

THE 2023 - Issue 3 REGULATOR



International Regulators' Forum comes to Perth

NOPSEMA hosts the IRF
Conference and AGM



NOPSEMA
Australia's offshore energy regulator

About NOPSEMA

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is Australia's independent expert regulator for health and safety, environmental management, structural and well integrity for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities in Commonwealth waters.

Under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*, offshore petroleum and greenhouse storage activities cannot begin before NOPSEMA has assessed and accepted the required permissioning documents demonstrating how the activity will be managed to ensure the associated risks to the health and safety of the workforce are as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and risks and impacts to the environment are ALARP and are acceptable.

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) was established under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* to regulate of work health and safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management for offshore infrastructure activities.

For more information, visit our website at nopsema.gov.au.

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Strategic
compliance
focus areas for
2023

PREVENTING MAJOR
ACCIDENT EVENTS

PREVENTING LOSS OF WELL
CONTROL

RESPONSIBLE ASSET
STEWARDSHIP

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Message from the
Chief Executive
Sue McCarrey

Since the last edition of The Regulator, I have had first-hand opportunities to see the work of industry up close and to listen and learn from members of the workforce through visits to the Bream A and Snapper facilities off the Gippsland coast and a trip to Barrow Island.

These visits were invaluable for me to gain an understanding of the wide array of industry operations and the interconnectivity between offshore and onshore.

But most importantly, I had the opportunity to meet the people running these incredibly complex operations and hear from them directly.

I hope to visit more facilities in time to better understand the unique aspects of their operating environments.

An approach of continuous improvement is critical for ongoing success and we have been engaging titleholders over recent enforcement actions to ensure appropriate change takes place and opportunities to apply learnings are taken to foster industry-wide improvement.

Central to this is a safety-first culture, which is critical to not only ensuring the wellbeing of the workforce, but in adopting effective systems and processes to achieve sound environmental controls and limit risks of harm.

As always it is as important for industry to focus on maintenance over the life of a facility and to ensure plans are well advanced before facilities reach end of life for their decommissioning and future management.

Sound structural integrity is ensured through appropriate ongoing maintenance and is a core requirement to ensuring a safe workplace and protection of the environment.

Regarding NOPSEMA's approach to safety, we also have some big news within NOPSEMA – our Head of Safety and Integrity Division Derrick O'Keeffe will be officially retiring at the end of October.

Derrick joined NOPSEMA in 2016 following significant international experience and in influential roles with major companies.

Into the future we will call on Derrick in a consultancy capacity for specific and specialised work so that we continue to have the benefit of his extensive offshore oil and gas experience.

While I have only worked with Derrick for a short while, since starting with NOPSEMA in February I don't think there is anyone more knowledgeable to have assisted me through my introduction to the industry.

Derrick has supported NOPSEMA to take some huge steps forward in being able to identify safety risk across the industry and develop compliance strategies to address these.

I know Derrick will be missed by both the organisation and the wider industry and we wish him the very best for his much-deserved retirement from NOPSEMA and for what lies ahead.

He is leaving some big shoes to fill but I am confident that we will find someone with just as much knowledge and enthusiasm for safety and the environment to lead this critical work for NOPSEMA.

Lastly, NOPSEMA will be hosting the IRF Conference in Perth on 3 – 4 October, which is set to be a major event on the offshore oil and gas calendar.

We have regulatory officials, industry representatives and researchers coming from all over the world to share experiences and learnings.

There is still time to register – you can read more on page 15 and we hope to see you there.

Sue McCarrey
Chief Executive Officer

Oil spill preparedness workshop at Spillcon 2023

The threat of an oil spill should never be underestimated – unless contained and treated, a release of hydrocarbons into the ocean can cause significant damage to the environment and marine life.

Reflecting the serious nature of potential disasters, Spillcon 2023 – the Annual Conference for the Asia-Pacific region – brought together local, regional, and global environmental and shipping representatives across the industry, government, and non-government organisations.

The event provided an avenue to discuss causes and prevention of marine oil spills and incidents, preparedness, response management and environmental issues.

NOPSEMA's spill risk specialists spent the week discussing causes and prevention of marine oil spills and incidents, preparedness, response management and environmental issues and closed out the conference with a full-day workshop with industry representatives.

Spill risk regulatory coordinator Andrew Best said the event provided the perfect chance to get everyone together to decide on the future of our oil spill preparedness response framework.

