NOPSEMA

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

Australia's Offshore Energy Industry Performance Report

2025

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CEO foreword

Australia's offshore energy sector is entering a period of significant change. In an increasingly complex operating environment, the need for safe, environmentally responsible and well managed offshore operations has never been more important.

I'm pleased to present the Offshore Energy Industry Performance Report, providing a consolidated view of offshore activity and performance across Australia's regulated jurisdictions. We publish this report to provide transparency, share insights from our regulatory experience, and support continuous improvement across Australia's offshore energy sector.

Drawing on regulatory data, assessments, inspections, enforcement outcomes and engagement insights, the report highlights how industry is performing, where risks are emerging, our regulatory activity and where sustained attention is required.

I'm happy to report that overall safety performance remains strong, with no fatalities recorded in 2025 and accident and injury rates near five-year lows. However, it's important to look beyond the physical risks, and as such we have elevated psychosocial health to a National Priority to ensure effective identification, management and reporting.

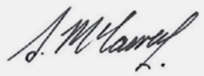
Environmental performance has remained broadly stable, although continued vigilance is required. Reportable environmental incidents decreased in 2025 from their 2024 peak but remain above levels seen in earlier years. Well integrity performance improved significantly in 2025, with a substantial reduction in reported incidents.

Decommissioning and the management of redundant wells continue to be a major focus. As offshore assets age, decommissioning activity has increased and many wells are now non-operational. Plug and abandonment activity has accelerated, but there remains a clear expectation that decommissioning obligations are met in a timely and effective manner.

Stakeholder expectations of both industry and the regulator continue to increase. Communities, First Nations groups, fishers and other relevant persons expect meaningful consultation, clear communication and genuine consideration of their concerns.

Our investigations continue to demonstrate that serious incidents are rarely the result of a single technical failure. Instead, they arise from systemic weaknesses in systems, leadership and safety culture. Effective control of work, sound decision-making under pressure, and consistent implementation of procedures at the workface are as critical to safety as physical barriers and engineered controls.

The trends and lessons outlined in this report reinforce a central message. Strong outcomes are achieved when robust systems, capable leadership, meaningful engagement and effective regulation work together. We encourage industry and stakeholders to reflect on the information in this report and to continue engaging constructively with us as the offshore energy sector continues to develop and change.



Sue McCarrey
Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

Australia's offshore energy sector continues to evolve in response to changing energy needs, technological advances and community expectations.

Offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities remain critical to national energy security, while offshore renewable energy projects are progressing from early development into regulated operational phases. Across this diverse and complex sector, the safe and environmentally responsible conduct of offshore activities remains fundamental.

This Offshore Energy Industry Report provides an overview of offshore energy activity and performance across Australia's regulated offshore jurisdictions. The report covers both the offshore petroleum sector, regulated by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), and the offshore renewables industry, regulated by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR).

The report draws on regulatory data, assessments, compliance and enforcement outcomes, and engagement insights to present a picture of industry performance and emerging trends. It is intended to improve transparency, promote regulatory understanding, and highlight areas where continued focus is required to manage safety, environmental, structural and well integrity risks.

The report is structured in two parts. The first part focuses on offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities, including industry activity levels, safety and environmental performance, and NOPSEMA's regulatory approach. The second part addresses offshore renewable energy activities, reflecting the commencement of the OIR's operational regulatory role and the growing scale and complexity of offshore renewable projects in Australia. Together, these parts provide a comprehensive overview of offshore energy industry performance.

This report focuses on the offshore energy industry's performance, insights in relation to that performance and NOPSEMA's and the OIR's response. Information on our performance can be found in our most recent annual report.

NOPSEMA
Annual Report
2024-25

Offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas industry

Activity and performance

NOPSEMA is Australia's independent regulator of health and safety, well integrity and environmental management for the offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage industries.

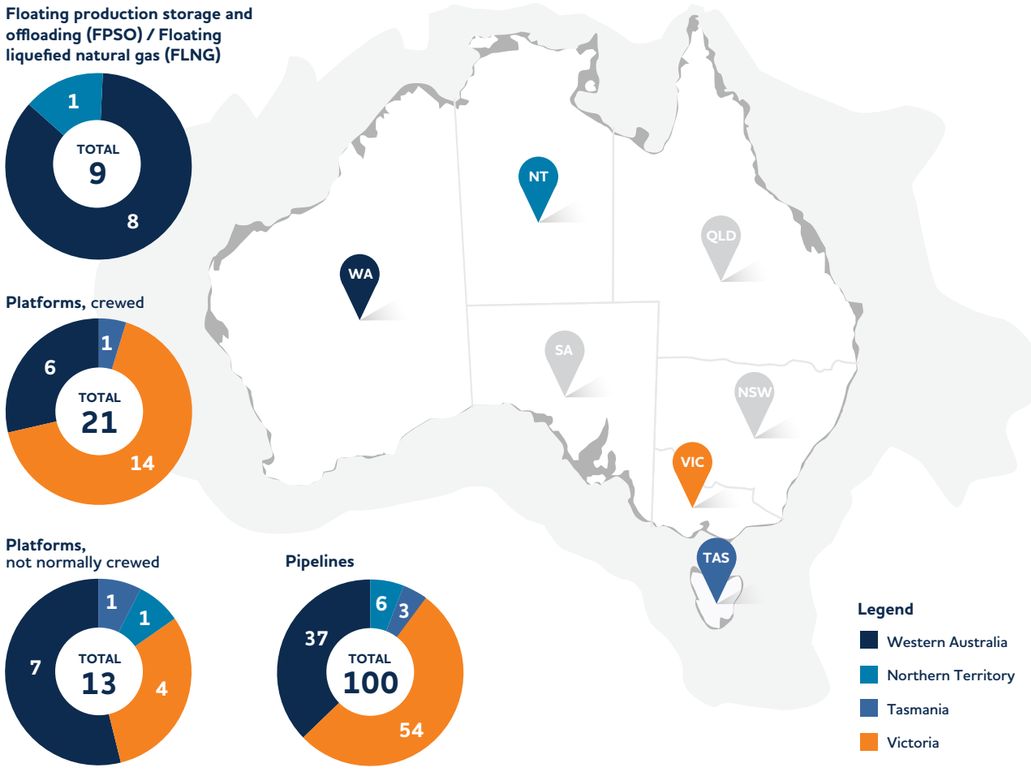
NOPSEMA's jurisdiction covers all offshore petroleum facilities and activities in Commonwealth waters, as well as designated coastal waters where regulatory functions have been conferred. Currently, Victoria has conferred occupational health and safety (OHS) and well integrity powers to NOPSEMA.

In November 2025 the Minister for Resources published a new Ministerial Statement of Expectations for NOPSEMA. This detailed that:

> *NOPSEMA is to undertake its regulatory functions in a manner to promote a leading practice regulatory framework and that encourages continuous improvement in safety, structural and well integrity, and environment risk management by the offshore petroleum and GHG industries.*

This report is one way in which NOPSEMA meets these expectations by publishing industry performance data.

Industry facilities and activities – 2025



Australia wide

7 mobile offshore drilling units (MODU)

19 vessels

862 wells

Industry performance overview

One of the ways we are working to drive improvement across industry and the organisation is through its ongoing collection and analysis of performance data. We are continually working to add to, refine and improve our data and intelligence to better understand safety trends across the industry, inform our regulatory approach and improve our own performance.

Total hours worked along with incident and injury data are reported by industry to NOPSEMA and a summary of the data is published on a quarterly and annual basis. This provides insight into the level of activity offshore and determining rates of incident and injury. This data is provided as tables in Appendix 1 and graphs in Appendix 2.

Highlights for 2025

2025 Industry performance summary

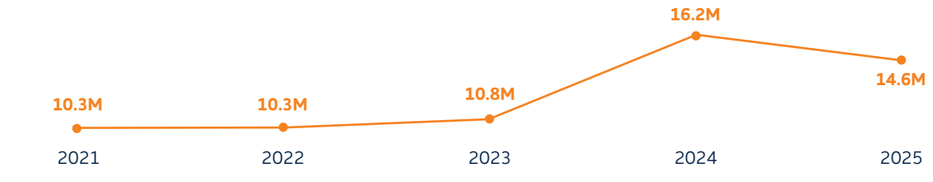
Total offshore hours worked **14.6 million**

Total injuries	**74**	**Alternative duty injury**	**25**
Fatalities	**0**	**Medical treatment injury**	**16**
Major injuries	**6**	**Psychosocial health incidents**	**23**
Lost time injury (LTI) ≥ 3 days	**16**	**Well integrity reportable incidents**	**60**
LTI < 3 days	**1**	**Environmental reportable incidents**	**10**

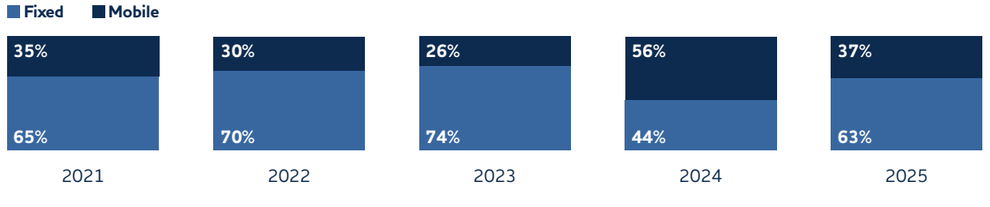
Disclaimer: Where underlying data volumes are low, small changes in absolute numbers can result in relatively large changes in calculated rates. Such variation may reflect normal statistical fluctuation and should be interpreted with caution.

Hours worked trends

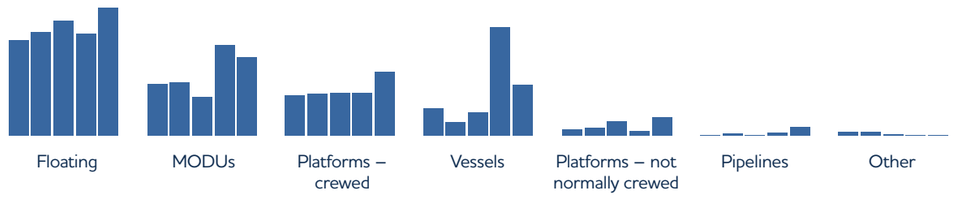
Hours worked



Hours worked (fixed/mobile)



Hours worked – facility type (2021-2025)



The industry reported 14.6 million hours worked in 2025, continuing an increasing trend since 2023. Fixed facilities accounted for most hours worked, with floating facilities continuing the trend of the most hours worked.

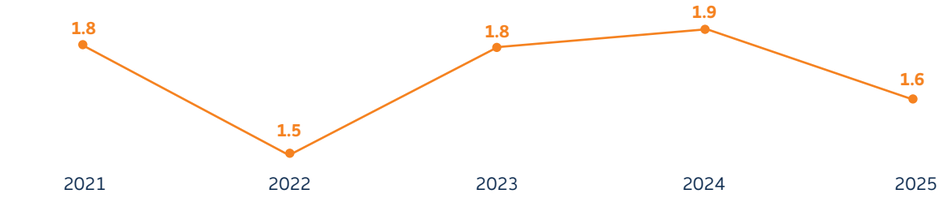
Total industry hours worked are driven primarily by crewed production and drilling facilities, and episodic vessels campaigns. Not-normally crewed platforms, pipelines and 'other' facilities contribute comparatively low hours worked.

Note: Esso is included in overall hours worked, however, its hours are excluded from facility type summaries as it only commenced submitting hours by facility type from mid-2025.

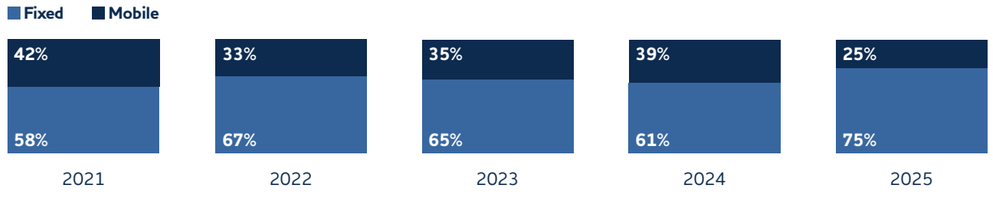
Note: charts in this report presenting 'rate' information are calculated per million hours worked.

2021-2025 occupational health and safety incident trends

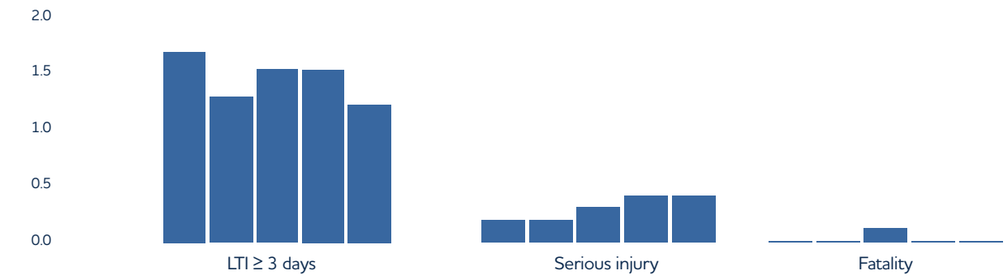
Accident rate



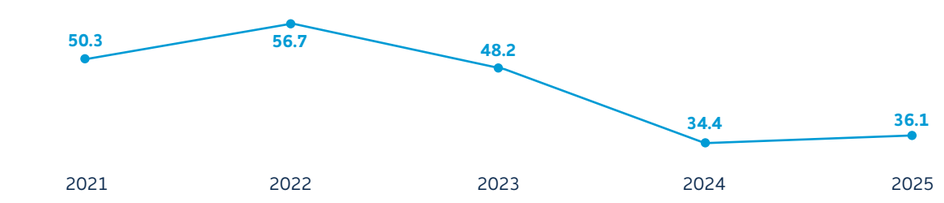
Accident % (fixed/mobile)



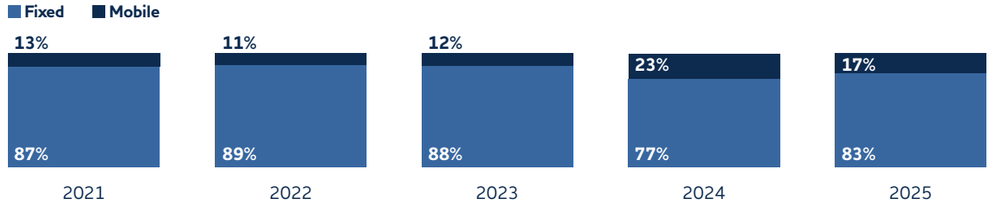
Accident rate type (2021-2025)



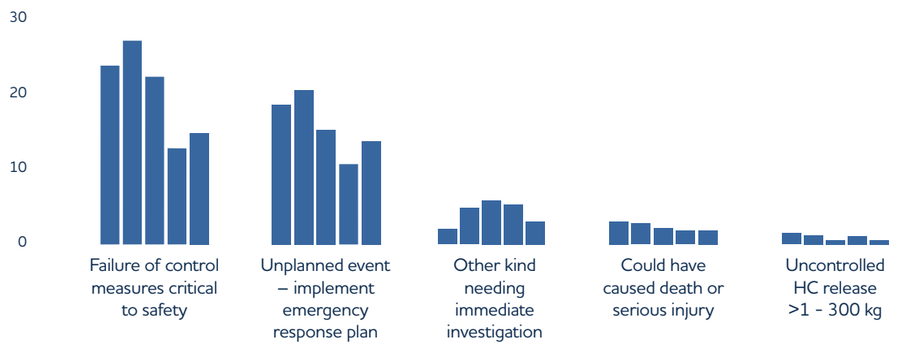
Dangerous occurrence rate



Dangerous occurrence % (fixed/mobile)



Dangerous occurrence rate by type (top 5)



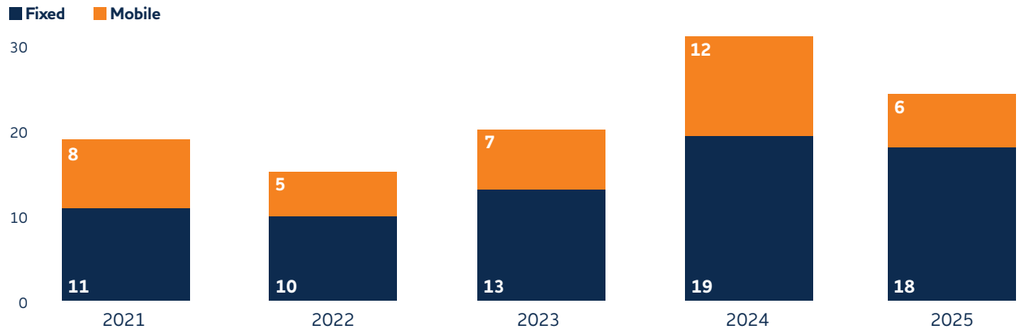
Accident: includes fatality, major (serious) injury, and lost time injury (LTI) ≥ three days.

