

Performance Report

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EPBC Streamlining

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026



NOPSEMA

Australia's offshore
energy regulator

Presented to:

**The Hon Murray Watt MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, and
The Hon Madeleine King, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia**

On 28 February 2014, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's (NOPSEMA) environmental management authorisation process was endorsed by the Minister for the Environment as a program that meets requirements of Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Minister for the Environment also approved a class of actions which, if undertaken in accordance with the endorsed Program, do not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. These decisions removed duplicative environmental approvals processes and made NOPSEMA the sole regulator for the environmental management of petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. Further information is available at www.nopsema.gov.au.

This report provides a summary of NOPSEMA's performance under the endorsed Program for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. In financial year (FY) 2025-26, NOPSEMA provided decision notices (in relation to the Offshore Project Proposals and Environment Plans below) within legislated timeframes 100% of the time.

Regulatory activity	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	
Submission type	Category	Number
Offshore project proposal ¹	Accepted for public comment ²	0
	Accepted ³	3
	Assessments in progress – for public comment ⁴	1
	Assessments in progress – for acceptance ⁴	0
Environment plan	Accepted ⁵	28
	Assessments in progress ⁴	19
	Decisions - refuse to accept ⁵	1
	Assessments stopped/cancelled ⁵	2
	Acceptances that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	0

1. The offshore project proposal (OPP) process streamlines decision-making on the overall environmental acceptability of offshore projects in Commonwealth waters and is designed to deliver equivalent environmental outcomes to the environmental impact assessment process under the EPBC Act.
2. NOPSEMA publishes OPPs that are open for public comment following its determination that the OPP is suitable for publication. The public then have an opportunity to review and provide comment on the OPP. Based on year of acceptance for public comment (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).
3. The final accepted OPP. Based on year of completion (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).
4. Based on year of submission (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).
5. Based on year of completion (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).

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In addition to the environmental management assessment and authorisation process which forms the foundation of the Program (see annual statistics above), NOPSEMA continued to discharge complementary compliance monitoring and enforcement functions under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

During FY2025-26 NOPSEMA:

- conducted 43 environment inspections to monitor duty holder compliance
- received and investigated 18 environmental reportable incident notifications from titleholders
- issued four general directions for environmental management matters, five notices requiring giving of evidence, and one notice to produce documents.

NOPSEMA published Australia's Offshore Energy Industry Performance Report 2025 on 25 May 2026, which provides a consolidated view of offshore activity and performance across NOPSEMA's regulated jurisdiction. Further information on industry performance and NOPSEMA regulatory activity can be found in that report.

Key areas of focus for NOPSEMA in environmental assessments and compliance monitoring over the reporting period have continued to be the decommissioning of offshore petroleum infrastructure, marine seismic surveys, oil pollution risk management, management of greenhouse gas emission impacts, and compliance with statutory instruments for the protection and conservation of matters protected under the EPBC Act.

During the reporting period, NOPSEMA continued to implement administrative arrangements between NOPSEMA and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) that are in place for the endorsed Program. This includes sharing information with DCCEEW about relevant regulatory activities such as environment plan assessments, compliance monitoring, incident investigations, and enforcement actions.

NOPSEMA engages with DCCEEW and the newly established National Environmental Protection Agency (National EPA) on a regular and ad-hoc basis covering a range of matters, including application of EPBC Act instruments, guidance materials and geospatial tools in regulatory assessments, and maintaining appropriate executive oversight of each agency's Program-related workstreams and initiatives.

NOPSEMA will work with DCCEEW and the National EPA to ensure continuity of information sharing under the Program and an orderly transition of relevant parts of the administrative arrangements to respective agencies.

NOPSEMA will continue to closely monitor implementation of reforms to the EPBC Act that were passed by the Australian Parliament in November 2025. NOPSEMA will continue to engage with DCCEEW and National EPA to understand and address potential implications of reforms for the Program while it remains in effect.

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