

Section 572 Maintenance and removal of property

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Background to policy

Section 572 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGS Act) places duties on titleholders in relation to the maintenance and removal of structures, equipment and property brought onto title.

In the October 2019 Statement of Expectations from the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, the Minister highlighted the need for heightened oversight of titleholders' compliance with their obligations under section 572 of the OPGGS Act.

The statement of expectations requires NOPSEMA, through its regulatory processes, to ensure that titleholders maintain structures, equipment and property in the title area used in connection with the operations authorised by the title, and to remove them when neither used, nor to be used. Deviations from the requirement to remove property can only be accepted where it is appropriate having regard to the Australian Government *Offshore Petroleum Decommissioning Guideline*.

NOPSEMA's statement of intent issued in November 2019 outlined that NOPSEMA will, through its compliance monitoring and enforcement activities, ensure that titleholders are appropriately planning for and executing decommissioning activities in a timely and responsible manner.

To give effect to the statement of expectations and NOPSEMA's statement of intent, NOPSEMA has established this regulatory policy to communicate how it will focus on titleholders' compliance with section 572 through compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.

This regulatory policy may need to be amended depending on the implementation approach contained in the proposed Australian Government Decommissioning Policy Framework that is to be released. This regulatory policy continues to apply in the context of the existing legislative and administrative framework until these changes come into force.



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1. Purpose

This document sets out the principles that the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) will apply in compliance oversight, and where necessary, enforcement of section 572 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGS Act) which requires titleholders to:

- Maintain all structures, equipment and property in a title area in good condition and repair
- Remove all structures, equipment and property when it is neither used nor to be used in connection with operations authorised by the title.

2. Scope

This regulatory policy applies to all petroleum or greenhouse gas structures, equipment and property (collectively referred to hereafter as 'property') brought onto the area of a title granted under the OPGGS Act during any stage of operations.

The regulatory policy does not cover financial liabilities that may be associated with property as addressed in the Australian Government Offshore Petroleum Decommissioning Guideline. (Australian Government Decommissioning Guideline).

Titleholders should be aware that other legislative requirements may apply such as the *Environment Protection* (*Sea Dumping*) *Act 1981*, and this policy does not cover requirements beyond the scope of the OPGGS Act regime.

3. Duties and requirements under section 572

Maintenance of property (section 572(2))

Section 572(2) of the OPGGS Act provides that:

A titleholder must maintain in good condition and repair all structures that are, and all equipment and other property that is:

- a. in the title area; and
- b. used in connection with the operations authorised by the permit, lease, licence or authority.

Removal of property (section 572(3))

Section 572(3) of the OPGGS Act provides that:

A titleholder must remove from the title area all structures that are, and all equipment and other property that is, neither used nor to be used in connection with the operations:

- a. in which the titleholder is or will be engaged; and
- b. that are authorised by the permit, lease, licence or authority.



Exception to the requirement (section 572 (6))

Maintenance and removal requirements do not apply in relation to any structure, equipment or other property that was not brought into the title area by or with the authority of the titleholder. Where a title has been sold or transferred, the requirement to maintain and remove property applies to the current titleholder, whether the property is operational or not.

Where property remains within a title and there has been a break in the title (i.e. for a period of time an area has reverted to vacant acreage), the current titleholder may not be responsible for any property in the area of the title resulting from historical activities if that property is not being used.

Obligations of maintenance and removal of property are subject to other provisions (section 572(7))

Property maintenance and removal requirements are subject to any other provision of the OPGGS Act, the regulations, directions given by NOPSEMA or the responsible Commonwealth Minister, and any other law.

The maintenance and removal requirements do not substitute for, or override other provisions of, or arrangements made under, the OPGGS Act or regulations.

Deviations from the property removal requirement of section 572 may be agreed to by NOPSEMA through permissioning documents. A deviation in the context of this regulatory policy includes where a titleholder intends to do something that is different from the requirement of section 572(3). Section 6 provides further detail regarding deviations to the requirement to remove property.

4. Maintenance of property

Section 572(2) places a requirement on titleholders to maintain all property in good condition and repair from the point:

- The property is brought into the title area until the property is removed; or
- A deviation from the requirement to remove is approved by NOPSEMA through permissioning documents, and all operations and works under that approved deviation have been completed.

