

Community and Environment Reference Group

Document No: C21269 A730729

Last Reviewed Date: 19 May 2020

Introduction

NOPSEMA's vision is for a protected offshore workforce and environment. NOPSEMA recognises that this vision can only be achieved when community expectations are understood and met.

Purpose

The Community and Environment Reference Group will engage directly with NOPSEMA and provide a variety of community perspectives on specific matters of interest to NOPSEMA or members of the reference group relevant to offshore petroleum environmental management, to help guide NOPSEMA's approach to regulation of environmental management.

Membership

Group members are broadly reflective of the community to capture a range of different perspectives including: commercial and recreational fishing, conservation advocacy, public policy and government functioning, small business and tourism, cultural heritage and indigenous communities; as well as regional perspectives from the North-west, South-east and Northern regions of Australia.

NOPSEMA will select group members based on their experience and knowledge. Appointments will be reviewed annually with the possibility of extension.

Members do not act in a representative capacity for any particular group or organisation.

While the group does not currently include a representative from Indigenous communities; NOPSEMA is exploring options to engage this perspective.

Expectations

It is expected that each member of the group:

- Provide robust, independent perspectives on specific matters referred by NOPSEMA
- Raise matters of concern or for discussion, relevant to their perspective
- Engage in an objective-based and constructive dialogue in a respectful manner
- Is free to share learnings and insights with their community as desired
- Contribute to forming a collective view by consensus, in instances where a conclusion or recommendation is requested by NOPSEMA.

NOPSEMA intend to:

- Value the group as a reliable source of informed, cohesive and balanced community views
- Refer matters to the group for discussion, and provide feedback on suggestions and comments
- Typically collect the range of perspectives of the group for consideration, but on occasions may request a consolidated view or recommendation from the group
- Demonstrate how learnings from the group have informed its decisions and direction
- Appoint members and provide executive, administrative and technical support

Conflict of interest

Where members feel that their interests may be considered in conflict, either material or perceived, with their role in the reference group, they may declare these interests at a meeting and have them recorded for transparency

Meetings

Meetings will be held at least twice per year or as otherwise requested by NOPSEMA, and will be nominally two hours. An agenda will be provided by NOPSEMA two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Meetings will require the participation of at least two thirds of members to ensure an adequate representation of perspectives is gained. Tele-conferencing will be available to facilitate attendance at minimal cost to members.

Meeting outcomes will be reviewed and agreed with the group members and published on NOPSEMA's website.

Governance

NOPSEMA will facilitate the Community and Environment Reference Group.

The group is an informal liaison body and will exchange perspectives in an objective and independent manner.

The group is not a formal advisory or decision-making body.

Review

NOPSEMA will review this Terms of Reference annually. Ongoing operation of the group will be at the discretion of NOPSEMA in consultation with group members.

Criteria against which the group's value will be evaluated include:

- Issues raised by the group have been agreed by NOPSEMA to warrant action, and action has been implemented
- Initiatives have been developed to improve regulation of environmental management as a result of suggestions from the group
- NOPSEMA maintains organisational sustainability and social license to regulate
- Other suitable criteria identified by the group or NOPSEMA.