Dangerous occurrence: an incident that does not cause harm but has the potential to cause death, serious injury, major incident, or significant damage. It includes fires, explosions, vessel collisions, major hydrocarbon releases, well kicks, activation of emergency response, or failure of control measures critical to safety.

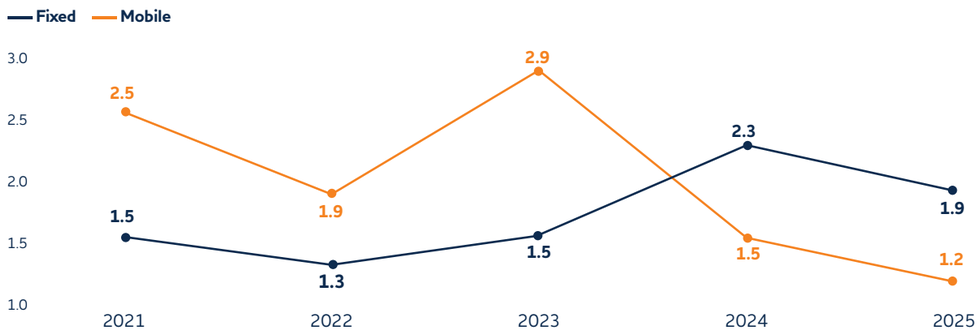
The accident rate in 2025 is near a five-year low, with a decrease in reported lost time injuries (LTI) ≥ three days offset by an increase in serious injuries. Dangerous occurrence rates have seen a steady decline over the past three years.

In 2025, most accidents and dangerous occurrences were reported on fixed facilities. Dangerous occurrences reported were dominated by 'Failure of Control Measures Critical to Safety' and 'Unplanned Event – Implement Emergency Response Plan'.

Accident by facility type



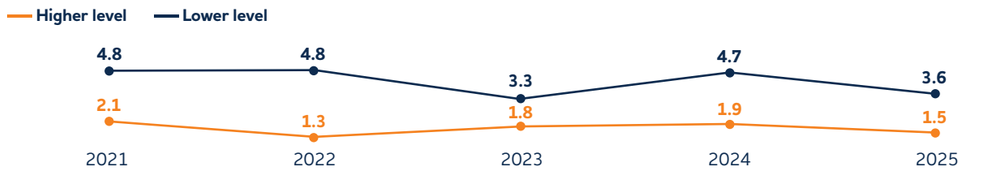
Accident rate trend



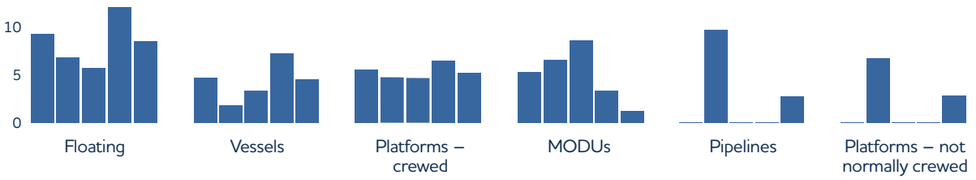
In recent years, the accident rate has trended up for fixed facilities, but is trending down for mobile facilities.

Industry – injury trends

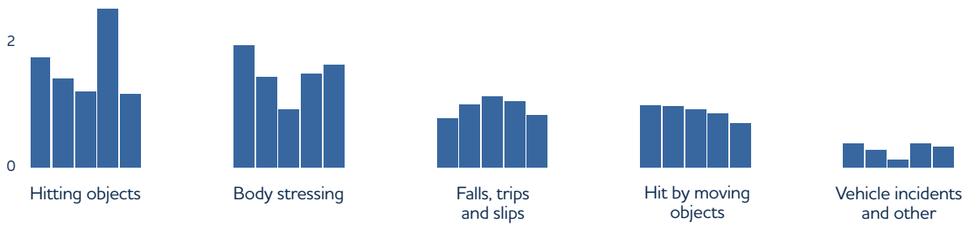
Injury rate



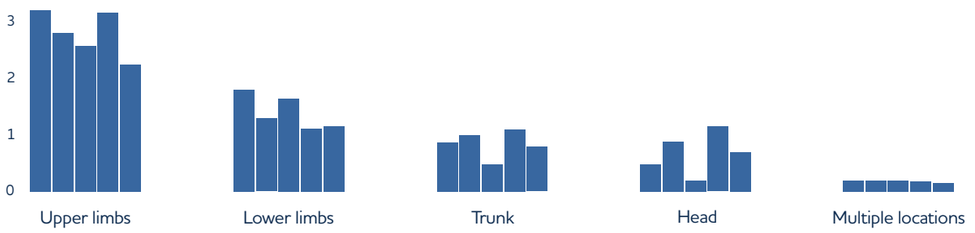
Injury rate (by facility type)



Rates by causes of injuries (top 5 by total)



Rates - injury by location (top 5 by total)



Higher-level injuries: includes fatality, major (serious) injury, and LTI ≥ three days.

Lower-level injuries: includes LTI < three days, alternative duty injury, and medical treatment injury.

Both the higher-level and lower-level injury rates declined slightly in 2025, with the largest improvement occurring in the lower-level injury rate.

In 2025 injury rates were highest on floating facilities, which consistently have higher injury rates than other facility groups. MODUs showed an ongoing decline in injury rates since 2023.

Injuries are most frequently associated with upper limbs, with lower limbs the next most frequent.

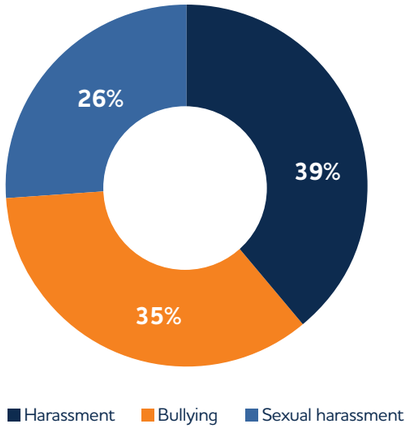
The top mechanism of injuries continues to be hit by moving objects, hitting objects, body stressing, and slips, trips and falls.

Psychosocial health incident reporting

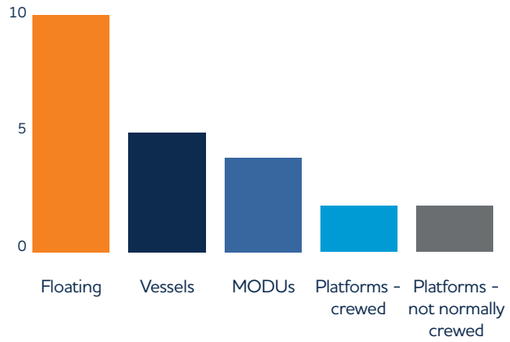
In 2025 psychosocial health incident reporting requirements came into effect.

Psychosocial health incidents totalled 23 for the first 7 months during 2025 when reporting commenced. Harassment and bullying together accounted for nearly three-quarters of reported psychosocial incidents in 2025.

Psychosocial incidents for 2025



Psychosocial incidents by facility type



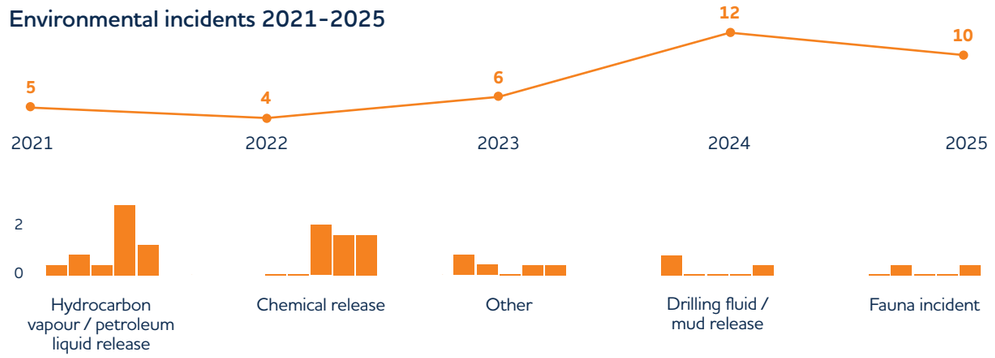
Environmental incident trends

In 2025, there were 10 reportable environmental incidents, down from the 2024 peak but remaining above previous years. Most incidents involved low level hydrocarbon and chemical releases.

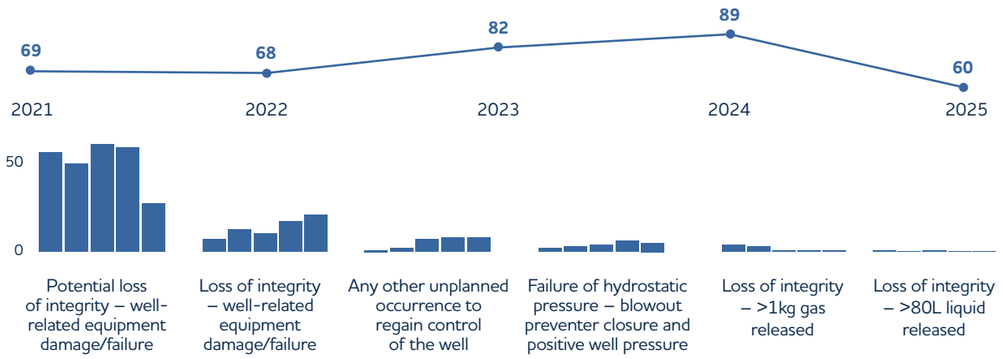
Well integrity incident trends

2025 showed a substantial reduction in well integrity incidents compared with 2024. Of the 60 well integrity incidents reported most involved a 'Potential Loss of Integrity – Well related Equipment Damage/Failure' and 'Loss of Integrity – Well related Equipment Damage or Failure.

Environmental incidents 2021-2025



Well integrity incidents 2021-2025



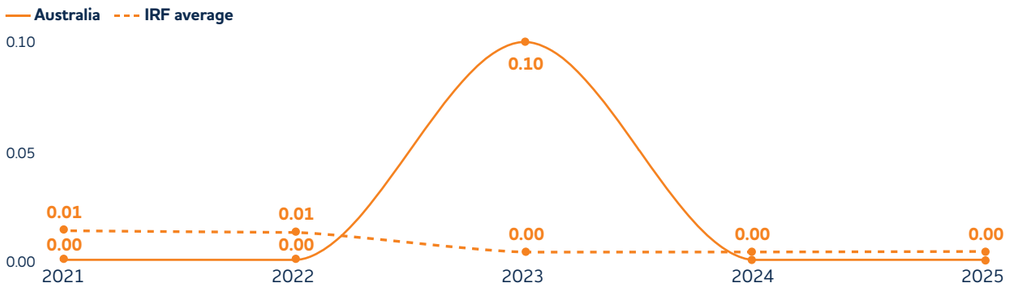
Industry performance benchmarking

NOPSEMA is an active member of two key international offshore regulatory forums:

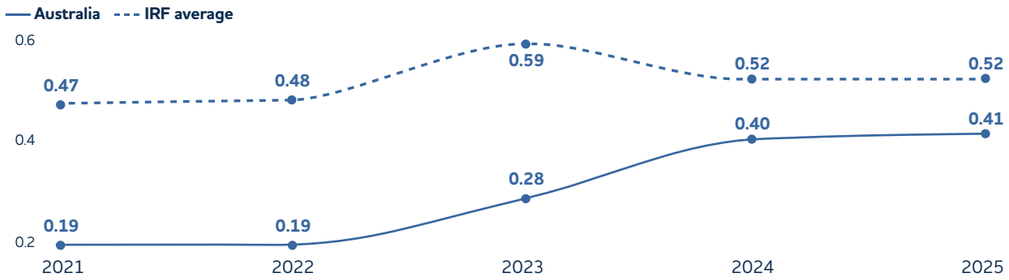
- The **International Regulators' Forum** (IRF), a longstanding collaboration of offshore health and safety regulators from multiple jurisdictions, established in 1994 and comprising regulators from 11 countries.
- The **International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators** (IOPER), established in 2013 and comprising environmental regulators from 16 member countries.

IRF and IOPER forums provide opportunities to compare regulatory performance and outcomes across jurisdictions. Such comparisons allow NOPSEMA to benchmark Australia's performance against international averages or peer regulators to identify areas of relative strength or potential improvement.