Maintenance of property is to be undertaken in accordance with the suite of permissioning documents required under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Environment Regulations), Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2009 (Safety Regulations), and the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011 (Resource Management and Administration Regulations).

Section 572(2) maintenance requirement relates to maintenance that will ensure property is fit for purpose and is able to be removed when neither used, nor to be used, in connection with the operations. NOPSEMA considers compliance with section 572(2) maintenance requirements for property may be met where a deviation to the complete removal of property is approved by NOPSEMA in an accepted permissioning document.

NOPSEMA applies the following principles when considering titleholders' compliance with maintenance requirements:

• Property must be maintained in good condition and repair at all times so that property can be removed



- Maintenance activities should be undertaken to ensure that property is fit for purpose. This includes but is not limited to, ensuring that all elements of the property continue to be regularly inspected, maintained and repaired where necessary.
- Property must be monitored, maintained, and where necessary repaired, so that it can be removed in a safe and environmentally responsible manner unless a deviation from the removal requirement has been approved by NOPSEMA
- Where titleholders engage contractors to operate facilities, titleholders remain ultimately responsible.
 In such instances, titleholders must ensure that adequate provisions, including assurance and oversight, are in place to meet the requirements on titleholders to maintain property so that it can be removed.

4.1. Environment plan requirements

The Environment Regulations require that for NOPSEMA to be reasonably satisfied, an environment plan (EP) must demonstrate the proposed activity meets the acceptance criteria in Regulation 10, and comply with the OPGGS Act and regulations (Regulation 10A(h)). To address section 572(2) maintenance requirements, the EP is to include:

- Provision for the maintenance of all property in good condition and repair until it is removed
- An inventory for all property in the title area, including a description and operational status
- Arrangements for inspection, maintenance and repair that ensures property is maintained in good condition and repair so that property can be removed.



Please refer to the guidance on <u>content requirements for environment plans</u> (GN1344) and <u>decision making guidelines</u> (GL1721) for further information on requirements.

4.2. Safety case requirements

Any operations or works conducted at facilities must comply with a safety case accepted by NOPSEMA pursuant to the Safety Regulations. Property must be fit for purpose to perform its intended function during operations and titleholders must ensure that all elements of the property continue to be regularly inspected, maintained and repaired where necessary.

The safety case for a facility must describe how the facility continues to be regularly inspected, monitored, maintained and repaired while operational, until the point in time when it is completely decommissioned.

Where a titleholder engages a contractor for assurance and oversight of maintenance programs, regardless of those contractual arrangements, the titleholder is ultimately responsible for ensuring the maintenance programs are conducted so that property can be removed.



Please refer to the <u>Safety Case assessment policy</u> (PL0052) and <u>guidance on content</u> <u>requirements for Safety Cases</u> (GN0106) for further information on requirements.



4.3. Well operations management plan requirements

A well operations management plan (WOMP) accepted pursuant to the Resource Management and Administration Regulations, must remain in place for the entire life of a well until the point in time when NOPSEMA has notified the titleholder that it is satisfied the well has been plugged and abandoned in accordance with the WOMP. Wells should be designed, constructed and maintained in good order and repair so that the abandonment can be conducted in a manner which is safe and reduces risks to a level that is as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

In accordance with NOPSEMA's WOMP assessment policy (PL0842), NOPSEMA considers well abandonments as described in the latest editions of NORSOK-D010 and/or Oil and Gas UK regulations, guidance and standards as good industry practice.



Please refer to the <u>WOMP assessment policy</u> (PL0842) and <u>content and level of detail guidance</u> (GN1602) for further information on requirements.