Led by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), the project is reviewing the framework that underpins oil spill preparedness and response for the offshore petroleum industry to benchmark Australian arrangements against international frameworks and identify potential areas for improvement.

"It's about how we can make it more resilient, adaptable, and more effective to implement in order to accommodate the future direction of the industry," Andrew said.

"Until now, we have organically grown our framework over the past 10 years and now we're asking ourselves if we were to invent it from scratch, would we invent it the same way?"

"The framework we have today works for today because it has been tweaked, improved and grown alongside the industry – but will it work in the future?"

There are three phases to the project: looking at Australia's future risk profile, identifying effective international practices, and seeing what can be incorporated into our jurisdiction.

This workshop was part of the project's second phase to engage with the industry on some international practices and get their thought on the pros, cons and consequences.

Some of the international frameworks being considered include Area Contingency Plans, consolidated industry incident management team capability, consolidated industry oil spill response equipment, accreditation standards for Oil Spill Response Organisations, and regulatory oversight of industry exercising and testing programs.

Andrew said there was a strong and enthusiastic attendance with representatives from most of the offshore petroleum companies operating in the Australian jurisdiction, and representatives from state and territory authorities, as well as Commonwealth representatives including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), and the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC).

"It was about openly discussing the issues and gathering information, and we made sure everyone got the chance to have their say," Andrew said.

"There is a lot to follow up on – we're being thorough in allowing opportunity for industry to give their views so we can accommodate and move forward as a group.

"We are all part of this industry and we want to bring as many people on the journey as possible."



Improving oil spill preparedness

A message from Cameron Grebe Head of Environment, Renewables and Decommissioning

Prevention remains the best cure for any oil spill.

However, even though it has a very low probability of occurring, mistakes and failures have happened in past and could happen again.

The potential catastrophic consequences to the environment – and people – from a loss of containment of hydrocarbons means there's more than enough justification to have advanced operations ready to implement in the event of a spill.

Fortunately, in Australia, we have a strong history of cooperative arrangements under the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies.

Cooperation between ports, the maritime industry, and offshore oil and gas means there are strong reinforced arrangements.

That cooperation extends internationally given the scale of resources needed to be in place to respond to large scale incident.

We've come a long way – when NOPSEMA first started, there was a range of standards in terms of quality of oil pollution response plans and some areas were underestimated in terms of the response needed and the ability to implement in a timely fashion.

We had early successes with raising the bar, working constructively with industry in response to substantial gaps such as oiled wildlife response capabilities.

Initiatives like that remain outstanding examples of cooperation in response to NOPSEMA's improvement focus throughout regulatory activities.

The world is a changing place – the long-term outlook for energy transition resulting in a change in the mix of fuels that are imported and exported means the cooperative arrangements we have in place today, and the frameworks in which we work and operate under, is going to have to change.

We work closely with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) to ensure the specific aspects relating to the offshore petroleum industry are understood in the national plan review led by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

A key challenge in Australia is our remoteness to the rest of the world, and with a relatively small jurisdiction, means we are heavily reliant on international support arrangements.

We've got great local capability, but a tiered response approach means we recognise the need for international assistance.

One challenge is clearly going to be ensuring the right kind of response platforms are available to us in a timely manner.

As covered in our full-day workshop at the recent Spillcon 2023 conference, there are further opportunities for cooperative solutions.

Broader needs can be met without companies having to duplicate efforts – these are entirely possible and can fit within our regulatory framework but will require cooperation between industry and oil spill response organisations.

Cooperation means recognising the individual benefits that can be gained from collective investment and action.

In the same way the gap was closed regarding oiled wildlife response – where members invested in shared capability involving the states – the same thing can be done around measures such as regional response plans, clean up equipment, and managing vessels.

It makes no sense to do this individually – it makes much more business sense to have an oil spill response company stand up and do it for you that you can call on.

We're going to work constructively with industry, but change is coming, and we would like to have everyone at the table.

In the line of fire

One of the most critical elements for maintaining safety is people.

Having robust systems in place is necessary, but it will only get you so far if the people using them are not correctly applying and maintaining the systems.

Avoiding complacency is key and central to this is understanding and respecting the significant hazards involved.

One of the major hazards in offshore work is “line of fire” – when a person or persons are found to be in harm’s way, typically in the path of a moving object or release of energy.

A significant number of fatalities in the offshore oil and gas industry over the past 15 years have been line of fire incidents.

