such as seismic surveys.

The OPP is a whole-of-project document that provides a detailed environmental impact and risk assessment of multiple activities and explains how those impacts and risks will be managed to a level that is acceptable for the life of the project.

The acceptance of an OPP does not provide approval for offshore activities to commence; rather, it provides approval for the submission of the environment plans for each activity within the project.

Environment plan (EP)

By law, an offshore petroleum activity may not commence in Commonwealth waters before NOPSEMA has assessed and accepted an EP for that activity.

The EP is an activity-specific document that provides a detailed environmental impact and risk assessment and explains how those impacts and risks will be managed to a level that is acceptable and as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) for the life of the activity.

Requirements for an EP include a robust oil pollution emergency plan and demonstration that the company holds sufficient financial assurance to meet the costs, expenses and liabilities associated with initiating and maintaining a response to a potential oil pollution incident.

How does NOPSEMA assess proposals and plans?

NOPSEMA's dedicated assessment team, staffed by highly trained and qualified environmental and technical experts, assess each proposal and plan against the requirements of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009.

NOPSEMA's assessment explicitly takes into consideration impacts on matters protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

NOPSEMA will only accept a proposal or plan when it meets all the requirements of the Environment Regulations and demonstrates that all environmental impacts and risks will be managed to an acceptable level.

How can I get involved so that my concerns are heard?

OPPs are published on NOPSEMA's website and are open for public comment for a minimum of four weeks. Full text copies of all public comments and an explanation as to how the oil and gas company has addressed those comments are submitted to NOPSEMA and taken into account in its decision-making.

For EPs, companies must consult with all stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed activity during the preparation of the plan as well as throughout the life of the activity if it is approved. Full text copies of all correspondence, an explanation as to how the company addressed any objections or claims raised, and strategies to ensure ongoing consultation are provided to NOPSEMA to take into account in its decision-making.

The best way to ensure that your concerns are taken into account is to contact the oil and gas company directly. A nominated liaison person for each OPP and EP submission is published on NOPSEMA's website at nopsema.gov.au. Stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to receive email notifications.





NOPSEMA

Further information

NOPSEMA publishes policies, guidance notes, guidelines, and information papers at nopsema.gov.au

The *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and subsidiary regulations are available in full at comlaw.gov.au

Legislative requirements not administered by NOPSEMA can be obtained from:

- The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science at industry.gov.au
- State/Northern Territory department at directory.gov.au
- The National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator at nopta.gov.au

Contact NOPSEMA

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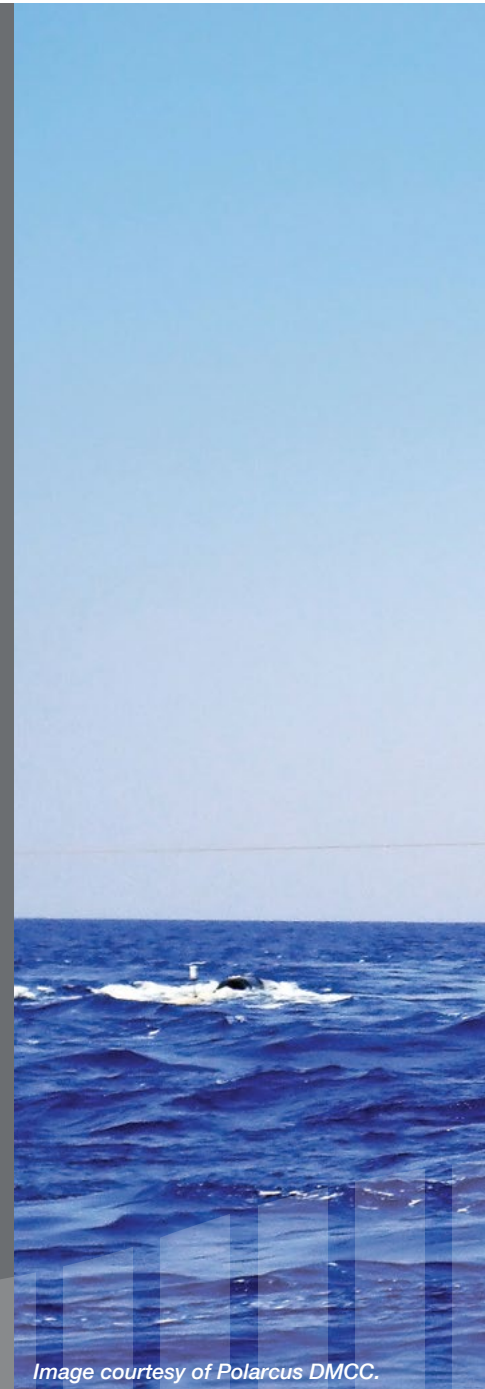


Image courtesy of Polarcus DMCC.