5. Removal of property

Section 572(3) requires titleholders to remove property when it is neither used, nor to be used, in connection with the operations. NOPSEMA applies the following principles when considering compliance with this requirement:

- Complete removal of all property is the base case¹ for all offshore operations and should inform the basis for field development planning
- All property is to be designed, installed and operated to ensure it can be removed when it is neither
 used, nor to be used, unless a deviation is provided for in a permissioning document approved by
 NOPSEMA
- Removal should be planned and undertaken throughout the operations authorised by the title when property is neither used, nor to be used
- Complete removal of property must be completed while the title is still in force unless a deviation from the complete property removal requirement has been approved by NOPSEMA
- NOPSEMA's acceptance of the activities associated with removal of property is obtained under the Environment Regulations and the Resource Management and Administration Regulations
- Where titleholders engage contractors to operate facilities, titleholders remain ultimately responsible
 for ensuring that adequate provisions including assurance and oversight are in place to meet the
 property removal requirements on titleholders.

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¹ As outlined in section 2.3 of the Australian Government's Offshore petroleum decommissioning guideline



5.1. Environment Regulations requirements

5.1.1. Offshore project proposal

The requirement to remove property under section 572(3) is an ongoing requirement that applies to all activities throughout the life of an offshore project. Offshore project proposals (OPPs) submitted to NOPSEMA for acceptance before commencing an offshore project are expected to include:

- A description of property proposed to be brought into the title area to undertake the activities that are part of the project
- A description of the actions proposed to be taken in relation to property following completion of the activities that are part of the project
- A description of how property has been selected and designed to facilitate removal when no longer in use.

The OPP framework may also be used at any stage in the life of an offshore project to obtain stakeholder feedback on decommissioning options for a project, including proposed deviations to complete property removal, through public comment, prior to a titleholder submitting an EP for decommissioning.

The Environment Regulations permit titleholders to use the OPP process for stand-alone decommissioning activities. While this is not a requirement, where titleholders are contemplating using the OPP process for a stand-alone decommissioning activity, early engagement with NOPSEMA is recommended.

As outlined in the OPP guidance note, acceptance of an OPP is project level approval only, and any proposed deviation from complete property removal can only be obtained through acceptance of a subsequent EP.



Please refer to the <u>OPP content requirements guidance</u> (GN1663) for further information on requirements.

5.1.2. Environment plan

In accordance with Regulation 10A(h), NOPSEMA must be reasonably satisfied that the EP meets the criteria for acceptance and complies with the OPGGS Act and the regulations. Consequently, an EP is to include:

- A commitment to remove all property when it is neither used, nor to be used
- An inventory of all property in the title area including a description, status and anticipated operational life
- Plans for property removal throughout the operations and proposed end-state planning toward meeting property removal requirements
- Where titleholders seek a deviation from the requirement to remove property, the deviation must be agreed by NOPSEMA in an accepted EP prior to property no longer being used (see section 6.1.1).

The Environment Regulations require that before progressing past the stage provided for in the EP and into a new stage, the titleholder must submit a proposed revision, and it must be accepted by NOPSEMA before commencing the new stage. NOPSEMA considers that cessation of production is a new stage of operations



and must be provided for in an accepted EP before the commencement of the new stage. In this context, NOPSEMA will need to have regard to other relevant decision powers of the OPGGS Act. For example, the Joint Authority may commence termination proceedings for life-of-field production licence titleholders under section 166, if no petroleum operations have been carried out at any time during a continuous period of at least 5 years.

NOPSEMA recognises that there may be unplanned scenarios or reasons that final decommissioning does not occur when the property is neither used, nor to be used, in connection with the operations. Whether the delay to removal of property is appropriate would be considered on a case by case basis and needs to be justified in accordance with an approved deviation (refer to section 6.1). In such instances, the planning basis is complete removal of property until a deviation is accepted by NOPSEMA in an EP.



Please refer to the <u>EP decision making guideline</u> (GL1721) for further information on considerations of NOPSEMA in making decisions in accordance with the criteria for acceptance of an EP.

5.2. Safety case requirements

Facilities are to be designed, constructed, inspected and maintained so that they can be removed in a manner which reduces risks to health and safety to a level that is ALARP.

A facility must have a registered operator and a safety case in force at all times until decommissioning activities are completed.

The operations conducted to decommission a facility or parts of a facility may proceed only once a safety case addressing those operations has been accepted by NOPSEMA. As an example, the permanent departure of a Floating Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO) vessel from a field will require commitments in the accepted safety case for removal of the associated subsea infrastructure.