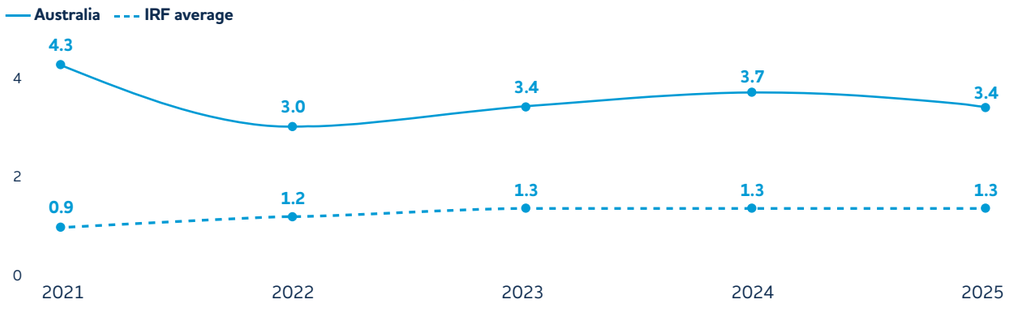
Rate fatalities: Australia vs IRF average



Major injury rate: Australia vs IRF average



LTI/RWI >3 days rate: Australia vs IRF average



The figures present aggregated data from IRF member countries, summarising the total number of injuries and offshore hours (excluding Australia), and calculating a single rate for each year. The 2024 IRF rate was applied as a proxy for 2025, as the 2025 IRF data was not available at the time of analysis.

Countries included in the analysis are Brazil, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the UK and the USA.

Interpreting these results requires careful consideration of differences across regulatory jurisdictions. For example, Mexico and Ireland are excluded from all injury categories due to incomplete or missing data – such as offshore hours or workforce numbers – which are required to calculate injury rates.

In addition, when analysing injury rates for LTI/RWI > three days, it is important to note that some countries, such as the UK, report only injuries exceeding seven days.

A member country is excluded from the analysis if it has not provided either injury data or total offshore hours worked.

Australia continues to perform well against the IRF average for major injury rates and records zero fatalities in most years; however, a fatality in 2023 and persistently higher LTI/RWI rates highlight the need for continued focus on both rare but high-consequence events and everyday injury prevention.

NOPSEMA's regulatory approach

NOPSEMA's regulatory approach is explicitly designed to deliver tangible improvements in structural and well integrity, safety and environmental outcomes by industry, moving beyond mere compliance with regulations.

The combined strategies employed by NOPSEMA are designed to:

- **Prevent harm before it occurs** by undertaking robust activity and project assessments and applying risk-based prioritisation to ensure that hazards are identified and managed early by duty holders. This proactive stance aims to minimise risks and prevent incidents before they arise.
- **Verify performance in practice** by regular inspections and monitoring activities. NOPSEMA validates that operators are meeting their regulatory obligations when undertaking activities. This ensures that the standards set during the assessment phase are upheld throughout ongoing activities.
- **Correct and deter unsafe or environmentally harmful behaviour** by using proportionate enforcement actions to address non-compliance. By correcting unsafe behaviours and deterring future breaches, NOPSEMA reinforces the importance of safety and environmental protection across the industry.
- **Drive continuous improvement** by learning from incidents and actively engaging with industry leaders on issues of accountability and decision-making. This encourages industry to review and enhance their practices, supporting ongoing advances in structural and well integrity, safety and environmental outcomes.

Assessments

By law, offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities cannot commence before the duty holder has demonstrated to NOPSEMA's satisfaction that the relevant safety, well integrity and environmental management requirements will be appropriately managed. This satisfaction is achieved primarily via the following regulatory documents submitted by duty holders to NOPSEMA:

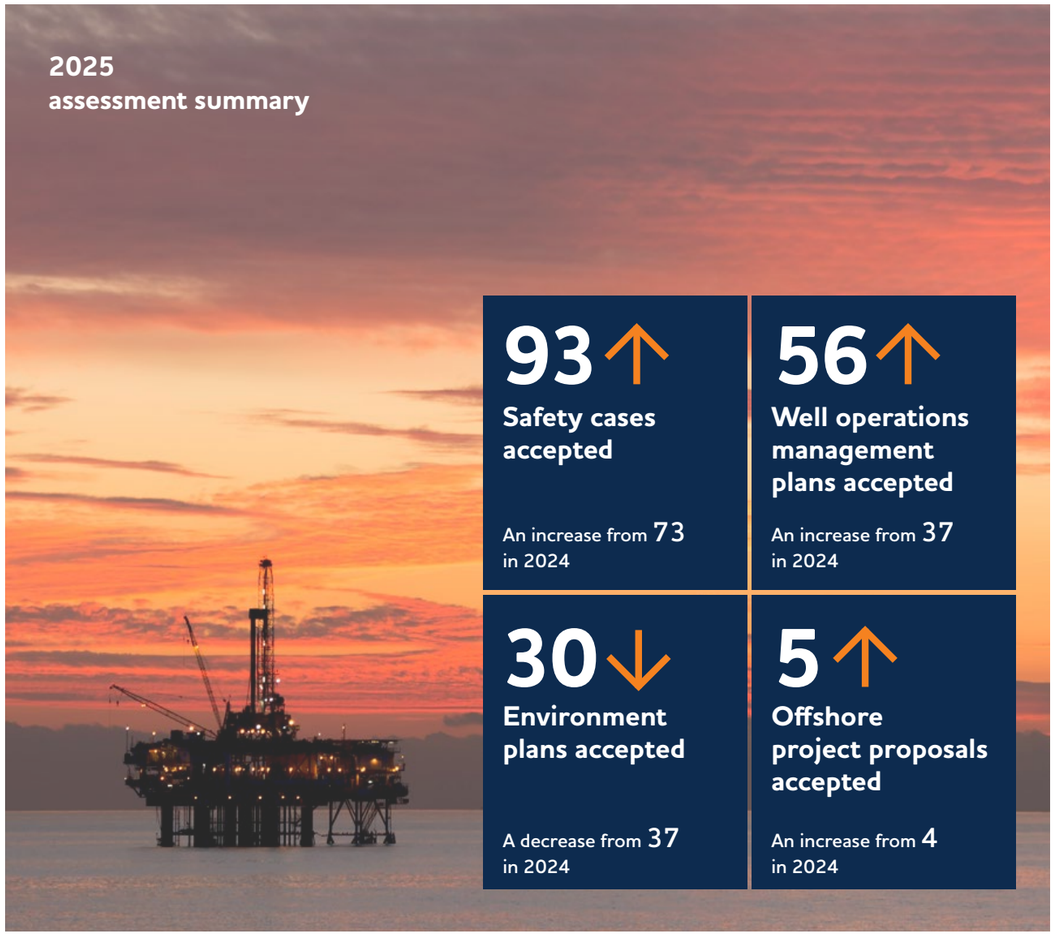
- **Safety case** – an operator's assessment and management of health and safety risks.
- **Well operations management plan** (WOMP) – a titleholder's management of risk to well integrity.
- **Environment plan** (EP) – a titleholder's management of impacts and risks to the environment.

This front-end assurance ensures that activities are only undertaken where risks and impacts are demonstrably reduced to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and acceptable levels, directly influencing baseline integrity, safety and environmental performance.

NOPSEMA publishes a summary of the status of all regulatory documents submitted on a quarterly and annual basis. This data is provided as tables in Appendix 1 and graphs in Appendix 2 of this report.

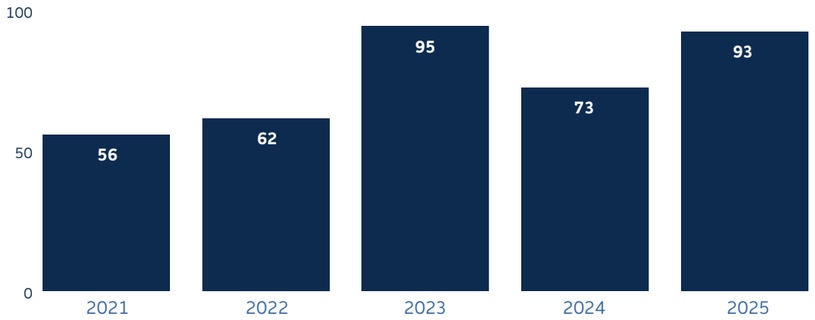
All offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activity environment plans are published in full as part of transparency arrangements. Public comment is also undertaken for all offshore petroleum projects and exploration environment plans. You can find this information or participate in the process here:

Industry environment plans

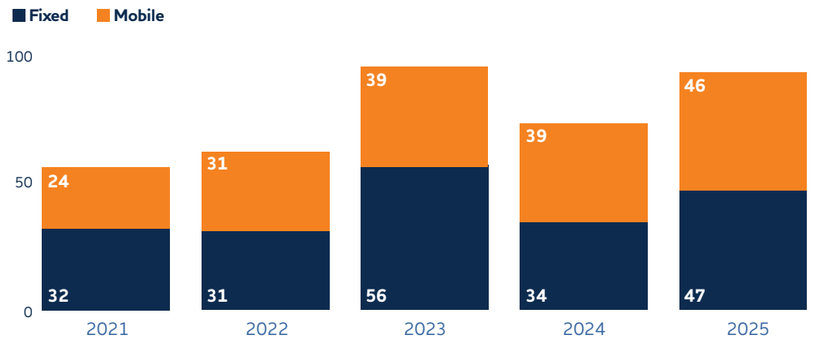


Safety case assessment trends

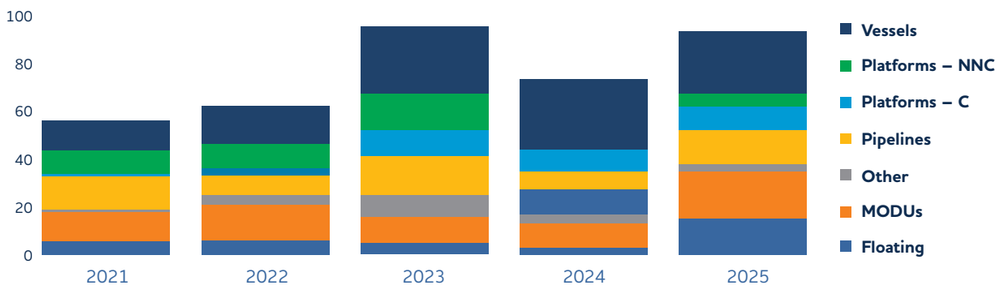
Trend for safety cases accepted



Trend for safety cases accepted by fixed/mobile



Safety cases accepted by facility type 2021-2025

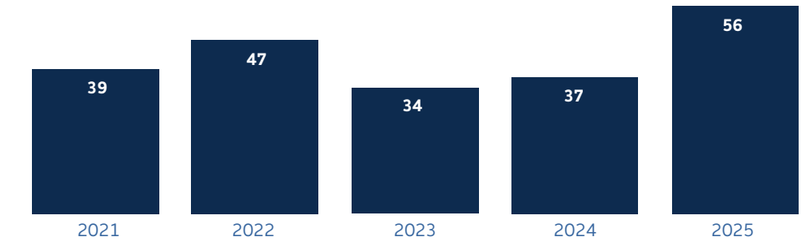


Safety case acceptances increased significantly between 2021 and 2023, declined in 2024, and increased in 2025 to near peak levels. Overall, the trend reflects sustained regulatory activity with short-term variability. Safety case acceptances are dominated by fixed facilities and vessels.

The increase in safety case acceptances in 2025 reflects MODUs being brought to Australia to drill new and plug and abandon redundant wells.

Well operations management plans assessment trends

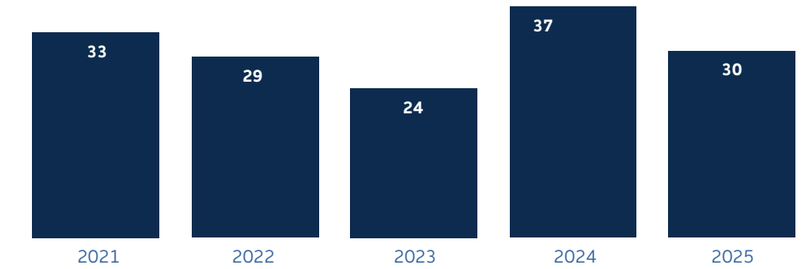
Trend for WOMP acceptances



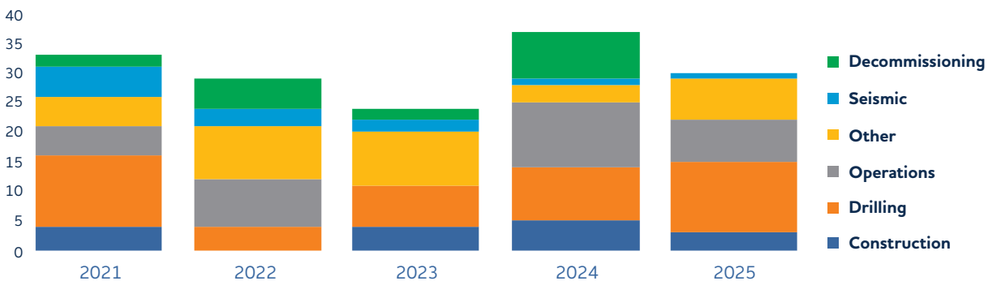
The increase in WOMP acceptances in 2025 corresponds with the increase of safety case acceptances for MODUs being brought to Australia to drill new and plug and abandon redundant wells.

Environment plan assessment trends

Trend for EP acceptances



Environment plan acceptances by activity type 2021-2025



EP acceptances vary from year to year and are often obtained for activities prior to safety case and WOMP acceptance. Typically, operations, drilling and decommissioning consistently account for the largest share of EPs. This is also reflected in safety cases and WOMPs.

Offshore project proposals

The offshore project proposal (OPP) process is designed to enable early, whole of project regulatory assessment, including a public comment period, of the potential environmental impacts and risks of an offshore petroleum project across its full lifecycle. Exploration and appraisal activities do not require an OPP to be in place before undertaking such activities.

Acceptance of an OPP does not authorise activities and does not predetermine subsequent Environment Plan outcomes. Activity specific Environment Plans must still independently demonstrate that impacts and risks are managed to an acceptable level.

Since the requirement for an OPP came into effect in 2014, thirteen OPPs have been submitted to NOPSEMA for assessment. Of the 13 OPPs submitted to date:

- 10 have been accepted.
- Two were withdrawn.
- One is under assessment.

Of the 10 OPPs accepted by NOPSEMA to date:

- Seven were gas projects and three were oil projects.
- Two were in Commonwealth waters offshore Victoria, seven in Commonwealth waters offshore Western Australia, and one in Commonwealth waters off Northern Territory.
- Six were new projects and four were life extensions to existing operations.
- Three gas projects have commenced activities under an approved EP and two gas projects have commenced operations under an approved EP.

No activities have commenced to date on the three oil projects.

Some key insights from NOPSEMA's OPP assessments are:

- Environmental performance outcomes (EPOs) are often proposed that are not clearly measurable, demonstrably linked to identified impacts and risks, and/or do not show that impacts and risk will be managed to an acceptable level, resulting in rework.
- Assessment duration is influenced by both proposal quality and proponent responsiveness. Timeframes are often extended by iterative information exchanges, highlighting the importance of early clarity and effective engagement during assessment.
- Delays most often arise where project scope is insufficiently defined, environmental impacts and risks are not demonstrably acceptable at a project level, or uncertainty is not clearly bounded and justified.
- Proponents who invest early in project definition, baseline studies, robust risk assessment and defensible environmental performance outcomes typically reduce rework, information requests and assessment cycles, supporting more timely and predictable OPP acceptance.