Recent industry safety bulletins have also highlighted the danger of line of fire hazards, which have high potential to cause fatalities or serious injuries.

A review of recent incident data involving high potential and lost time injuries (LTIs) suggests the overwhelming majority were line of fire incidents, including dropped objects.

These are not unknown hazards, and it shows a concerning trend.

With both serious injuries and near misses, most of these incidents could have easily been avoided with proper management.

Analysis of data revealed trends consistent across many of the incidents – hazard identification, work planning, and work instructions were either not conducted or were inadequate.

This goes to show that while the systems are in place, proper application and maintenance of these systems makes all the difference.

Working on offshore facilities carries extreme risk, so everyone involved needs to be honest and enthusiastic about safety.

Along with the hazards, working offshore is a high-pressure environment where everyone is dependent on each other.

However, people can become blind to the hazards – you’ve done the job so often that it becomes a routine.

The danger of things becoming routine is complacency – losing respect for the hazard because it has never been realised on all the previous occasions.

There can be a hesitancy to conduct peer reviews and provide feedback for not wanting to slow things down or question colleagues.

Any auditing or review is likely to be a private warning between individuals instead of a larger learning opportunity.

In addition to this, there is an expectation on industry to improve planning and preparation and implement the appropriate controls.

Operators need to encourage and foster behavioural based safety aspects – the systems in place, but it’s the application of those systems that matters.

Never forget the inherent risks and hazards, because you will never forget the time when things go wrong.

Court outcome highlights importance of diving safety

Taking lessons learned from the failings of operators is a key part of ensuring the safety of the offshore workforce, aimed at preventing repeat events and creating transparency.

On 25 October 2022, the Magistrates Court of Western Australia found DOF Subsea Australia Pty Ltd (DOF) guilty of three counts of negligently failing to do an act that breached a health and safety requirement under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act).

On 25 May 2023, DOF were ordered to pay a penalty of \$945,000 across the three charges.

The charges related to incidents in June 2017 when DOF were providing saturation diving services at the Ichthys Field on the Skandi Singapore facility, about 460km offshore from Broome.

This included saturation diving operations from a diving support vessel to facilitate the repair of subsea infrastructure located on the seabed at a water depth of between approximately 237 and 270 metres.

It was during divers' 'blow down' – when the saturation chamber where the divers live is pressurised to their working depth – where critical incidents occurred, leading to the charges before the court.

Several of the 15 divers developed high-pressure nervous syndrome (HPNS), which is a risk associated with dives beyond depths of 150m and increases with the speed of compression.

In saturation diving, the divers live in a small, pressurised environment – a hyperbaric chamber – where their body tissues are saturated with dissolved gasses, enabling them to carry out multiple diving runs from the bell to the ocean floor without having to decompress each time.

The 15 divers were split into two groups, with the nine Group A divers being blown down to 224m within an eight hour period on 21 June 2017.

After HPNS symptoms were identified in Group A divers, the diving manager told the six Group B divers that their blow down would be slower, yet they reached the same depth within five hours and 22 minutes on 29 June 2017.

When DOF were convicted on 25 October 2022, Magistrate Tom Hall accepted expert evidence that industry best practice would be between 16 and 24 hours for the blow down.

As an employer, DOF had a duty to take all reasonably practicable steps protect the health and safety of all employees on the facility.

DOF negligently failed to do so, by omitting to implement and maintain systems of work that were safe and without risk to health.

As outlined by the Magistrate, DOF negligently failed to share, for the purpose of critical review, post compression reports (PCRs, documents completed by saturation divers recording any health symptoms experienced during compression) with relevant personnel (those with a responsibility for the health and safety of divers) within an adequate period.

The company also negligently failed to communicate proposed changes to the compression of saturation divers, including the basis for those changes, with all relevant personnel within an adequate period.

Lastly, DOF negligently failed to compress saturation divers to depth using appropriate compression rates and hold periods.

In his sentencing remarks, Magistrate Hall highlighted the high-risk nature of saturation diving and compression rates are critical in ensuring the safety of divers – something DOF would be expected to get right.

“Given the potential seriousness of HPNS (high-pressure nervous syndrome) and the vital role the dives support staff and life support staff have in monitoring the divers, the fact of any HPNS symptoms contained in the PCRs should have been shared with them so that they were aware of who to specifically monitor and what to look out for.”

“DOF had never done a saturation dive beyond 180MSW (metre sea water) and DOF knew about the potential for HPNS and Compression Arthralgia and that HPNS could be increased at deeper depths by rapid compression.”