Please refer to the <u>quidance on content requirements for Safety Cases</u> (GN0106) for further information on requirements.

5.3. Well operations management plan requirements

WOMPs must contain a description of the arrangements for abandonment of wells showing how, during the process of abandoning a well, risks to the integrity of the well will be reduced to ALARP, and how the actions taken during that process will ensure that the integrity of the well is maintained. The WOMP is to provide a justifiable timetable for carrying out well activities for the wells to which the WOMP relates, including in relation to plugging and abandonment. Arrangements for the plugging and abandonment of wells, including timing, should conform to current well integrity standards and guidelines as referenced in NOPSEMA's WOMP assessment policy (PL0842) and in accordance with section 3.1 of the Australian Government Decommissioning Guideline.



Please refer to the <u>WOMP assessment policy</u> (PL0842) and <u>Australian Government Offshore</u> <u>Petroleum Decommissioning guideline</u> for further information on requirements.



6. Deviations from the requirements to maintain and to remove property

6.1. Deviation from removal requirements

Notwithstanding the requirement to remove property, NOPSEMA recognises that removal may not always be practicable at the point where property is neither used, nor to be used.

Titleholders may deviate from the requirement to remove property that is neither used, nor to be used via an accepted EP. NOPSEMA encourages titleholders to engage early to obtain advice on the content and level of detail required in an EP seeking a deviation from the section 572 requirements. NOPSEMA will apply the following principles for property located on or above the sea bed, where a deviation from the removal requirement is sought:

- An EP must meet the criteria for acceptance under the Environment Regulations
- An EP must demonstrate that a deviation delivers equal or better environmental outcomes compared to complete property removal²
- Property must be maintained so that it can be removed while planning for any deviations takes place
- Planning towards the proposed end-state for property above the seabed must be supported by information appropriate for the current stage of the activity and include justified timeframes
- While approval for deviations are being pursued and the necessary planning progressed, titleholder submissions must recognise that unless deviations are approved at that point in time, complete property removal is the requirement.

6.1.1. Environment plan

In accordance with Environment Regulation 10A(h), NOPSEMA must be reasonably satisfied that the EP meets the criteria for acceptance and complies with the OPGGS Act and the regulations.

NOPSEMA must also have regard to the Australian Government Decommissioning Guideline, including titleholders demonstrating that the deviation delivers equal or better environmental outcomes compared to complete property removal.

Accordingly, the EP is to include:

- An evaluation of the feasibility of all options, including partial and complete property removal
- An evaluation of environmental impacts and risks of all feasible options, including complete property
 removal, to enable NOPSEMA to have regard to the Australian Government Decommissioning Guideline
 policy principle that deviations will provide an equal or better environmental outcome when compared
 to complete property removal. The evaluation of all the environmental impacts and risks of each option
 must include consideration of control measures necessary to manage the impacts and risks

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² As outlined in section 2.3 of the Australian Government's Offshore Petroleum Decommissioning Guideline



- Evaluation of all environmental impacts and risks within Australia's environment including, where
 relevant, indirect consequences that may arise from the petroleum activity of removing property from
 a title area
- Where deviation/s to removal of property or relocation of property is proposed, titleholders are to address arrangements for long term monitoring and management. Environment plans requiring long term monitoring for property will be subject to environmental performance reporting requirements and compliance monitoring by NOPSEMA for the duration of the monitoring program. NOPSEMA advises the Joint Authority of EPs requiring long term monitoring for property and this may be a matter taken into account when considering surrender of titles. Refer to section 7.4 for further information.
- Consideration of relevant persons' consultation with respect to the options being proposed.

To ensure compliance, titleholders proposing a deviation must obtain acceptance of the deviation through an accepted EP prior to property no longer being used in connection with the operations. Titleholders should engage early with NOPSEMA for EPs proposing deviations as the level of detail required in the EP will be unique to the circumstances of the activities being proposed.



Please see <u>EP content requirements quidance</u> (GN1344) for general information on environment plan contents and <u>petroleum activity quidance</u> (GN1343) for clarification on petroleum activity definitions.