NOPSEMA advice clarifies use of updated auditory-effects technical guidance and scientific information for marine mammals and turtles

Conducting a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a vital step in understanding and managing the potential impacts of a marine seismic survey. Fundamental to this assessment is understanding the environmental impacts from anthropogenic underwater sound generated by the proposed activity. This typically involves a comparison between predicted sound levels and threshold criteria for effects, as well as consideration of contemporary published science, guidance and standards.

NOPSEMA observed that some industry submissions initially overlooked or inconsistently applied the latest scientific knowledge and auditory effects criteria published in guidance from the United States. Recent submissions have demonstrated improvements in these areas.

Significant updates to widely used auditory-effects technical guidance and scientific information were published in late 2024 and early 2025. These included:

- United States (U.S.) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 2024 update to Technical Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing (NMFS 2024).
- U.S. Navy Phase 4 Report on Criteria and Thresholds for U.S. Navy Acoustic and Explosive Effects Analysis (Revision 2025.1; Accomando *et al.* 2025).

Both publications provide contemporary scientific information and threshold criteria for auditory effects that may arise from exposure to anthropogenic underwater sound.

NOPSEMA has published a new environment bulletin to support robust environmental impact assessment. The bulletin provides further information and advice regarding the application of the NMFS (2024) Technical Guidance and Accomando et al. (2025) in environmental impact and risk assessments for marine mammals and turtles in offshore project proposals (OPPs) and environment plans (EPs) under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Environment bulletin – Underwater sound impact evaluation

Compliance monitoring and enforcement

NOPSEMA operates a risk-based compliance monitoring and enforcement program to ensure offshore duty holders comply with their obligations under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and associated regulations, encompassing safety, well integrity, and environmental management.

NOPSEMA's compliance program aims to prevent major accidents or incidents, safeguard the environment, including matters of national environmental significance, and ensure duty holders fulfil the commitments and acceptance criteria outlined in their permissioning documents. Compliance monitoring and enforcement are fundamental regulatory activities that underpin these goals.

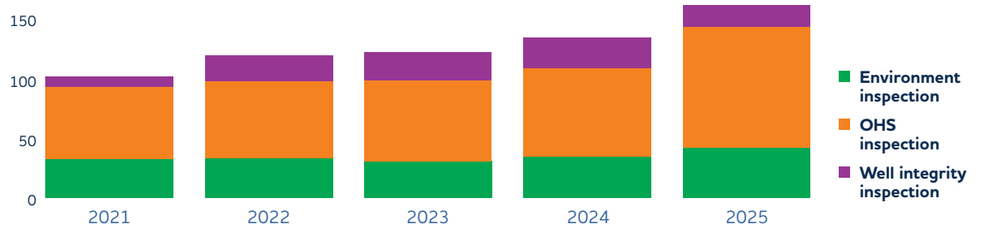
NOPSEMA publishes a summary of inspections and enforcements on a quarterly and annual basis. This data is provided as tables in Appendix 1 and graphs in Appendix 2.

Inspection overview

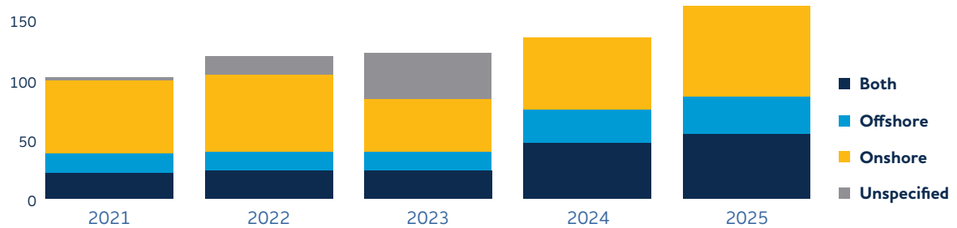
NOPSEMA uses inspections to monitor duty holders' compliance with the legislation and the commitments made in permissioning documents, such as safety cases, WOMPs, environment plans, diving safety management systems or diving project plans.

Inspections also provide NOPSEMA with the opportunity to gain additional assurance that the implementation of risk management systems remains effective.

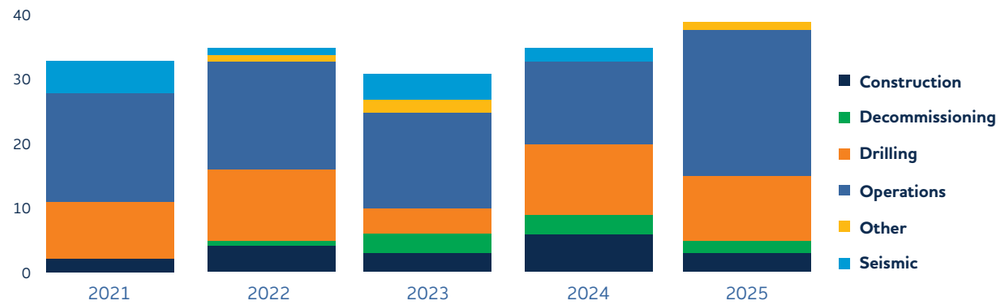
Inspection type



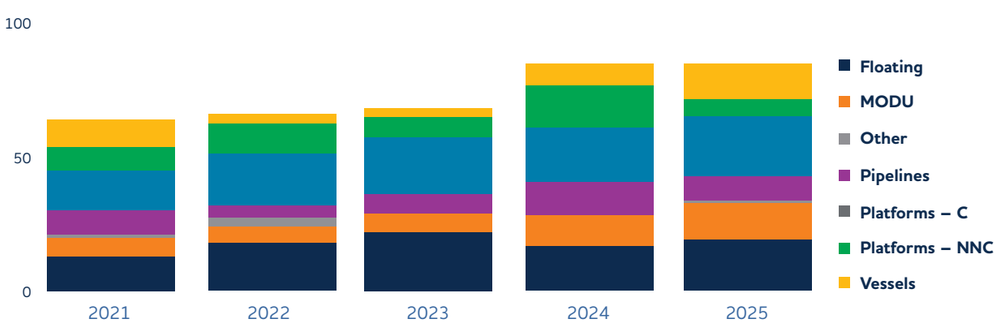
Location



Environmental management inspections by activity type



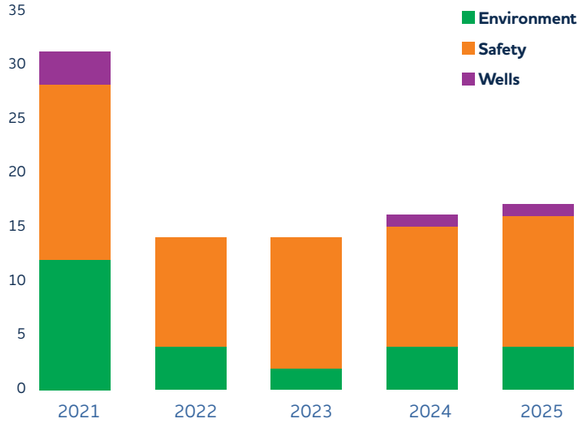
OHS inspections by facility type



Enforcement overview

NOPSEMA takes action to enforce compliance when it identifies serious non-compliance with the legislation and/or the commitments made in permissioning documents; or when it identifies the need for improvements in duty holders' safety, well integrity or environmental performance. Enforcement action is also taken when there is an immediate and/or significant threat to the health or safety of people or the environment.

Trend for enforcements



Two prohibition notices were issued in 2025. One to suspend drilling due to well control equipment that was non-compliant with the standard specified in the facility safety case. Another, to remove degraded equipment from service.

Five general directions were issued in 2025, three of which related to recommencement of field decommissioning activities, one regarding maintenance of hull integrity and one regarding actions to address a gas leak.

Eight OHS improvement notices were issued in 2025 to address various non-compliances across a range of issues, including management of change and permit to work systems, electrical equipment, hazardous substances, noise levels, and equipment testing and assurance.

All directions and notices are published on NOPSEMA's website to provide full transparency of actions taken.

Published directions and notices

Key findings from NOPSEMA investigations

NOPSEMA investigations consistently show that serious incidents and non-compliances are rarely the result of a single technical failure. Instead, they tend to arise from systemic weaknesses in how risks are identified and controlled across offshore operations.

Control of work remains a critical vulnerability

A recurring finding from investigations is the central role of ineffective control of work systems. Where incidents occur, investigations often identify weaknesses in:

- Task planning and job safety analysis.
- Permit to work and change management.
- Management and supervision of contractors.

Investigations

NOPSEMA undertakes investigations as part of its risk-based compliance monitoring and enforcement framework, where it suspects, or becomes aware of, potential non-compliance. These investigations may be triggered by:

- Incidents that are notified to NOPSEMA.
- Complaints or information received from stakeholders.
- Issues identified during inspections or compliance monitoring activities.

Investigations are a formal part of NOPSEMA's compliance monitoring and enforcement framework. They are used to establish the cause of an incident, including any systemic issues that contributed. The investigation identifies any suspected non-compliance, assesses the duty holder response and need for regulatory action, and determines whether an offence may have occurred.

NOPSEMA's investigation outcomes have reinforced that even well-designed procedures fail if they are not consistently implemented, understood and verified at the workface. Strengthening control of work has therefore been embedded as a core regulatory focus area and National Priority.

Leadership and decision making strongly influence safety outcomes

Investigations frequently demonstrate that leadership decisions, both operational and organisational, have a direct impact on safety and environmental outcomes. Key findings include:

- Risk tolerance being implicitly increased through production or schedule pressure.
- Safety critical decisions being made without full appreciation of risk.
- Insufficient challenge or escalation when conditions deviate from normal operations.

Leadership and management has been identified as a National Priority leading to NOPSEMA's increased engagement with duty holder leadership, including leadership focused Better Practice Forums and senior level discussions aimed at reinforcing accountability for safety outcomes.

Quality of incident investigation and reporting is variable

NOPSEMA investigations have identified the opportunity to improve the quality of duty holder incident investigations, particularly in:

- Depth of root cause analysis.
- Identification of immediate vs systemic causes.
- Translation of lessons learned into effective preventative actions.

As a result, NOPSEMA has enabled improved investigation and reporting practices, by including clearer expectations for root cause identification in three and 30-day reports. Consistent terminology and better data quality have also been introduced to support trend analysis and regulatory learning across the industry.

Safety critical elements and asset integrity require stronger assurance

Investigations and inspections continue to highlight gaps in the management and verification of safety critical elements, particularly in ageing infrastructure. Key findings include::

- Reliance on degraded or poorly understood hardware controls.
- Insufficient assurance that safety critical elements continue to meet performance standards.
- Delayed response to known integrity issues.

These findings have resulted in structural integrity being a National Priority with targeted structural integrity inspections and enforcement actions, reinforcing the need for lifecycle-based asset integrity management rather than reactive maintenance.

Psychosocial hazards are emerging as a safety issue

More recent investigations have shown that psychosocial hazards, such as fatigue, bullying and organisational stressors, can materially affect safe work execution. While physical hazards are very different in nature when compared to psychosocial hazards, the effect of both can impact the workplace. Uncontrolled psychosocial risks can degrade decision making, supervision and compliance with critical controls. This has led to increased regulatory attention, identification as a National Priority and the development of guidance in this area.

Early intervention prevents escalation

A consistent finding across investigations is the value of early identification and intervention. Many serious incidents were preceded by:

- Warning signs identified in previous incidents or near misses.
- Repeated low-level non-compliance.
- Known weaknesses identified during inspections.

NOPSEMA's investigation outcomes reinforce that timely corrective action, supported by effective reporting and follow up, can prevent incidents from escalating into major accidents or environmental events.

National Priorities: a strategic approach to offshore regulation

Offshore safety, well integrity and environmental management require a focused and risk-based approach to regulation. NOPSEMA's National Priorities identify key areas where sustained regulatory attention is needed to ensure resources are used effectively and industry performance continues to improve. A summary of the key achievements from 2025 and expectations for the year ahead is provided below.

Control of work

NOPSEMA has established Control of work (CoW) as a National Priority in response to recurring safety incidents and investigation findings that identify weaknesses in task planning, permit to work, isolations and coordination of simultaneous operations as a critical vulnerability across offshore operations. CoW systems are fundamental to managing risk at the workface and ensuring that hazards are identified, controlled and verified before work is undertaken at the front line. As offshore operations become more complex, strengthening these systems remains essential to maintaining safe and reliable operations.

In 2025, NOPSEMA advanced several CoW National Priority initiatives to strengthen data analysis, promote effective CoW systems and promote quality investigation and reporting to better identify the root cause of incidents and prevent recurrence.

Improved data analysis: Through the implementation of the new digital regulatory system, CORE (Central Operations for Regulatory Excellence). NOPSEMA is progressing work to standardise how root causes are described and reported. Once established, this will strengthen NOPSEMA's ability to analyse investigation data and identify systemic weaknesses in CoW systems.

Promote effective CoW systems: While the digital reporting capability is being developed in CORE to improve data analysis, NOPSEMA continues to actively advance its understanding of CoW performance in 2025 and 2026. NOPSEMA's data team has undertaken targeted analysis of CoW related root causes from investigations conducted over the past five years. In parallel, since 2025 NOPSEMA has placed an increased focus on CoW systems during offshore safety inspections, working with duty holders to identify effective practices across different facility types. Together, this ongoing analysis, inspection focus, and the future standardisation of root cause terminology through CORE will generate valuable insights that NOPSEMA can share with industry to promote effective CoW systems.

Quality investigation and reporting: While quality investigation and root cause reporting has been an ongoing focus for the agency, NOPSEMA will continue to strengthen expectations around identifying the true root causes of events. Insights from investigations and inspections continue to inform the National Priority, sharpening regulatory focus on task planning, permit-to-work systems, isolations, and the management of simultaneous operations areas where control of work failures are most frequently identified. This sustained focus supports continuous improvement in industry practice and helps reduce the likelihood of repeat events.

Leadership and Management

Excellence in leadership is central to maintaining high standards of safety and environmental performance. The Leadership and Management National Priority therefore focuses on strengthening how executive and senior leaders understand, influence and are accountable for safety and environmental risk management.

During 2025, NOPSEMA progressed the following initiatives under the Leadership and Management National Priority:

Leadership focused Better Practice Forum: NOPSEMA delivered its first leadership and management focused Better Practice Forum in October 2025.

Executive level engagement: Annual CEO engagements and regular meetings with NOPSEMA's Deputy CEO, Executive Directors in Regulatory Operations, and senior industry leaders enable discussion on accountability, decision making and safety performance between NOPSEMA and industry leadership. These engagements reinforce expectations that executive leaders actively own and influence safety and environmental outcomes within their organisations.