NOPSEMA commenced its investigation following receipt of complaints from a number of the divers and subsequently forwarded a brief of evidence to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

NOPSEMA remains focused on compliance monitoring and enforcement activities to ensure operators are operating safely by having safe systems in place that appropriately identify and manage risks.



Centre: NOPSEMA's OHS Regulatory Specialist Orla McSharry and Timorese fellow Abel da Costa.



Timor-Leste and Australian LNG fellowship comes to a close

Building relationships with international counterparts is one of the major ways organisations can share knowledge and learnings. These partnerships yield not only deeper understandings of the industry but also of the people involved.

Facilitating knowledge sharing and strengthening bilateral trade links was the aim of the 2023 LNG fellowship program jointly run by the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) and Timor-Leste National Petroleum and Minerals Authority (ANPM), recently renamed the Autoridade Nacional do Petróleo (ANP).

The Timorese government selected six emerging leaders in the Timor-Leste industry to form part of the LNG fellowship program, who each received mentorship from Australian industry leaders selected by DISR.

NOPSEMA was asked to nominate a mentor to utilise the agency's unique expertise and experience in support of a fellow research project relating to the offshore petroleum regulatory framework in Timor-Leste.

OHS Regulatory Specialist Orla McSharry was chosen as the ideal fit for this role and provided advice and guidance to fellow Abel da Costa for his research project "The impacts of a robust health and safety regulatory framework for the Oil and Gas industry of Timor-Leste: Think Global – Act Local".

Orla was specifically selected as a mentor for her experience with the offshore regulatory regime in Australia and other regions such as Brunei.

Orla also had existing relations with universities in Timor-Leste, as the scholarship chair for the Society of Petroleum Engineering Western Australia, which includes the newly established Timor-Leste chapter.

Abel's research involved a review of oil and gas regulatory frameworks from around the globe (including Australia, the United Kingdom, Brunei and Norway) and mapped out opportunities the Timor-Leste government could consider for further strengthening their robust regulatory framework for oil and gas.

"Abel is a very passionate and knowledgeable fellow, and I was proud to be able to offer mentorship specific to his research," Orla said.

"I was able to not only give him some feedback from NOPSEMA's perspective but also highlight aspects of similarity and difference across other offshore regulatory frameworks in Asia and Europe.

"NOPSEMA's strong relationships with other international regulators meant I could also facilitate conversations that led to these agencies providing input to Abel's research."

The program culminated in fellows, mentors and government representatives from both Australia and Timor-Leste, gathering in Dili to hear the fellows diverse presentations.

Orla said her biggest takeaway from the program was the relationships she built, not just with the fellows and Timorese industry leaders, but also with the other mentors.

"I was invited to conclude the fellows' presentations by giving a perspective as a mentor in the LNG fellowship program," Orla said.

"It was a privilege to provide this to the government representatives from both countries, the fellows, and other mentors."

Orla said being selected for the program was an enormous privilege that stands among her highlights at NOPSEMA.

"The experience was rewarding beyond recognition, and it was a privilege to be part of the Timorese emerging leader's journey, who are surging with culture, passion and drive to improve living standards and outcomes for the greater Timorese community".

The Timor-Leste-Australia LNG fellowship program featured within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 report (issued 7 September 2023) as a successful case study and example of support for the emerging leaders of Timor-Leste 'Forging the path for the next generation of oil and gas professionals.'

International Regulators' Forum comes to Perth

Next week, Perth will play host to the International Regulators' Forum Offshore Safety Conference.

Held at the Westin Hotel on 3 – 4 October, the Conference will feature a range of presentations and panel discussions from international thought-leaders, and key industry and regulatory figures from both inside and outside of the IRF membership.

The theme of this year's Conference is "all about the risk", which reflects the core philosophy that whatever happens externally – be that a global pandemic or geopolitical unrest – the need remains for the highest standards of risk management in which safety processes and practices are enforced and driven by the highest of standards of regulatory oversight.

Whatever often uncontrollable or unexpected external factors are at play, it's how the risk is managed that will drive the universally desired safety outcomes in our industry.

While the Conference is a must attend for those working in health and safety, the themes and issues tackled should be of interest to all those working in the offshore oil and gas industry.

For more information and to register go to 2023 IRF Conference Website (eventsair.com).