Multi criteria decision analysis

Multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA) tools may be used to support consultation with relevant persons and stakeholders on an alternatives analysis prior to the submission of an EP, but do not substitute for the consultation requirements specified in the Environment Regulations (Regulations 11A and 16(b)) and do not directly relate to the acceptance criteria for an EP under the Environment Regulations.

In many cases, established MCDA tools take into account a broader range of factors than is relevant to decision making under the Environment Regulations and can inappropriately favour short term economic and other non-environmental considerations over environmental factors.

Titleholders may include the outcomes of an MCDA in the EP, however, unless information from the MCDA can be applied directly to the acceptance criteria of the Environment Regulations, titleholder EPs are unlikely to demonstrate the regulatory criteria for acceptance have been met.



Please refer to <u>EP decision-making guideline</u> (GL1721) for information on regulatory approval criteria.

7. Compliance and enforcement

NOPSEMA has legislated functions to develop and implement strategies to effectively monitor and enforce compliance with the requirements of the OPGGS Act.

Ensuring that relevant permissioning documents demonstrate how section 572 requirements of the OPGGS Act will be met over the life of operations is the primary means by which compliance with section 572 will be addressed.



7.1. Compliance monitoring

NOPSEMA will undertake inspections and other compliance monitoring activities to ensure that titleholders are taking steps to meet their obligations under section 572. Compliance monitoring will be undertaken according to a risk-based approach taking into account factors including, but not limited to:

- The age and design life of property
- Maintenance history in relation to property
- Adherence to maintenance management systems and schedules
- Condition of property and the length of time that has passed since any property has been used and the likelihood it may never be used in connection with operations authorised under the title.

NOPSEMA will also increase focus on titleholders' compliance with the requirements of section 572 at points throughout the lifecycle of a project where compliance risks may be heightened. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Transfers in operational control of projects in connection with the sale of property in the title
 area that would impact on the ability of titleholder(s) to comply with the requirements of
 section 572
- Where assets and fields are approaching the end of their operational lives
- Where property is neither used, nor to be used in the future and there is no material progress towards planning for removal or there is no supported justification as to why a deviation would be warranted
- Where there is uncertainty as to whether titleholders have, or will have, the capacity or capability to comply with the requirements of section 572.



Please refer to <u>NOPSEMA inspection policy</u> (PL1523) for more information on how NOPSEMA programs, plans, conducts and reports on its compliance monitoring inspections.

7.2. Investigation

NOPSEMA will investigate suspected non-compliances with the requirements of section 572 by titleholders in accordance with NOPSEMA's Investigation Policy (PL1697).



Please refer to <u>NOPSEMA investigation policy</u> (PL1697) for more information on how NOPSEMA conducts investigations.

7.3. Enforcement

Failure to maintain property in the title area in good condition and repair so that property may be removed, or failure to remove property from the title area when it is neither used, nor to be used, in connection with current or future operations, may be a breach of section 572, which is an offence of strict liability.



This does not apply where a titleholder has an accepted EP providing for deviations to maintenance or removal and compliance with that EP is maintained. In the event that a titleholder fails to comply with its obligations under section 572, NOPSEMA will take graduated enforcement action(s) in line with NOPSEMA's enforcement policy (N-05000-PL0067 Enforcement Policy).

Where titleholders fail to comply with section 572 requirements, the OPGGS Act provides that NOPSEMA may:

- Issue directions to titleholders or former titleholders for the removal of property, plugging or closing off
 of wells, the conservation and protection of natural resources and/or the making good of damage to
 the seabed or subsoil
- Where a direction is in effect, commence proceedings against a titleholder or former titleholder for a breach of a direction
- Where a direction has been breached, NOPSEMA may also do anything required by the direction to be
 done. Any costs or expenses incurred by NOPSEMA in this process become a debt due to NOPSEMA by
 the titleholder or former titleholder subject to the direction
- Seek the grant of injunctions to enforce compliance with 572(2) and 572(3)
- Commence criminal proceedings for a breach of section 572, or civil penalty proceedings for a contravention of section 572
- Seek adverse publicity orders if a court finds a body corporate guilty of an offence against section 572, or orders a body corporate to pay a civil penalty for a contravention of section 572
- Notify the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) of grounds for cancellation of title
 if NOPSEMA reasonably believes there is a ground for cancelling as provided for under section 277A.
 Refer to section 7.4 for further information.