Structural Integrity

Ensuring offshore assets remain safe and well maintained throughout their life is the focus of the Structural Integrity National Priority. Offshore infrastructure must be well-maintained and regularly assessed to ensure long-term safety and environmental performance. As assets age, proactive maintenance and inspection practices are key to preventing structural integrity issues before they arise.

During 2025, NOPSEMA progressed the following under the Structural Integrity National Priority:

Targeted structural integrity inspections: Nineteen structural integrity inspections were undertaken to benchmark industry performance. These inspections focused on the effectiveness of Structural Integrity Management systems and the assurance of safety critical elements. Three inspections resulted in enforcement outcomes, including the issuing of general directions.

Risk-based inspection approach: Structural integrity inspections were planned and delivered using a risk-based inspection framework, targeting facilities assessed as high risk, including ageing fixed platforms, FPSOs and FLNG facilities.

Addressing Redundant Wells

The Addressing Redundant Wells National Priority was established to ensure that non-producing wells are properly decommissioned, reducing potential environmental impacts and aligning with good industry practice.

Initiatives undertaken in 2025 were:

Decommissioning Compliance Strategy 2024-2029: NOPSEMA developed and finalised its Decommissioning Compliance Strategy. The strategy sets out clear targets for industry regarding the timely plug and abandonment of redundant wells.

Risk profiling and tiering of wells: A structured risk ranking and tiered framework was established to assess redundant wells based on factors such as well age, integrity status, monitoring arrangements and future use. NOPSEMA undertook direct engagement with titleholders who were identified as having high-risk wells to reinforce expectations and outline required actions.

Psychosocial Health

Ensuring offshore workers feel safe, supported, and free of bullying and harassment is an important part of workplace safety. With legislative changes taking effect in 2025, duty holders are required to explicitly consider psychosocial risks in their safety cases and report on psychosocial incidents such as harassment and bullying.

During 2025, NOPSEMA progressed the Psychosocial Health National Priority with the following initiatives:

Development of external guidance material:

- Psychosocial Risk Management Guidance Note
- Sexual Harassment, Bullying or Harassment Incident Form

These documents are available on the NOPSEMA Document Hub:

NOPSEMA Document Hub

Regulatory communication and awareness: NOPSEMA published an article in the December 2025 edition of The Regulator on NOPSEMA's approach to regulating psychosocial hazards. NOPSEMA has also incorporated psychosocial health messaging into industry forums and national priority communications to raise awareness of expectations and emerging good practice.

Read the article

Integration with broader regulatory activity: Work under the Psychosocial Health National Priority has been aligned with inspection activities, workforce engagement and data improvements to build a more consistent understanding of psychosocial risk management across offshore workplaces.

Decommissioning

Offshore oil and gas decommissioning in Australia has entered a period of heightened regulatory focus, driven by an ageing asset base, increased community and government expectations, and reforms following high profile legacy asset failures.

Decommissioning is a stated regulatory priority for NOPSEMA, reflected in NOPSEMA's Decommissioning Compliance Strategy 2024–2029. NOPSEMA has made clear that failure to meet decommissioning obligations, including appropriate well plug and abandonment, will result in increased oversight, inspections, and potentially the issue of general directions requiring specific actions within defined timeframes.

NOPSEMA's regulatory approach aligns with, and supports, the Australian Government's broader decommissioning framework, including reforms addressing trailing liability, financial capacity and title relinquishment.

Decommissioning Compliance Strategy 2024–2029

NOPSEMA's 2024–2029 Decommissioning Compliance Strategy marks a significant evolution in regulatory approach. The strategy responds to industry's growing decommissioning risks and past shortcomings, and public expectations by:

- Setting expectations and targets for permanent well abandonment and infrastructure removal, thereby requiring early planning, driving timely action and reducing the environmental and safety risks associated with decommissioning.
- Employing a rigorous, risk-based oversight regime that focuses compliance resources on ageing fields, long-suspended wells, and operators falling behind on decommissioning – a sharpened strategy to pre-empt problems before they escalate.
- Reinforcing NOPSEMA's readiness to intervene early and decisively. This includes more frequent inspections and the routine use of statutory enforcement powers like improvement notices or general directions, to ensure decommissioning progresses on schedule and to deter non-compliance.
- Integrating decommissioning into the entire project lifecycle by requiring decommissioning to be planned from project outset and regularly updated. The strategy sets explicit expectations that five-plus years before expected cessation of production, operators must have robust decommissioning plans and updated permissioning documents in place and these should mature as the facility gets closer to the end of field life.
- Reinforcing that removal of all property is the "base case" as this is consistent with Australia's international obligations. Alternative approaches may be considered but must comply with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and its regulations, including the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

NOPSEMA's vision for decommissioning

NOPSEMA's vision is that decommissioning of offshore petroleum wells, structures and property is completed in a timely, safe, and environmentally responsible manner. In regulating for decommissioning, NOPSEMA's objectives are to:

- Ensure titleholders have appropriate plans for decommissioning and are completing activities in a timely manner.
- Provide certainty to industry regarding their obligations relating to decommissioning.
- Improve understanding and build capacity in safe and responsible decommissioning.
- Encourage knowledge sharing with all stakeholders.

Decommissioning performance

In the last five years there has been an increase in decommissioning activities in line with government, stakeholders and community expectations.

Under the OPGGS framework, there have been

64 production systems operating

30 of which are no longer producing

Of the 30 production systems that are no longer producing

7 have been decommissioned to an accepted end-state, and

8 have decommissioning execution works underway

In the last five years

280

wells have been plugged and abandoned

There are currently

489

non-operational wells

17 environment plans for decommissioning

have been approved during 2021-2025

National Priority: Addressing redundant wells

NOPSEMA acknowledges that well abandonment is complex. Plug and abandonment (P&A) design and planning is highly technical and specialised. NOPSEMA has made addressing redundant wells a National Priority, which is a key area where sustained regulatory attention is needed, ensuring resources are used effectively and industry performance continues to improve.

Timely and effective well plug and abandonment is essential for safety, environmental protection, and long-term risk management. Ensuring that non-producing wells are properly decommissioned reduces the risk of the loss of containment and minimises the potential for safety and environmental impacts.

As detailed in NOPSEMA's Decommissioning Compliance Strategy 2024-2029, it is NOPSEMA's expectation that non-producing wells for a facility that has reached end of life, are plugged and abandoned within three years of production ceasing and no later than 10 years after being suspended if the facility is still producing.

NOPSEMA is:

- Giving greater focus to non-producing wells by prioritising compliance action to address high- risk wells so that decommissioning obligations are met.
- Enhancing regulatory oversight to support industry in meeting good-practice standards.
- Improving data transparency to enable better planning and risk assessment.

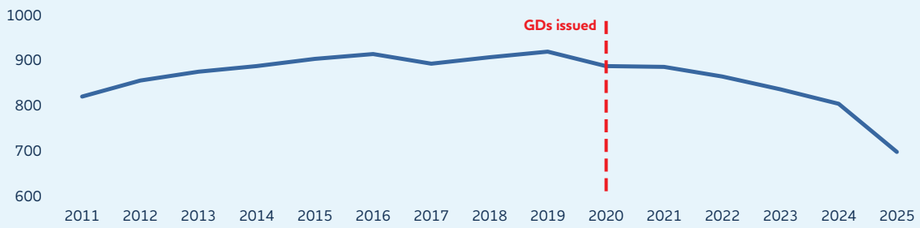
This approach will help ensure well abandonment is managed efficiently, safely, and in alignment with recognised standards and good industry practice.

Offshore well inventory

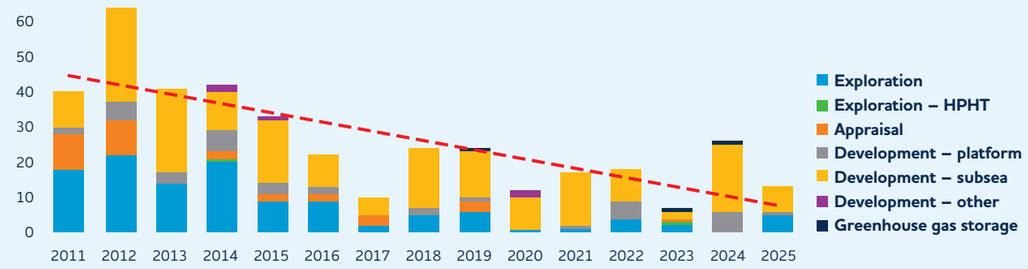
The number of registered wells on titles is declining, with a sustained decline since 2020 when NOPSEMA commenced issuing general directions (GD) targeting redundant wells, requiring titleholders to plan for and complete permanent plug and abandonment within defined timeframes.

Industry effort is shifting from drilling of new wells to late-life obligations, with well abandonment increasing notably in recent years while spudding continues to fall – consistent with an accelerating transition to decommissioning activities.

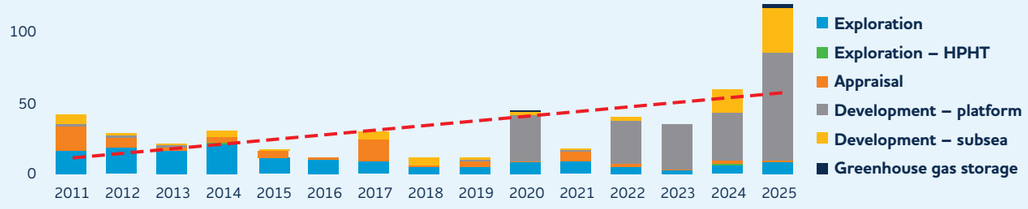
Total wells since 2011



Wells spud since 2011



Wells abandoned since 2011



Leaving property in-situ

NOPSEMA expects titleholders to progressively decommission structures, equipment and property over the operating life of each project, as that property becomes redundant and is no longer in use to best manage risks.

Guidance for removal of oil and gas property and sea dumping of infrastructure in Commonwealth waters is expected to be published in 2026.

The guidance is a collaborative effort between the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and NOPSEMA.

Only a small amount of property and equipment has been approved to remain in-situ.

Outlook and forward priorities

NOPSEMA's Digital Transformation is a multi-year program aimed at modernising the way NOPSEMA and OIR undertake their regulatory activities.

This includes replacing legacy systems, standardising regulatory processes, and improving data quality, transparency and efficiency across offshore safety, well integrity, environmental management and offshore renewables.

Project CORE

At the centre of the digital transformation is Project CORE, focused on delivering a new, integrated digital regulatory platform.

The transformation is being delivered by the CORE project team, which was initiated in response to the Australian Government's Deregulation Agenda, with the explicit objective of reducing administrative burden on industry while strengthening regulatory capability.

When it goes live, CORE will:

- Deliver a single online portal for duty holders that centralises all regulatory activities, such as submitting applications, receiving notifications and reports, tracking progress, and accessing guidance material
- Introduce digital workflows, automated notifications, and request linked submissions that reduce back-and-forth emails and improve clarity around what is required and when
- Standardise regulatory workflows across business areas, supporting greater consistency and predictability in regulatory outcomes
- Improve connectivity between assessments, inspections, compliance actions and historical records across the life of offshore assets.

Across April and May 2026, NOPSEMA is holding a second round of industry focus groups with duty holders to gather input and feedback on the external CORE portal. A first round was completed in September 2025, holding in-person sessions with more than 100 representatives from 15 industry operators across Australia. Workshops were positively received, with participants contributing valuable ideas that were incorporated into the design of the system.

Industry involvement in CORE's development is critical to ensure the platform is fit for purpose and achieves its objective to improve the regulatory interaction and experience for industry.

Legislative changes

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act Reforms

The Australian Government is progressing major reforms to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to modernise environmental regulation, strengthen environmental outcomes and improve the efficiency and clarity of approvals processes. These reforms have direct and material implications for NOPSEMA's role as the offshore environmental regulator.

The *Environment Protection Reform Act 2025* and related legislation were passed by the Australian Parliament in late November 2025 and received Royal Assent on 1 December 2025.

The reforms provide a new discretionary power for the Minister for the Environment to declare that offshore environment applications approved by NOPSEMA under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* and regulations do not require separate approval under the EPBC Act, subject to a series of conditions being met (see s36H of the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025).

Revised Safety Regulations and changes to the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*

New work health and safety regulations came into effect on 12 June 2025, following an Australian Government review of the offshore safety regime.

The revised legislation can be found here:

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 - Federal Register of Legislation

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024 - Federal Register of Legislation

Prior to the amended regulations coming into effect on 12 June, NOPSEMA hosted a series of online industry information sessions on key aspects of the changes, answering industry's most pressing questions and providing clarity on the implications of specific regulation changes. NOPSEMA also engaged with industry and sought public feedback during the preparation and updating of its suite of guidance materials and forms related to the changes.

Video recordings of NOPSEMA's monthly information sessions and a frequently asked questions fact sheet can be found in the Offshore Industry – Safety section of the NOPSEMA website.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024

At a glance – what's changed

Strengthened the role of HSRs

HSRs are required to complete up to five days of training initially and one day of refresher training per year and can choose their own NOPSEMA-accredited training provider.

Workforce health and wellbeing

Duty holders must consider a wide range of factors when managing worker fatigue, and workers are protected against discrimination for exercising their rights.

Sexual harassment and psychosocial health

The definition of 'health' has changed to include psychosocial health (i.e. mental as well as physical health) and there are new reporting requirements for incidents of sexual harassment, bullying and harassment.

Modernised diving regulations

NOPSEMA can withdraw acceptance of a Diving Safety Management System (DSMS) and can request further information on a DSMS during assessment; DSMS must be revised every five years.

NOPSEMA must be provided with copies of Diving Project Plans, and has the power to accept, refuse or request more information in a Diving Start-Up Notice.

Mandatory Design Notification Scheme

NOPSEMA can be consulted on the design of production and CCS facilities. NOPSEMA does not accept or reject the notifications but does provide advice.

Administration of safety cases

Operators must revise their safety case if there is a control measure change that is critical to safety and must submit a revised safety case every five years.

Operators and titleholders

The concept of a proposed operator has been introduced, as has a clarified process for a change of operator. New operator registration and deregistration criteria has also been introduced.

Compliance and enforcement

Notification and reporting requirements have been clarified. There are new requirements for reporting offshore hours worked and personnel on board.

Vessel Activity Notifications Scheme

Operators must notify NOPSEMA when a vessel becomes or ceases to be a facility.

Contact information

Operators must notify NOPSEMA of key contact information as part of monthly reporting requirements.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations Remake

The Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2025 (RMA Regulations) have been remade with some changes to allow for more effective management of Australia's oil and gas resources.

The RMA Regulations are part of the legal framework for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas (GHG) storage activity under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGS Act) and came into effect on 31 March 2026.