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORS' FORUM
 **CONFERENCE**

3 - 4 OCTOBER 2023
The Westin Hotel | Perth | Australia
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Work in O&G? Want to hear about the latest trends, challenges and opportunities?

Last chance to register – don't miss out.

As the current chair of the International Regulators' Forum, Australia's National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Authority (NOPSEMA) extends an invitation to industry specialists to attend a two-day conference in Perth Western Australia.

Regulatory officials, industry representatives, researchers and those with a broad interest in the global offshore and gas sector will be able to share experiences and compare differences in regulatory approach and safety performance, as well as network with regulatory officials from around the world.

What's involved in developing an offshore wind farm?

Harnessing offshore wind energy requires the installation of offshore wind turbines in the marine environment to generate energy.

The design, construction, transportation and installation of large structures offshore is technically challenging and requires many years of detailed planning before a windfarm becomes operational.

Offshore wind construction is much more complex and time consuming than onshore wind construction.

Planning and development

When considering the construction of a new offshore wind farm, the first phase involves environmental impact assessment and spatial planning, site assessment, analysis of wind resources, early-stage design and preliminary technology and component selection.

Feasibility studies are carried out to gather regional and site-specific information to assess the viability of the proposed project and understand potential interactions with the environment and other marine users.

During the planning and development phase developers will need to obtain relevant approvals including grid connection agreements, environmental approvals and a licence for construction and operation of the wind farm.

The planning and development phase typically takes up to six years.

Pre-construction

Once the planning and development phase has been successfully completed, the next phase involves the detailed design of the wind farm including developing a construction strategy for how the site is to be developed. The pre-construction phase typically takes up to two years.

During this phase of the project, contracts for the manufacture and pre-assembly of components of the windfarm including the foundations (fixed or floating), the substations, the wind turbines and cables are put in place. Financial closure of the project is also carried out during pre-construction phase.

Construction

The next phase consists of the construction, installation, commissioning and connecting the offshore wind farm to the onshore grid.

The construction phase typically takes up to three years for a one-gigawatt (GW) wind farm with timing contingent on a range of factors such as weather, conditions associated with how activities are to be conducted under a licence and vessel availability.

The construction phase involves the installation, testing and commissioning of the onshore elements which includes the substation and transmission infrastructure.

Developers then move to the development site to install the offshore infrastructure which includes the wind turbines, inter array cables, offshore substructures and export cables.

In shallower water depths fixed foundations will be used to support the wind turbines.

The fixed foundations may take the form of gravity base, monopile or jacket structures which are secured to the seabed.

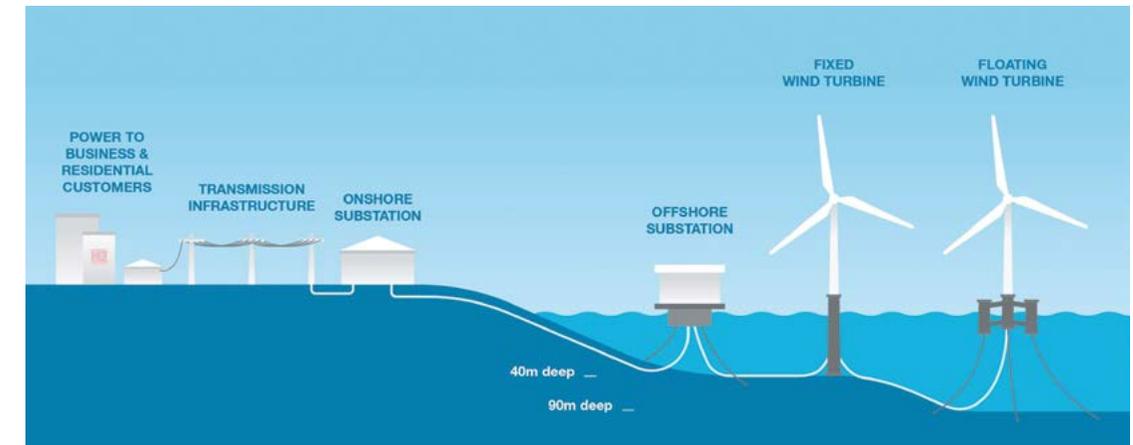
In deeper waters fixed foundations are not practical and floating foundation structures will be secured with moorings.

The foundations are built onshore before being launched at a sheltered site using launching ramps, semi-submersible barges, dry docks or floating docks.

WHAT DOES AN OFFSHORE WIND FARM LOOK LIKE?