Please refer to <u>NOPSEMA enforcement Policy</u> (PL0067) for more information on NOPSEMA's approach to enforcement.

7.4. Cooperation with NOPTA and Joint Authority decision making

NOPTA is the responsible entity for administration of title transactions. NOPSEMA has published a policy that clarifies how NOPSEMA and NOPTA interact in the sharing of title-related compliance information. NOPSEMA will provide title-related compliance advice to NOPTA and compliance with section 572 may be relevant for a range of title-related transactions.

NOPSEMA cooperates with NOPTA in connection with joint authority decision-making. Where NOPSEMA identifies outstanding requirements in relation to section 572, NOPSEMA will advise NOPTA, and will enforce compliance.



Please refer to NOPSEMA policy on <u>Title related compliance information and advice to NOPTA</u> (PL1020) for more information on how NOPSEMA considers title surrender criteria in providing advice to NOPTA and subsequent Joint Authority decision-making.



7.5. Reporting

Regulation 26C of the Environment Regulations requires titleholders to submit environmental performance reports. NOPSEMA clarifies that environmental performance reporting should detail how the section 572 requirements for property maintenance and removal are being met.

The process for end of operation of an EP is through notification to NOPSEMA under regulation 25A of the Environment Regulations. Regulation 25A notifications are to include a declaration from the titleholder that all property brought into the title area for the operations has been removed or that deviations have been completed in accordance with the accepted EP. NOPSEMA will not accept a notification under regulation 25A until NOPSEMA is satisfied:

- All property has been removed; or
- A deviation has been approved for property to remain in situ and monitoring requirements in relation to that property have been completed.

7.6. Increasing regulatory oversight

In line with the Minister's statement of expectations, NOPSEMA will be increasing its oversight of compliance with section 572 that has been in place since 1967. NOPSEMA will consider compliance with section 572 in new submissions, as well as proposed revisions submitted for assessment. Titleholders should therefore be preparing to address the requirements of section 572 and document this in permissioning documents.

If all property that is neither used, nor to be used, in connection with the operations has not been removed and deviations from complete property removal are not provided for in an accepted EP, NOPSEMA may request the titleholder to submit an EP to demonstrate how the removal requirement under section 572(3) of the OPGGS Act will be met.

As described in section 6, titleholders may pursue deviations to section 572(3) via submission of an EP or proposed revision to an EP. However, until any proposed deviation is accepted in an EP, the complete removal of property is to be accounted for in the EP.

NOPSEMA may inspect titleholders' compliance with these requirements and progress towards planning for end-states that deviate from the requirement to remove property.

To assist in increasing certainty where property is not in use, nor to be used in operations again, NOPSEMA will progressively consider compliance and enforcement action.

8. Related documents

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (OPGGS Act)

OPGGS (Environment) Regulations 2009

OPGGS (Safety) Regulations 2009

OPGGS (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011

N-04300-PL0052 - Policy - Safety case

N-05000-PL0067 – Policy - Enforcement

N-04600-PL0842 - Policy - Well operations management plan



N-20200-PL1020 - Policy - Provision of title related compliance information and advice to NOPTA

N-04750-PL1347 – Policy - Environment assessment

N-02100-PL1523 - Policy - Inspection

N-03000-PL1697 - Policy - Investigation

N-04730-PL1780 - Policy - Financial assurance requirements for petroleum titles

N-04000-GL0225 - Guideline - Making submissions to NOPSEMA

N-04750-GL1721 - Guideline - Environment plan decision making

N-04300-GN0106 - Guidance note - Safety case content and level of detail

N-04750-GN1343 - Guidance note - Petroleum activities

N-04750-GN1344 - Guidance note - Environment plan content requirements

N-04600-GN1602 - Guidance note - Well operations management plan content and level of detail

N-04790-GN1663 - Guidance note - Offshore project proposal content requirements

N-04000-GN1746 - Guidance note - Change to the titleholder with operational control of activities

Australian Government Offshore petroleum decommissioning guideline 2018

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Statement of Expectations, October 2019

NOPSEMA's Statement of intent, November 2019