In the lead-up to the transition, NOPSEMA engaged with industry to support understanding and readiness. Guidance materials, frequently asked questions and webinars can be found in the well integrity section of the NOPSEMA website.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations

RMA Regulations – what's changed

- Improved, clarified and modernised annual titles assessment reports, field development plans and well operation management plans to facilitate monitoring and compliance.
- Revised data management requirements to promote data transparency, align with best practice standards and be technology neutral.
- Simplified sample analysis reporting requirement to provide a final analysis report to the Titles Administrator, irrespective of where the analysis is conducted.
- Clarified the requirement to submit daily geological reports to the Titles Administrator when undertaking drilling operations in a title area.
- Streamlined information requirements for initial and final well completion reports.
- Revised and clarified the list of samples that titleholders must submit to address information gaps.
- Clarified requirements for titleholders to submit interpretation reports and associated non-exclusive data.
- Changed the release timeframes for non-exclusive seismic data from 15 years to 10 years.
- Clarified the submission process and reduced the number of release timeframes for disclosable information.
- Made it possible to share greenhouse gas injection and storage information with the Commonwealth agency administering laws to protect the environment
- Modernised penalty provisions to encourage and support industry compliance
- Minor amendments throughout to be consistent with current drafting practices.

Offshore renewables industry

Activity and performance

With amendments to the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022 coming into force in late 2024, the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) has commenced its operational regulatory role.

Since the OEI Regulations commenced, the OIR has approved six feasibility-stage management plans for offshore wind projects.

These approvals allow licence holders to undertake feasibility activities, such as metocean and geotechnical investigations, within their licence areas off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria to assess the potential for harnessing renewable energy. Management plans are legally binding documents that detail how activities are to be carried out under *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (OEI) Act 2021* licences.

The OIR also commenced inspections of the first phase of feasibility activities covering aspects including work health and safety, compliance with environmental obligations and removal of infrastructure and property requirements.

To assist licence holders and other stakeholders in understanding regulatory requirements, the OIR has released a suite of policies to communicate how it exercises its functions under the OEI Act framework. The OIR has also published a series of guidelines and brochures on various aspects of the regulatory framework which are available on the OIR website.

Read the OIR's brochures and fact sheets

OIR key figures 2025

Number of in-force feasibility licences **13**	Management plans approved **6**
Number of activities regulated **8**	Number of inspections **2**
Number of notifiable incidents **1**	Number of investigations and/or enforcements **0**

Search for feasibility licences on the NEATS Public Portal

Find out more about approved management plans

Outlook and forward priorities

Australia's offshore renewables sector is transitioning from feasibility stage activities into more detailed project design and planning to facilitate project development. Similarly, the OIR has moved from regulatory development into regulatory implementation and improvement as more licence holders and other stakeholders begin to formally engage with the framework.

While specific project timelines depend on government decisions and commercial readiness, the medium-term outlook is characterised by:

- Transition from feasibility and licensing into construction and early operations
- Increased inspection, compliance monitoring and assurance activity
- Greater focus on areas of high risk as activities scale up, complexity increases and asset numbers grow.

During this transition, the OIR will continue to focus on enabling the safe and responsible development of offshore renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure, while maintaining strong protections for workers, the environment and other marine users.

For the sector this means:

Clear pathways to progress offshore renewables projects

Industry can expect a defined and increasingly predictable licensing and regulatory framework for offshore electricity infrastructure, supporting early-stage feasibility work and longer-term investment planning.

Strong upfront expectations for safety, environment and integrity

Developers must demonstrate robust management of workforce safety, environmental impacts, infrastructure integrity and financial security from the earliest project stages, with these expectations applying across the full lifecycle.

Proportionate regulation that supports early development

Risk-based regulation and targeted guidance intended to be efficient and focused while maintaining strong safety and environmental standards and clear accountability.

Greater coordination and transparency across regulators

Industry should expect to see more coordinated oversight, clearer communication and improved regulatory consistency as agencies work together to manage shared interfaces as projects progress toward their operational phase.

International collaboration

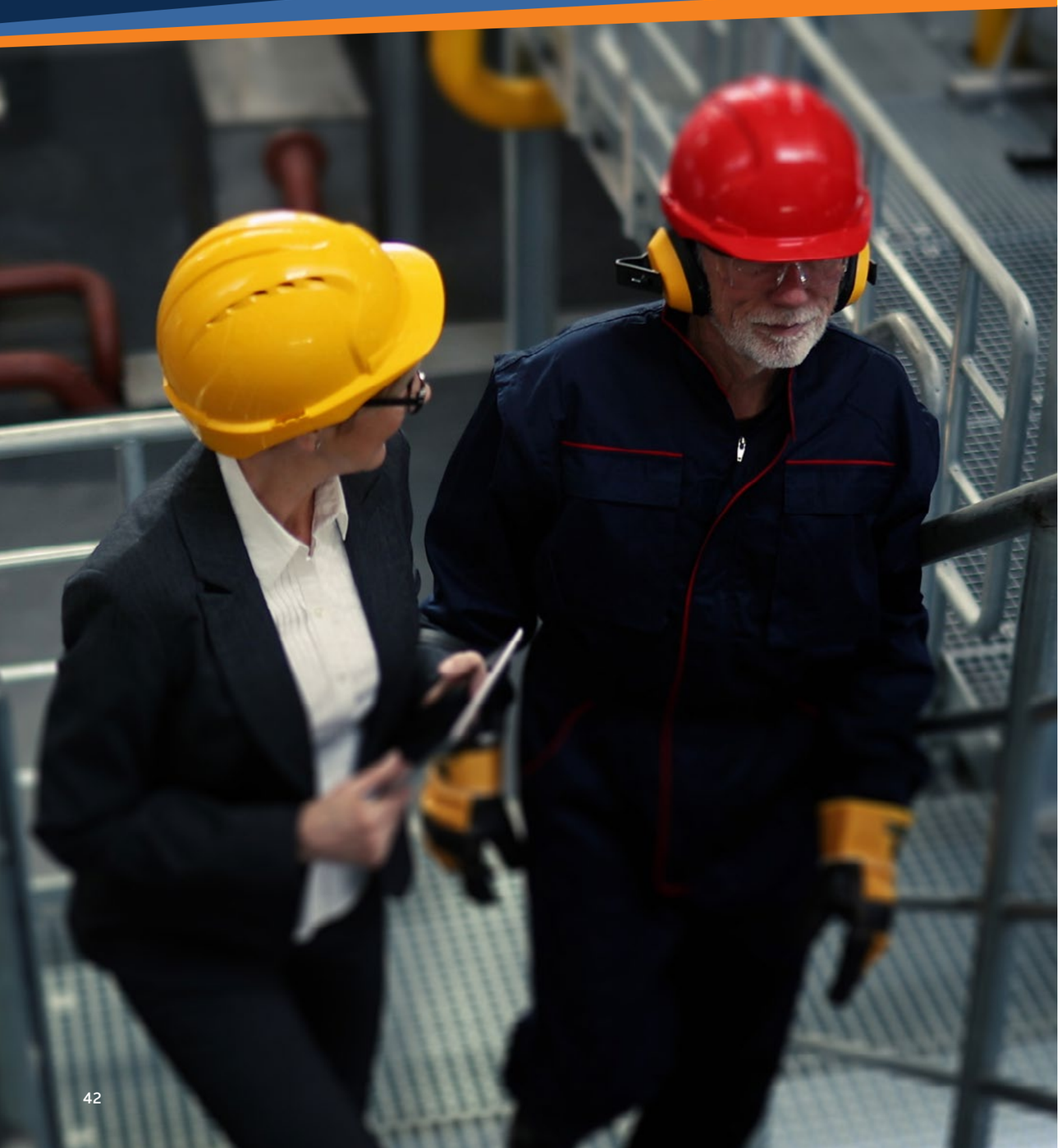
While the offshore renewables sector is relatively new to Australia, technologies such as offshore wind have been generating energy in overseas jurisdictions for many years. As an emerging jurisdiction in a global sector, Australia has the opportunity to learn from established jurisdictions and to apply those learnings to the management of safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management risks throughout the project development lifecycle.

This applies not only to offshore renewables licence holders, many of whom have brought experience and knowledge from developing projects in other jurisdictions, but also to the structure of the regulatory framework for the sector and how it is applied.

Australia is the current chair of the International Regulators Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee and is a founding member of the Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum. These forums bring regulators from a variety of international jurisdictions and geographies together to share information and to learn from one another about leading practice in the management of risks to people and environment that may arise from offshore renewables projects.

The OIR seeks to continuously improve how we regulate and, through our activities, seeks to drive improvement in safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental outcomes within the sector. This stage in the development lifecycle of the sector presents a significant opportunity to establish an industry built on strong foundations where the protection of people and the environment remain a core focus.

Stakeholder perspectives



Collaboration and engagement are central to NOPSEMA as an Australian Government regulator, and proactive external engagement with a broad range of stakeholders is a key component of our strategic and corporate plan.

This program's objectives include providing NOPSEMA an opportunity to understand the broader communities' perspectives on both NOPSEMA's role as regulator as well as industry's performance.

Engagement with the community

In 2025 NOPSEMA established a new regulatory stakeholder engagement team, which coordinates external engagement with industry stakeholders and relevant persons, and provides specialist advice on assessing consultation in environment plans. In 2025, NOPSEMA met with First Nations groups; our Community and Environment Reference Group (CERG); fisheries organisations; and state and federal government agencies.

The purpose of these engagements was to explain NOPSEMA's role as a regulator and further their understanding of the oil and gas lifecycle. Engagements also focused on explaining NOPSEMA's environmental assessment process, compliance regime and consultation obligations, clarifying how relevant persons can provide effective input during consultation with industry, and understanding the concerns or observations raised by stakeholders.

Insight for industry

The following themes were regularly raised across NOPSEMA's engagement activities and were also reflected in public comments on environment plans. NOPSEMA will use these insights to refine our engagement and education program and encourage industry to consider them when undertaking consultation and assessing impacts and risks when preparing environment plans.

Quality and adequacy of consultation

Concerns were raised about the quality and adequacy of consultation, including whether consultation outcomes were effectively communicated back to relevant persons, the capacity and resources available for stakeholders to participate, and the level of understanding of oil and gas activities. In areas with multiple proponents or industries, consultation demands were also seen to contribute to fatigue, and some relevant persons perceived consultation as a procedural or 'tick-a-box' exercise, with challenges in balancing sufficient time and information against titleholder discretion.

Communication during environmental incidents

How relevant persons are communicated with in the event of an environmental incident such as an oil spill can be an issue for stakeholders. Expectation varies between relevant persons groups about involvement in incident responses, with First Nations groups expressing a desire to be involved in marine response arrangements.

Cumulative and broader environmental impacts

In regions where multiple offshore activities or overlapping industries occur, concern exists about cumulative impact to the environment, and how risks are managed collectively to ensure impacts remain acceptable.

Climate change and marine heatwave impacts

Our engagements revealed an increased community focus on marine environment health, such as coral bleaching and seagrass loss, and concerns for flow-on effects for fisheries, food sources, cultural practice and community health.

Marine seismic surveys

Heightened community concern exists about marine seismic surveys and their potential impact on the environment. These concerns are compounded by misinformation and disinformation, which make effective education and consultation more challenging.

Impact to commercial fishing

Concerns were expressed regarding reduced fishing access, the potential impact of oil and gas and other industry activities on fish stock.

Decommissioning

Views differ among relevant persons on whether offshore infrastructure should be left in situ or removed, reflecting differing priorities regarding environmental impacts.

First Nations engagement

NOPSEMA continues to strengthen its engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in recognition of their enduring connection to land and Sea Country across Australia's offshore areas.

In 2025, NOPSEMA met with First Nations representative organisations across Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Victoria.

In addition to topics covered in the 'industry insights' section, First Nations groups raised additional points including:

- Best practice engagement is built on relationships, including engagement outside environment plan consultation.
- Consultation should be early in project development and provide a holistic view, allowing for greater planning and understanding of impacts and risks, and include ongoing consultation commitments.
- Consultation should be culturally appropriate and tailored to how a particular group works.
- Understanding of oil and gas activities varies greatly, as does maturity in participating in consultation.
- Lack of capacity and funding, combined with an increase in consultation requests across multiple industries and government agencies, creates a consultation burden/fatigue.
- Consideration of intangible cultural features of the environment is important – ensuring titleholders consult on the broad definition of 'environment'.
- A desire to actively participate in marine incident response.
- Groups take their cultural obligation to care for Sea Country seriously and expect this to be reflected in environment plans.

Community and Environment Reference Group

NOPSEMA established a Community and Environment Reference Group (CERG) in March 2018 as an avenue for receiving community views that help guide the regulator's approach to regulation of offshore petroleum environmental management.

Members of the group participate as individuals, rather than representatives of their employer or organisation, and contribute their experience and perspectives in a range of areas that interact with offshore petroleum environmental regulation. These areas include:

- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Conservation advocacy
- First Nations
- Public policy and government functioning
- Small business and tourism
- Regional perspectives from the northern, north-west and south-east regions of Australia

The CERG meets twice a year, and in 2025 the CERG met in April and December.

Common themes have been included in the 'insights for industry' section and largely reflect feedback NOPSEMA hears through direct engagement with relevant persons.

First Nations cultural heritage

The definition of 'environment' in the OPGGS Environment Regulations 2023 is broad in scope. NOPSEMA has observed that in some cases industry does not always realise that First Nations cultural heritage is part of the 'environment' as defined under the regulations.

First Nations cultural heritage can include cultural features of ecosystems, natural and physical resources, and the heritage values of places. Holistically described as 'Country' or 'Sea Country', it is the environmental setting with which First Nations peoples have cultural connections even where no physical heritage features are present. As such, it also includes the cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems of First Nations people that express their cultural identity.

When developing an understanding of impacts and risks to First Nations cultural features of the environment and heritage values, offshore petroleum activity proponents might consider:

Underwater cultural heritage: Traces of human existence located underwater that has a cultural, historical or archaeological character. This includes sites, structures, buildings, artefacts, and human and animal remains, along with their archaeological and natural context.

A culturally significant place: A geographically defined area that includes natural and/or cultural features with aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations, and as such may be a feature of the submerged landscape.

Intangible cultural heritage: A practice, representation, expression, knowledge, or skill that may be expressed through oral traditions, language, social practices, rituals, knowledge or practices about nature or the universe, or traditional craftsmanship.

Meaningful and informed consultation with relevant First Nations groups will support the identification of cultural features of the environment, in turn improving impact and risk management during the preparation of environment plans.

2025 Stakeholder engagement survey

In 2025, we commissioned an independent stakeholder survey to assess the performance and effectiveness of NOPSEMA and the OIR in the discharge of their statutory functions.

The survey captured feedback from a broad cross section of key external stakeholder groups. Overall, stakeholders regard NOPSEMA as an effective, high performing regulator and noted the OIR is off to a strong start.

The following provides an overview of the stakeholder survey results relating to NOPSEMA.

NOPSEMA Stakeholders rated NOPSEMA positively

Interviews **6.6 / 10**

Online surveys **6.3 / 10**

Small minority expressed stronger criticism; majority held positive views.

Strengths

- Strong stakeholder confidence in NOPSEMA's independence.
- Effective achievement of NOPSEMA's vision and purpose.
- High levels of competence, professionalism, and technical capability.
- Improved engagement with a broader range of stakeholder groups.