An offshore windfarm consists of generation and transmission infrastructure.

The number of wind turbines to be installed will depend on the intended generating capacity of the wind farm. Using current technologies and dependent on site specific factors such as wind speeds, a 1 gigawatt (GW) (1,000 MW) offshore wind farm may need between 60 and 100 turbines. Turbines are connected via subsea cables to offshore electrical substations which regulate current and boost voltage for export to onshore grid connection infrastructure via a high voltage export cable.



Once launched, the wind turbine is assembled onto the floating foundation.

The completed unit consisting of the foundation and the wind turbine is towed to the offshore site where the moorings and cables are connected.

Sites with deeper water further from shore are typically associated with more adverse weather conditions and higher weather downtime.

Operation and maintenance

Operation and maintenance activities are necessary to support the ongoing operation of the wind turbines, balance of plant and associated transmission assets.

Operation activities formally start at the wind farm construction works completion date.

The focus of activities during the operational phase is to ensure safe operations, to maintain the physical integrity of the wind farm assets and to optimise electricity generation.

Maintenance and service includes scheduled and unscheduled activities and requires the regular transfer of personnel and equipment to the wind turbines and offshore substations.

Decommissioning and site remediation

Decommissioning involves the timely, safe and environmentally responsible removal of, or otherwise satisfactorily dealing with, infrastructure from the development site and the returning of the site to its prior condition.

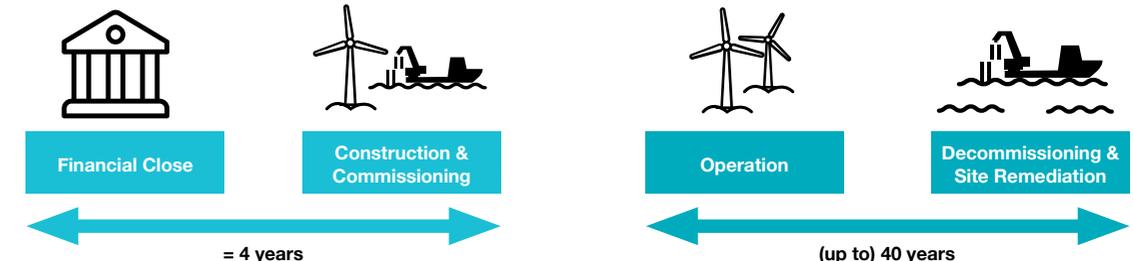
Decommissioning is a normal and inevitable stage in the lifetime of an offshore wind project that should be planned from the outset and further refined throughout the life of operations.

Environmental surveys are typically required before and after decommissioning, along with post decommissioning management of the site.

Stakeholder engagement is critical to understanding the future expectations, needs and opportunities in relation to the property and the marine area being decommissioned.



Timeframe for a typical offshore wind farm development





After more than 40 years in the offshore oil and gas industry, including seven years as the head of NOPSEMA's Safety and Integrity Division, Derrick O'Keeffe is retiring from full-time work at NOPSEMA at the end of October 2023.

A farewell from Derrick O'Keeffe

Head of Safety and Integrity

We must never forget that the offshore oil and gas industry is highly hazardous by nature and while major incidents may be infrequent, they can and do result in catastrophic consequences.

There have been many such events – we are all involved in a very serious business which requires the highest levels of attention to continuously protect the workforce and the environment.

During my time with the agency, I aimed to take a strategic approach to the management of offshore industry risks.

My role at NOPSEMA has been to drive industry to better identify those risks over the whole project lifecycle and ensure that effective control measures were continuously in place.

And when a failure is identified to then take a “find one, fix many” approach to prevent similar incidents from occurring elsewhere in industry.

Sharing and applying these lessons add further steps towards *Global Offshore Safety* – the goal of the International Regulators' Forum (IRF) of which Australia is a very active member.

I think industry has responded well to this strategic approach.

I've been particularly pleased to have worked with highly competent, experienced, professional, and dedicated people who know the industry and care about its outcomes.

Without these great individuals, none of our achievements could have been possible.

Among the many highlights during my time at NOPSEMA are the considerable improvements in the identification and control of safety, integrity and well risks, as well as environmental risks that we achieved.

Further, we have strengthened our wider engagement approach to support our inspections and compliance monitoring, improve our interaction with the workforce, and executive oversight and accountability.

We have set expectations that industry continues to consider each action it takes as part of the overall lifecycle, which will lead to better safety and environmental outcomes during the operating life of all assets, all the way through to decommissioning.

