General Direction – s 574

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (Cth)

Direction No: 2138

To Woodside Energy (Australia) Pty Ltd:

Issue of Direction/s - section 574 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*

I, Graham Blair, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), make this instrument under section 574 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the Act) pursuant to the Instrument of delegation dated 16 December 2025.



Graham Blair

Deputy CEO – Regulatory Operations

Date : 3rd November 2026

1. Commencement

This direction takes effect on the date of signature.

2. Application

This direction applies to Woodside Energy (Australia) Pty Ltd , ABN 39 006 923 879 and Santos WA PVG Pty Ltd, ABN 51 129 604 860 being the registered titleholders of WA-42-L, and together referred to in this Direction as the registered holder.

3. Direction

The registered holder of production licence WA-42-L is given the directions contained in Schedule 1.

Each direction in Schedule 1 is a separate direction.

Schedule 1

Direction 1 – Interim Controls

1. The registered holder must not return to service or inject through any Produced Water Reinjection (PWRI) component at elevated risk of degradation identified under Direction 2, until it has demonstrated fitness for service which is verified independently.
2. The registered holder must manage the Pyrenees PWRI system to prevent unplanned loss of containment of produced water, oil, or production chemicals to the marine environment, and must maintain the controls used to achieve this until NOPSEMA confirms in writing that Direction 3(2) is met.
3. The registered holder must, while any PWRI system component remains isolated, not manage produced water in a way that increases environmental impacts or risks beyond those evaluated in the Pyrenees Facility Operations Environment Plan (Document No. PYHSE-E-001, Revision 23, dated January 2026) as being as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable.

Direction 2 – Independent assessments

1. The registered holder must engage one or more independent parties to prepare a written report on:
    a. identification of PWRI components at elevated risk of degradation, evaluation of the condition and fitness for service of the PWRI system, and identification of any further work required to establish those matters;
    b. the causes of the January 2024 failure and the CRO-7WI release, and any deficiencies in integrity risk management, including why the arrangements adopted following the January 2024 failure did not prevent recurrence;
    c. the adequacy of systems and controls to identify, monitor and respond to degradation and loss of containment from the PWRI system; and
    d. the remedial actions and improvements needed to maintain the PWRI system's integrity for its remaining operating life.
2. The registered holder must, within 45 days from the date this direction is signed, or a longer period as agreed in writing with NOPSEMA, submit the following information to NOPSEMA:
    a. the proposed party or parties who have been identified to undertake the independent assessment;
    b. the basis on which their qualifications and independence have been determined;
    c. the Terms of Reference for the independent assessment, including a detailed scope.

    The registered holder must obtain NOPSEMA's written agreement before commencing any assessment outlined in Direction 2(2).
3. The registered holder must complete the report within 120 days following the date of NOPSEMA's written agreement as set out in Direction 2(2). The registered holder must provide NOPSEMA with each draft report within [7] days of the registered holder receiving it, and any final report within [14] days of the registered holder receiving it. Each final report must also be given to the other registered holders of WA-42-L within the same [14] days.

Direction 3 – Remediation and ongoing integrity

1. The registered holder must, within 45 days of receiving the last final report under Direction 2, or a longer period as agreed to in writing with NOPSEMA, submit for NOPSEMA's agreement:
    a. actions and timeframes to address the findings and recommendations; and
    b. systems and controls to maintain the integrity of the PWRI system for its remaining operating life.
2. Subject to NOPSEMA's agreement, the registered holder must implement the actions and arrangements detailed under Direction 3(1).

Direction 4 – Reporting

1. The registered holder must provide NOPSEMA every 30 days, or at another interval agreed by NOPSEMA, a written report outlining:
    a. the status and effectiveness of the controls required by Direction 1; and
    b. progress in completing Directions 2 and 3.

Explanatory Statement

In July 2026, Woodside identified a corrosion-related through-wall defect in the Pyrenees produced water reinjection (PWRI) system that had resulted in an unplanned release of produced water, oil, and production chemicals to the marine environment over an extended period. This follows a separate, similar corrosion-related PWRI failure in January 2024 and is contrary to the accepted Environment Plan.

The recurrence of a loss of containment indicates that the arrangements implemented following the 2024 failure did not prevent a similar failure elsewhere in the PWRI system. While Woodside has implemented controls and commenced further integrity activities, NOPSEMA considers that independent assessment is required to establish the condition and fitness for service of susceptible PWRI components, identify necessary PWRI system remediation, and ensure that arrangements are in place to maintain the integrity of the PWRI system for its remaining operating life.

This Direction therefore requires Woodside to manage the risk of further loss of containment while the PWRI system is assessed, remediated and arrangements implemented to maintain its ongoing integrity.

Notes

Pursuant to s 575 of the Act, as the direction(s) above apply to:

a) a registered holder; and

b) a person referred to in paragraph 574(3)(b);

the registered holder must cause a copy of the notice by which the direction was given to be displayed at a prominent position at a place in the offshore area.

Breach of a direction

Under sub section 576(1) of the Act, if a person is subject to a general direction under section 574 and the person engages in conduct that breaches that direction, the person commits an offence:

Fault-based offence – 5 years imprisonment or 2,000 penalty units, or both (10,000 penalty units for a body corporate).

Strict liability offence – 100 penalty units (500 penalty units for a body corporate).

Civil penalty provision – 525 penalty units (2,625 penalty units for a body corporate).

Continuing offences – a person who commits a fault-based or strict liability offence commits a separate offence in respect for each day during which the offence continues. The maximum penalty for each day that the offence continues is 10% of the maximum penalty that can be imposed in respect to that offence.

Continuing contraventions of civil penalty provisions – a person who contravenes the civil penalty provision commits a separate contravention in respect for each day during which the contravention continues. The maximum civil penalty for each day that the contravention continues is 10% of the maximum civil penalty that can be imposed in respect to that contravention.