Safety and Independence

- Over 80% of online responses indicated medium to high confidence in NOPSEMA.
- Majority agreed NOPSEMA demonstrates independence and fairness.

Comparison to other regulators

- Viewed as more professional, consistent, and effective than most other regulators stakeholders deal with.
- Over 65% of online survey respondents stated NOPSEMA performs better than its regulatory counterparts.

The following provides an overview of the stakeholder survey results relating to the OIR. Noting that the OIR, as well as the industry that it regulates, is at a vastly different stage of maturity and despite a smaller cohort of survey participants, feedback provides useful insights for ongoing improvement as the OIR continues to implement its regulatory functions.

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator OIR performance ratings (0–10 scale)

Stakeholder interviews **8.2 / 10** Average rating **8.21 / 10**

Online surveys **6.6 / 10** Average rating **6.63 / 10**

Confidence & Engagement

55%+ Stakeholders reporting **high or very high confidence in OIR**

60%+ Stakeholders rating engagement with OIR staff as **effective or very effective**

OIR snapshot

OIR **formally established** 2022

OIR staff described as **knowledgeable, proactive** and **responsive**

OIR's regulatory advice and guidance rated **strongly** and **consistently**

No major safety incidents reported by stakeholders

Engagement with the workforce

NOPSEMA is committed to driving improved outcomes in health and safety and recognises the offshore workforce plays an important role in this regard. NOPSEMA engages the workforce in health and safety management through several channels:

- **Health and safety representatives (HSRs):** HSRs are empowered under legislation to represent workers and raise safety concerns.
- **Workforce participation forums:** NOPSEMA organises forums for HSRs, regulators, unions and other workforce representatives, and industry bodies to share ideas and lessons.
- **Training and support:** Training courses and inspection information are provided to HSRs and inspectors.
- **Direct communication:** Members of the workforce, or their representative, can contact NOPSEMA to raise concerns, seek advice or make a complaint.
- **Inspections:** NOPSEMA meets with HSRs when undertaking inspection activities. Any member of the workforce can also seek to speak directly with a NOPSEMA inspector.

Insight for industry

The following themes were raised across NOPSEMA's engagement with the workforce. NOPSEMA will use these insights to refine our industry education program, inform planning of compliance monitoring, and encourage industry to consider them within their own organisational management and operations.

Key themes raised by workforce:

- Psychosocial health risks, including bullying, harassment and sexual harassment, and the need for clearer expectations and consistent management of these risks offshore.
- Fatigue concerns, particularly related to roster design, long working hours and demanding offshore conditions.
- Effectiveness of safety systems, including HSR engagement and the practical operation of control of work processes such as permits, isolations and task planning.
- Emerging safety risks during decommissioning, as ageing infrastructure enters end-of-life phases.

Key themes raised through representative bodies:

- Clarification of jurisdictional boundaries for vessels operating across different jurisdictions.
- Condition of Safety Critical Equipment on non-Australian vessels entering commonwealth waters.

NOPSEMA continued an ongoing program of events and forums designed to serve as a platform to hear and understand workforce issues, promote best practice and work collaboratively to address issues that had been previously raised or observed.

HSR Forum 2025

In March 2025, NOPSEMA delivered, in partnership with Australian Energy Producers (AEP) and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), the fourth annual HSR Forum. The event provided a dedicated forum for Health and Safety Representatives to engage directly with NOPSEMA officers, share experiences, and discuss emerging offshore OHS and safety management trends. Core themes were:

- The role of HSRs in collaboration and dispute resolution
- Future OHS challenges associated with decommissioning activities.

The 2025 forum also marked the introduction of NOPSEMA's inaugural HSR Awards. The HSR Awards celebrate and acknowledge health and safety representatives who demonstrate three key qualities:

- Advocacy: setting an example in advocating for OHS in the workplace.
- Continuous improvement: identifying and implementing improvements that reduce OHS risk.
- Leadership: promoting and demonstrating through their actions the importance of the HSR role.

In total, 17 health and safety representatives from the offshore industry were nominated. All were recognised for their hard work and commitment to an often challenging and complicated role.

HSR Handbook

In 2025, NOPSEMA released an updated HSR Handbook to support offshore HSRs in understanding their powers, rights and responsibilities under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024. The handbook provides practical guidance and tools to strengthen workforce consultation, representation and participation in offshore safety management.

The handbook was updated to align with the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024, which represent the most significant changes to Australia's offshore safety regime in more than a decade. The revised handbook ensures HSRs have current, practical guidance that reflects these regulatory changes.

The updated HSR Handbook provides:

- Clear explanation of HSR powers, functions and rights under the updated safety regulations.
- Guidance on effective consultation, issue resolution and representation of work groups.

- Practical tools, templates and examples to support HSRs in day-to-day safety activities.
- Information to help HSRs engage confidently with duty holders, supervisors and NOPSEMA inspectors.

Availability

Digital version: Available on the NOPSEMA website via the Health and Safety Representatives page

Hard copies: Available through NOPSEMA's Communications team

Engagement with industry

NOPSEMA's engagement with industry supports effective offshore regulation by promoting a shared understanding of regulatory requirements, improving the quality of submissions and driving better safety, environmental, structural and well integrity outcomes. Ongoing dialogue with operators and the workforce helps NOPSEMA identify emerging risks, inform risk-based compliance and enforcement activities, and refine guidance and regulatory approaches. Engagement also supports the implementation of regulatory change and the delivery of modern, efficient regulatory services, while reinforcing transparency, trust and accountability across the offshore sector.

In 2025, NOPSEMA engaged directly with industry through forums, information sessions and industry one-on-one meetings focused on regulatory change, emerging risks and areas of persistent non-compliance.

Key activities included:

- **Better Practice Forums** – see over
- **Targeted information sessions** to support industry understanding of the legislative changes associated with the OPGGS Act amendments and Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024 that came into effect on 12 June 2025.
- Ongoing **regulator–industry meetings** to clarify expectations associated with regulatory approaches and compliance obligations.
- **Digital transformation workshop sessions** in September 2025 to support the development of a new digital platform for regulatory interactions (web portal and internal application).

Better Practice Forums

NOPSEMA hosted the **Better Practice Forum – Environmental Submissions: Collaboration and Innovation** in April 2025. The forum focused on how environmental submissions – particularly Offshore Project Proposals (OPPs) and environment plans (EPs) – are assessed and approved, and how collaboration and innovative approaches can improve submission quality and regulatory outcomes.

The forum brought together more than 90 industry representatives and NOPSEMA leaders to share practical insights into what supports effective environmental submissions. Discussions explored common challenges encountered during assessment and highlighted opportunities to improve submissions through earlier engagement, clearer project definition and more robust demonstrations of environmental acceptability.

NOPSEMA provided observations on recurring issues in environmental submissions, including the most common unmet acceptance criteria, challenges in demonstrating ALARP and acceptable levels of impact, and how proponents can better navigate uncertainty in predicting environmental impacts. The forum also examined how OPPs can be more effectively leveraged to support subsequent EP submissions, reducing rework and assessment complexity.

A key theme of the forum was the value of open dialogue and collaboration between regulators and industry to achieve better environmental outcomes while improving the efficiency and predictability of the assessment and acceptance processes. The forum reinforced that constructive engagement and innovation in approach, rather than late-stage corrections, are central to improving both environmental performance and regulatory timeframes.

In October 2025, NOPSEMA staged the **Better Practice Forum – Leadership that drives safety and performance**, bringing together industry leaders, academics and NOPSEMA executives to explore how leadership at all levels influences safety outcomes and organisational performance in offshore operations.

The forum focused on the role of leadership in shaping safety culture, accountability and major accident prevention, emphasising that strong safety performance is not solely a technical issue but a leadership responsibility.

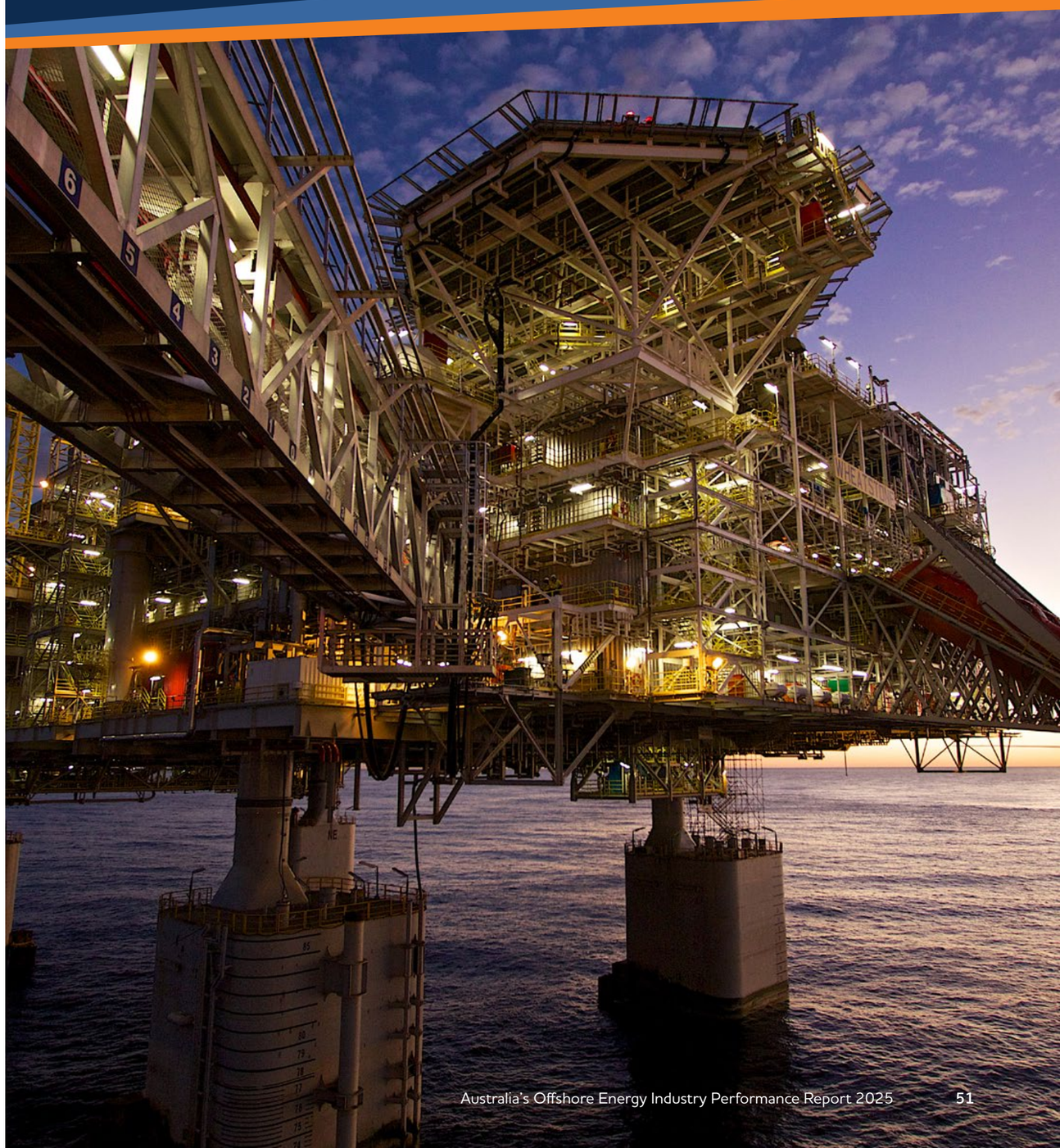
A keynote presentation by Emeritus Professor Andrew Hopkins (ANU) challenged conventional views by reinforcing that leadership decisions, behaviours and organisational culture are central to preventing major accidents. His presentation focused on two practical actions leaders can take to make their organisations safer: establishing an effective system for reporting warning signs ("bad news") and improving the quality and purpose of senior management walk-arounds.

Presentations from NOPSEMA senior executives and industry leaders, including representatives from offshore operators, explored strategic leadership, regulatory stewardship and the translation of leadership intent into operational practice. These discussions highlighted the link between executive decision-making, frontline behaviour and sustained safety performance.

The forum concluded by reinforcing that leadership is an ongoing journey rather than a one-off initiative, and that continuous engagement between industry and the regulator is essential to drive lasting improvements in safety and performance across the offshore sector.

Appendix 1

NOPSEMA annual data tables



Assessments

Assessment type submitted[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
OHS submissions												
Safety Case	New	14	27	11	14	10	6	11	16	16	13	138
	Revision	59	76	86	60	69	62	88	82	81	96	759
Diving Safety Management System	New		3	2	1	1				1	1	9
	Revision	3	3	8	2	6		3			1	26
Diving Project Plan	Not Applicable		2							1		3
Scope of Validation	Not Applicable	44	54	44	46	64	52	73	77	94	90	638
Request for Exemption under OHS Regs	Not Applicable									5	6	11
Diving Start-up Notice	Not Applicable	8	15	9	5	3	8	4	3	2	4	61
Total OHS		**128**	**180**	**160**	**128**	**153**	**128**	**179**	**178**	**200**	**211**	**1645**
WI submissions												
Application for Approval to Undertake Well Activity (AAUWA)	Not Applicable	59	34				1		4	1		99
Well Operations Management Plan Victoria / Pre 2016 Commonwealth	New	1			1		1	2				5
	Variation						1					1
	New	44	30	8	15	17	13	12	13	23	24	199
	Revision		10	11	13	9	42	30	23	23	34	195
Final Abandonment Report	Abandonment	6	28	22	13	12	7	16	18	51	52	225
Request to Undertake a Well Activity in a Specified Manner	Not Applicable	1		1	1					8	6	17
Total WI		**111**	**102**	**42**	**43**	**38**	**65**	**60**	**58**	**106**	**116**	**741**
EM submissions												
Environment Plan	New	20	20	21	10							71
	Revision	11	20	15	4							50
Environment Plan (Development)	New				11	18	19	20	12	12	13	105
	Revision				9	10	14	11	10	15	9	78
Environment Plan (Exploration)[3]	New				7	8	10	5	5	9	3	47
	Revision					1	2	1	1		1	6
Environment Plan Summary	Not Applicable	24	32	39	42	30	33	30	24	36	30	320
End of an environment plan (Reg 25A)	Not Applicable	15	94	55	23	25	23	29	11			275
End of Environment Plan Reg 46	Not Applicable									12	14	26
Offshore Project Proposal	Suitability for Publication - Stage 1	1		1	2	3		1	2	2	1	13
	Suitability for Acceptance - Stage 2		1		2	2	1			3	1	10
Total EM		**71**	**167**	**131**	**110**	**97**	**102**	**97**	**65**	**89**	**72**	**1001**

Assessment type submitted[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
PSZ submissions												
ATBA Access Application	Not Applicable		2		8	7		1	2	7	4	31
PSZ Application	New	1	3	3	3	1	2	4	2	1	8	28
	Variation	7	1				1	2		3	5	19
PSZ Access Application	Not Applicable	1			3	3						7
Total PSZ		**9**	**6**	**3**	**14**	**11**	**3**	**7**	**4**	**11**	**17**	**85**
Other submissions												
NOPTA request for title related compliance information	Application for a retention lease				3	7	1		2	2	2	17
	Cancellation of petroleum exploration permit				2	5	1		1	2	3	14
	General Advice					14	6	2	5	3	5	35
	Grant of a petroleum-related pipeline licence	1	2			1	3	1	4	1	2	15
	Modification/ alteration/repair to pipeline				7	1						8
	Renewal of fixed-term production license	4	3	3				2				12
	Renewal of greenhouse gas assessment permit			1				1	1			3
	Renewal of petroleum exploration permit	13	7	7	4	3		2	5	1	1	43
	Renewal of petroleum retention lease	13	13	1	7	22	16	17	4	3	6	102
	Termination of life-of-field petroleum production licence			1		1	1					3
	Title Expiry					9	6	6	5	2	6	34
	Title Surrender	14	14	20	21	13	16	18	7	14	8	145
	Title Transfer						16	7	12	10	9	54
	Variation to pipeline licence				18	12	6	7	5	2	19	69
Total Other		**45**	**39**	**33**	**62**	**88**	**72**	**63**	**51**	**40**	**61**	**554**
Total assessments submitted		**364**	**494**	**369**	**357**	**387**	**370**	**406**	**356**	**446**	**477**	**4026**

[1] Based on date of submission. In some instances, a single assessment may be submitted for multiple facilities.

