

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 29 April 2026

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### **Meeting objectives:**

To seek CERG's feedback, reflecting a range of community perspectives on matters relevant to offshore energy environmental management, to inform NOPSEMA's regulatory approach.

### **Meeting details:**

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams at 10:00am AWST on Wednesday 29 April 2026. Attendees included representatives of NOPSEMA and members of the Community and Environment Reference Group (CERG), as listed in Attachment 1.

### **Meeting record:**

#### **Agenda Item 1 – Introduction and welcome**

- The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
- The agenda and objectives for the meeting were confirmed.
- The record of the meeting of 8 December 2025 was accepted.
- The action items were reviewed and updated as appropriate.
- Members were asked by the Chair to provide any relevant Conflict of Interest declarations.
- CERG Members confirmed there were no new Conflict of Interest declarations.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – CERG Members update**

CERG Members shared updates of offshore energy industry engagements undertaken since last meeting in December 2025.

Common themes included:

- **Plastics, pollution and environmental management:** Members raised concerns about plastics, microplastics, including pre-production plastic pellets ("nurdles"), hazardous cargoes and noxious substances, including their production, transport and breakdown in the marine environment. Decommissioning activities also continue to be a point of interest in the community.
- **Oil spill and emergency response preparedness:** Oil spill response featured in discussions, including examples of international and domestic collaboration and information sharing. Members noted challenges associated with increased oil spill response training with Indigenous ranger groups, including limited ongoing support after training has been delivered.

- **First Nations engagement, capacity and equity:** A strong theme across multiple member updates was the engagement of First Nations groups in offshore projects. Members noted:
  - Variability in capacity of First Nations groups to engage due to resourcing, remoteness, cost-of-living pressures and competing priorities.
  - Perceptions that engagement often occurs too late in project development, leading to dissatisfaction in the process. Early, meaningful, culturally appropriate and well-resourced engagement was consistently identified as critical.
- **Consultation timing and community capacity:** CERG members observed that consultation activity often occurs in “waves”, which can overwhelm communities and stakeholders with limited capacity. There were also broader concerns from members about consultation quality, equity of participation and the cumulative burden on communities, particularly during periods of social, economic or environmental stress.
  - Examples of positive engagement were noted, particularly proactive communication with fishing groups and local stakeholders to avoid conflicts with planned activities.
- **Broader community and social impacts:** Members noted that broader economic conditions, including the global oil price environment, may have flow-on social and economic impacts, particularly in remote regions (e.g. Pilbara, Kimberley), affecting First Nations access to country, food security and the ability of community members to participate in consultation and training processes.
- **Marine conservation, zoning and environmental change updates** included ongoing community interest in marine park zoning, conservation targets (e.g. expansion of green zones), and concerns related to environmental change such as algal blooms.

## Agenda Item 3 – Meeting Discussion Topics

### Agenda Item 3.1 – CEO Update

NOPSEMA CEO provided an update from recent stakeholder engagements in the Kimberley and Victoria and the work that NOPSEMA continues to do with relevant policy agencies around regulatory reform.

### Agenda Item 3.2 – Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act Reforms

CERG members noted the discussion paper presented.

**ACTION:** NOPSEMA to include standing agenda item on EPBC Act reforms to keep CERG updated on the progress of this reform and any potential changes to NOPSEMA approval processes.

### Agenda Item 3.3 – Victorian engagements update / insights

CERG members noted the information paper presented.

The visit included hearing First Nations perspectives on-country and listening to diverse stakeholder priorities and pressures on the fishing industry due to the scale and concentration of offshore activity.

NOPSEMA CEO also provided insights regarding feedback on consultation processes including both positive examples and direct concerns from the community and that feedback has been provided to industry to help improve future consultation processes.

NOPSEMA Deputy CEO advised that NOPSEMA will be publishing an Annual Offshore Performance Report shortly which will include performance feedback from community and this will be made available to the CERG (and general public) via NOPSEMA website.

**ACTION:** NOPSEMA Secretariat to share Annual Offshore Performance Report with CERG when it becomes available.

**Agenda Item 3.4 – Project CORE – digital transformation and community information interface**  
CERG members noted the discussion paper presented.

Program Director – Digital Transformation joined meeting to demonstrate public access wireframes to CERG and to confirm that the current NOPSEMA consultation portal functionality will be absorbed into the new CORE platform (public comment, public register and Environment Plans/Offshore Project Proposals).

**ACTION:** NOPSEMA Secretariat to contact CERG Members with details regarding participation in discussions around public accessibility of the EP/OPP databases, public comment functions and consultation components of the CORE portal.

### **Agenda Item 3.5 – CERG Member Reflections**

Members shared feedback on their CERG tenure. NOPSEMA CEO thanked the members for their feedback.

Common themes from the discussion included:

#### **What has worked well:**

- **Strong leadership engagement:** Members valued NOPSEMA's genuine willingness to listen, with the CEO's active involvement and chairing of meetings seen as a clear signal of the importance placed on CERG.

NOPSEMA CEO and Deputy CEO specifically acknowledged the value of CERG feedback and confirmed that it was used to support NOPSEMA's regulatory approach and in wider policy-related engagements with other agencies.

- **Effective meeting format:** The conversational, less formal approach was widely supported, enabling open discussion, sharing of diverse “on-the-ground” insights, and learning from the expertise within the group.
- **Quality discussions and relationships:** Members appreciated hearing a broad range of perspectives, finding the discussions interesting and informative.
- **CERG meeting records:** Meeting minutes were considered accurate and reflective of discussions.

### Opportunities for improvement

- **Greater transparency on impact:** Members would like clearer visibility on how CERG input is used, including where information goes and how it supports regulatory or organisational outcomes.
- **Stronger feedback loops:** There was strong support for implementing a visible feedback model to demonstrate how feedback has been considered or acted on, potentially including updates between regular meetings. NOPSEMA to also share where CERG insights have been useful in engagement with industry and other government agencies. Members suggested that future meetings include a short standing item summarising how previous CERG feedback has been considered, where it has informed regulatory practice, and whether it has been shared with industry or policy agencies.
- **Wider sharing of outcomes:** Some members felt CERG insights and outcomes could be shared more broadly with the general public to enhance understanding and impact. Meeting records currently only shared via the NOPSEMA website.
- **Participation practicalities:** Acknowledging competing work demands, members suggested options such as periodic face-to-face meetings and ongoing flexibility to support sustained engagement.
- **Ongoing topic input:** Members indicated interest in continuing to shape the agenda by submitting topic suggestions for future meetings.

**ACTION:** NOPSEMA Secretariat to review CERG Member reflections and consider how opportunities for improvement and how they can be best implemented moving forward.

## Agenda Item 4 – Review and close out

### Agenda Item 4.1 – Recap actions and other business

The Chair sought general feedback and questions from CERG members but none were raised.

### Agenda Item 4.2 – Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be scheduled for after the current EOI process has been completed.

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 12pm.

## Attachment 1

### Attendees list

NOPSEMA representatives
Sue McCarrey, Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
Cameron Grebe, Deputy CEO – Strategic Regulation and Improvement Division
Mark Watson, Director Regulatory Stakeholder Engagement
Susan Weary, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist – Regulatory Engagement
Community representatives
Sander Scheffers
Luke Skinner
Sean-Paul Stephens
Stuart Field
Apologies
Danielle Hartshorn
Terry Atkinson
Andrew Levings
Piers Verstegen