The Covid era put a spotlight on the mental wellbeing of the offshore workforce, ranging from general wellbeing to the hazards of harassment and sexual harassment.

I'm pleased with the collective work we're progressing with industry, unions, Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs), and state regulators on psychosocial risks and the goal of safer offshore workplaces.

Looking to the future, there is an ever-increasing expectation of the Australian and global community for responsible offshore energy development.

The offshore production of energy, whether from traditional or renewable sources, continues to play a vital role in meeting Australia's current and future energy needs.

We have evolved our regulatory process and capabilities to reflect the changing offshore environment and our energy transition.

I view my time at NOPSEMA as a career highlight where I have sought use my experience and the experiences of others to influence industry, both domestic and international, to levels it may not have thought possible.

I've been fortunate to have shared my journey and worked closely with so many great individuals, groups, and organisations over the years.

Thank you to all those who have supported me on this journey from when I first began my career.

Throughout, my wonderful wife has been my bedrock as we worked our way across five continents, raised our three fine boys, and made Perth our home.

I would like to give mention to the Australian Energy Producers (formerly APPEA), ACTU, Safer Together, Health and Safety Representatives, OHS Forum, DrillSafe, DrillWell, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Energy Club of WA, IRF, IOGP and IADC, and of course the people of our government, fellow regulators and industry – these many interactions have been nothing short of outstanding.

The work of the offshore regulator will never be completed – nor will the work of the offshore industry in doing its part to meet the expectations of its people, government, and society as a whole.

I now look to executives of industry to maintain a high level of oversight and governance of all their activities, and that they never lose sight of their accountability for the actions they take.

Now, as I pass the baton to the next generation at NOPSEMA, I intend to continue to provide support, advice, and guidance – albeit in a different capacity – to the offshore industry in pursuing its goals.

Undoubtedly, our paths will cross again.

What's happening offshore?

During Q2 2023, there were 42 fixed facilities, four mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs), 11 vessels, 94 pipelines, six sets of subsea infrastructure and no seismic activity within NOPSEMA's jurisdiction.

The number of hours worked offshore was 2,622,128, slightly down from the previous quarter but slightly above the average of all four quarters in 2022.

Of the total number of facilities under NOPSEMA's regulatory oversight, ten fixed facilities, six sets of subsea infrastructure, and 16 pipelines have ceased operations permanently and require timely decommissioning.

During Q2 2023, NOPSEMA undertook 42 inspections and recorded 13 injuries offshore, including one fatality.

The fatal incident occurred on an offshore facility and provided a tragic reminder of the risks of work involving the rigging, manipulation and movement of loads, including people and equipment.

We commenced 40 assessments of key permissioning documents, comprising 11 new submissions and 29 revisions.

NOPSEMA issued one general direction and two OHS improvement notices. The general direction was issued to a titleholder directing them to review all rope-access and rigging work requiring the use of clamps and to implement additional risk reduction controls measures.

The two-month feedback period for NOPSEMA's revised Research Strategy was closed for comment and published on the NOPSEMA website.

One Environment Plan was closed for public comment after being published on the NOPSEMA Consultation Hub and two more were opened but have since closed.

The 'Draft policy for managing gender-restricted information relating to First Nations cultural heritage' was opened for a three-month feedback period that has also closed.

NOPSEMA also released the Compliance Strategy 2023 to inform stakeholders on how we intend to foster a culture of voluntary compliance and how we will treat and deter non-compliance across the offshore energy industry in Commonwealth waters.

How to access NOPSEMA's inspection reports

A vital part of what NOPSEMA does is engaging with the workforce at all levels.

OHS Inspections offer vital information about a duty holder's performance, and we want to make sure the workforce knows how they can stay informed.

This is an essential component of a NOPSEMA inspection as it provides an opportunity for all levels of the workforce to ask questions or provide information to a NOPSEMA inspector.

NOPSEMA monitors and secures compliance through inspecting a duty holder's performance in managing the risks and impacts of their activities consistent with commitments made in permissioning documents and, more broadly, in compliance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act) and its regulations.

NOPSEMA conducts investigations into the circumstances surrounding incidents and complaints to identify and share lessons learnt with the broader industry and its stakeholders and, in certain cases, to seek evidence of non-compliance with the law as a basis for potential enforcement.

NOPSEMA's inspection and investigation reports must be provided, as required under the OPGGS Act, to the relevant individuals, operator, or titleholder.

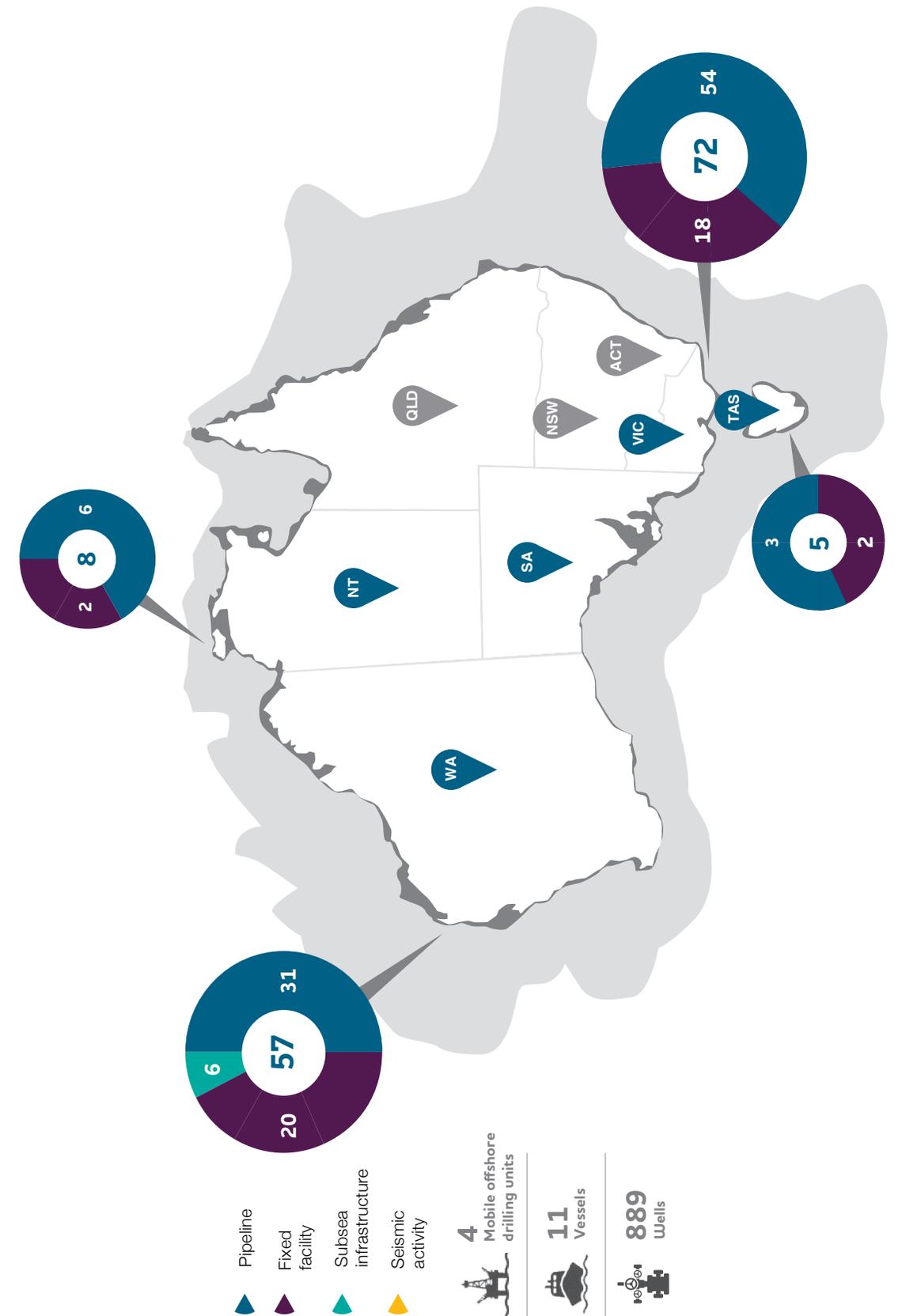
The operator of a facility is required to provide a copy of the report to all members of the facility's health and safety committee.

If no such committee exists, the reports must be provided to all health and safety representatives (HSRs) on a facility.

NOPSEMA encourages all members of the offshore workforce to engage with their health and safety committees and facility HSRs to access inspection and investigation reports to strengthen transparency and foster a greater understanding of duty holder compliance.



Offshore activity Q2 2023





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**National Offshore Petroleum Safety and
Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)**

ABN 22 385 178 289