[2] WOMP assessed under the conferral arrangement with Victoria under the regulations relevant to that state

[3] Does not include environment plans currently out for public comment where a formal assessment by NOPSEMA has not yet commenced.

View the 2025 data tables online

Assessments CONTINUED

Assessments notified[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
OHS submissions												
Safety Case	New	14	27	12	13	9	8	9	15	16	15	138
	Revision	58	77	88	59	66	60	92	78	80	94	752
Diving Safety Management System	New	3	3	2	1		1			1	1	9
	Revision		3	8	1	5		2	1		1	24
Diving Project Plan	Not Applicable		2							1		3
Scope of Validation	Not Applicable	46	53	41	47	61	51	69	81	96	81	626
Request for Exemption under OHS Regs	Not Applicable									5	6	11
Diving Start-up Notice	Not Applicable	8	15	9	5	3	8	4	3	2	4	61
Total OHS		**129**	**180**	**160**	**126**	**144**	**128**	**176**	**178**	**201**	**202**	**1624**
WI submissions												
Application for Approval to Undertake Well Activity (AAUWA)	Not Applicable	61	35				1		2	2		101
Well Operations Management Plan Victoria / Pre 2016 Commonwealth	New[2]	1			1		1	2				5
	Variation	2					1					3
	New	36	35	8	16	15	12	15	10	21	28	196
	Revision		8	11	14	9	36	32	21	22	33	186
Final Abandonment Report	Abandonment	6	15	13	24	19	7	10	20	36	52	202
Request to Undertake a Well Activity in a Specified Manner	Not Applicable	1		1	1					8	5	16
Total WI		**107**	**93**	**33**	**56**	**43**	**58**	**59**	**53**	**89**	**118**	**709**
EM submissions												
Environment Plan	New	21	18	21	12							72
	Revision	12	16	17	6							51
Environment Plan (Development)	New				10	18	19	21	10	14	13	105
	Revision				9	9	12	14	10	15	9	78
Environment Plan (Exploration)	New				7	7	10	6	5	9	3	47
	Revision					1	2		1		1	5
Environment Plan Summary	Not Applicable	23	30	40	43	31	33	29	24	34	33	320
End of an environment plan (Reg 25A)	Not Applicable	30	99	49	33	19	28	27	14			299
End of Environment Plan Reg 46	Not Applicable									8	16	24
Offshore Project Proposal	Suitability for Publication - Stage 1	1		1	1	4		1	2	2	1	13
	Suitability for Acceptance - Stage 2		1		1	3	1			2	2	10
Total EM		**87**	**164**	**128**	**122**	**92**	**105**	**98**	**66**	**84**	**78**	**1024**

Assessments notified[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
PSZ submissions												
ATBA Access Application	Not Applicable		2		7	7		1		7	4	28
PSZ Application	New	1	3	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	7	27
	Variation	7	1				1	1	1	3	5	19
PSZ Access Application	Not Applicable	1			3	3						7
Total PSZ		**9**	**6**	**3**	**13**	**11**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**12**	**16**	**81**
Other submissions												
NOPTA request for title related compliance information	Application for a retention lease				3	7		1	2	2	2	17
	Cancellation of petroleum exploration permit				2	4	1		1	2	3	13
	General Advice					12	7	3	5	1	6	34
	Grant of a petroleum-related pipeline licence	1	2			1	3	1	4	1	2	15
	Modification/ alteration/repair to pipeline				7	1						8
	Renewal of fixed-term production license	4	3	3				2				12
	Renewal of greenhouse gas assessment permit			1				1	1			3
	Renewal of petroleum exploration permit	13	6	6	3	4		1	6	1	1	41
	Renewal of petroleum retention lease	13	13	1	7	22	15	17	4	2	7	101
	Termination of life-of-field petroleum production licence			1			2					3
	Title Expiry					9	6	6	5	2	6	34
	Title Surrender	14	12	21	21	13	13	20	6	15	7	142
	Title Transfer						14	7	12	7	13	53
	Variation to pipeline licence				18	11	7	6	6	1	19	68
Total Other		**45**	**36**	**33**	**61**	**84**	**68**	**65**	**52**	**34**	**66**	**544**
Total assessments notified		**377**	**479**	**357**	**378**	**374**	**362**	**403**	**352**	**420**	**480**	**3982**

[1] Assessments where NOPSEMA has formally notified the duty holder in writing. Based on date of first notification.

[2] WOMP assessed under the conferral arrangement with Victoria under the regulations relevant to that state.

Assessments CONTINUED

Assessments completed[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
OHS submissions												
Safety Case	New	19	26	13	13	8	8	10	14	15	14	140
	Revision	56	78	84	59	70	59	68	100	76	94	744
Diving Safety Management System	New	3	3	2			1			1	1	8
	Revision		3	7	2	5		2	1		1	24
Diving Project Plan	Not Applicable		2							1		3
Scope of Validation	Not Applicable	46	53	41	47	61	51	69	81	96	81	626
Request for Exemption under OHS Regs	Not Applicable									5	6	11
Diving Start-up Notice	Not Applicable	8	15	9	5	3	8	4	3	2	4	61
Total OHS		**132**	**180**	**156**	**126**	**147**	**127**	**153**	**199**	**196**	**201**	**1617**
WI submissions												
Application for Approval to Undertake Well Activity (AAUWA)	Not Applicable	53	43				1		2	2		101
Well Operations Management Plan Victoria / Pre 2016 Commonwealth	New[2]	1					1	1	1			4
	Variation	2					1					3
Well Operations Management Plan Commonwealth	New	28	37	13	15	13	14	12	10	19	28	189
	Revision		7	11	11	9	26	34	24	20	33	175
Final Abandonment Report	Abandonment	6	15	13	24	18	8	9	9	20	68	190
Request to Undertake a Well Activity in a Specified Manner	Not Applicable	1		1	1					8	5	16
Total WI		**91**	**102**	**38**	**51**	**40**	**51**	**56**	**46**	**69**	**134**	**678**
EM submissions												
Environment Plan	New	23	16	22	20							81
	Revision	9	17	16	10							52
Environment Plan (Development)	New				7	15	10	14	13	18	13	90
	Revision				2	7	13	10	6	15	12	65
Environment Plan (Exploration)	New				3	8	8	4	5	3	5	36
	Revision						2	1		1		4
Environment Plan Summary	Not Applicable	22	30	41	43	31	33	29	24	34	33	320
End of an environment plan (Reg 25A)	Not Applicable	24	103	46	35	19	28	26	16			297
End of Environment Plan Reg 46	Not Applicable									8	16	24
Offshore Project Proposal	Suitability for Publication - Stage 1		1		2	2	1			3	1	10
	Suitability for Acceptance - Stage 2			1		2	2		1		4	10
Total EM		**78**	**167**	**126**	**122**	**84**	**97**	**84**	**65**	**82**	**84**	**989**

Assessments completed[1]	Subtype	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
PSZ submissions												
ATBA Access Application	Not Applicable		2		7	7		1		7	4	28
PSZ Application	New	1	3	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	7	27
	Variation	7	1				1	1	1	2	6	19
PSZ Access Application	Not Applicable	1			3	3						7
Total PSZ		**9**	**6**	**3**	**13**	**11**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**11**	**17**	**81**
Other submissions												
	Application for a retention lease				3	7		1	2	2	2	17
	Cancellation of petroleum exploration permit				2	4	1		1	2	3	13
	General Advice					12	7	3	5	1	6	34
	Grant of a petroleum-related pipeline licence	1	2			1	3	1	4	1	2	15
	Modification/ alteration/repair to pipeline				7	1						8
	Renewal of fixed-term production license	4	3	3				2				12
NOPTA request for title related compliance information	Renewal of greenhouse gas assessment permit			1				1	1			3
	Renewal of petroleum exploration permit	13	6	6	3	4		1	6	1	1	41
	Renewal of petroleum retention lease	13	13	1	7	22	15	17	4	2	7	101
	Termination of life-of-field petroleum production licence			1			2					3
	Title Expiry					9	6	6	5	2	6	34
	Title Surrender	14	12	21	21	13	13	20	6	15	7	142
	Title Transfer						14	7	12	7	13	53
	Variation to pipeline licence				18	11	7	6	6	1	19	68
Total Other		**45**	**36**	**33**	**61**	**84**	**68**	**65**	**52**	**34**	**66**	**544**
Total assessments completed		**355**	**491**	**356**	**373**	**366**	**346**	**363**	**365**	**392**	**502**	**3909**

[1] Based on date of completion. Only includes assessments that have been completed (i.e. excludes those in progress and recalled/cancelled)

[2] WOMP assessed under the conferral arrangement with Victoria under the regulations relevant to that state

Inspections

Inspections	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
OHS Inspection	93	93	109	135	106	60	65	68	74	83	886
Well Integrity Inspection	6	8	11	9	28	9	21	23	26	36	177
Environment Inspection	44	44	54	47	42	34	34	32	36	43	410
Facilities / wells / petroleum activities inspected[1]	206	231	283	281	520	233	263	352	325	424	3118
Total inspections[2]	**143**	**145**	**174**	**191**	**176**	**103**	**120**	**123**	**136**	**162**	**1473**

[1] An inspection may cover multiple facilities, petroleum and well activities

[2] The increased number of inspections in 2020 reflects the introduction of COVID-19 specific inspections

Incidents

Incident type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Accident											
OHS – death or serious injury		4	8	3	2	2	2	4	6	5	36
OHS – incapacitation >= 3 days LTI	4	6	7	6	5	17	13	16	25	16	115
Total Accident	**4**	**10**	**15**	**9**	**7**	**19**	**15**	**20**	**31**	**21**	**151**
Dangerous Occurrence											
OHS - collision marine vessel and facility		1		2	1	1	1	1		3	10
OHS - could have caused death or serious injury	17	16	26	27	16	29	28	23	27	27	236
OHS - could have caused incapacitation >= 3 days LTI	3	5	6	10	5	10	3	10	19	14	85
OHS - failure of control measures critical to safety[1]	82	73	109	147	184	239	274	237	203	209	1757
OHS - fire or explosion	6	4	10	4	5	7	5	9	20	8	78
OHS - other kind needing immediate investigation	23	22	30	47	35	21	50	62	86	43	419
OHS - pipeline - kind needing immediate investigation	1					2	1	3	4		11
OHS - pipeline - significant damage									3		3
OHS - pipeline - likely to have resulted in significant damage						1		1			2
OHS - uncontrolled HC release >1 - 300 kg	16	19	25	24	7	15	13	6	16	8	149
OHS - uncontrolled HC release >300 kg	3	1	3		1	4		1			13
OHS - uncontrolled PL release >12 500 L								1			1
OHS - uncontrolled PL release >80 - 12 500 L	4	5	7	4	2	2	4	7	11	17	63
OHS - unplanned event - implement emergency response plan	148	145	169	147	131	187	207	161	170	195	1660
OHS - well kick >50 barrels										1	1
Total Dangerous Occurrence	**303**	**291**	**385**	**412**	**387**	**518**	**586**	**522**	**559**	**525**	**4488**
Psychosocial Reportable											
OHS – bullying										8	8
OHS – harassment										10	10
OHS – sexual harassment										6	6
Total Psychosocial Reportable										**24**	**24**

Incident type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Well Integrity[2]											
WI - loss of integrity - >1 kg gas released		2	3	2	3	4	3	1	1	1	20
WI - loss of integrity - >80 L liquid released				1		1		1			3
WI - failure of hydrostatic pressure - BOP closure and positive well pressure	5	1	3	1	1	2	3	4	6	5	31
WI - loss of integrity - well-related equipment damage or failure	11	11	12	21	7	7	12	10	17	20	128
WI - potential loss of integrity - well-related equipment damage/failure	13	11	38	45	49	54	48	59	57	26	400
WI - any other unplanned occurrence to regain control of the well	2	2	4	2		1	2	7	8	8	36
Total Well Integrity	**31**	**27**	**60**	**72**	**60**	**69**	**68**	**82**	**89**	**60**	**618**
Environment Reportable											
EM - hydrocarbon vapour / petroleum liquid release	5	7	8	2	3	1	2	1	7	3	39
EM - chemical release		3	1	5	1			5	4	4	23
EM - drilling fluid/mud release				1		2				1	4
EM - fauna incident	2	1	5	4			1			1	14
EM - other	1	1	2	2	4	2	1		1	1	15
Total Environment Reportable	**8**	**12**	**16**	**14**	**8**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**12**	**10**	**95**
Matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act[3]		***1***	***3***	***2***							***6***
Total incidents	**346**	**340**	**476**	**507**	**462**	**611**	**673**	**630**	**691**	**640**	**5376**

[1] Effective 12 June 2025, notifiable incidents formerly published as 'OHS – damage to safety-critical equipment' have been reclassified to 'OHS - failure of control measures critical to safety'. This is in line with the 2024 revision of the Safety Regulations which now specify that operators need to notify NOPSEMA of damage, loss or removal of technical or other control measures that have been identified as critical to safety. Further guidance is available on the NOPSEMA website.

[2]Notification, reporting and recording requirements for titleholders in relation to WI incidents came into effect on 1 January 2016 through amendments to Part 5 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011. Consequently, as of Q1 2016, NOPSEMA has commenced publishing WI incident data as a category in its own right.

[3] Number of environment reportable incidents notified to NOPSEMA identified as matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act. Note that these figures are a subset of the total number of reportable incidents shown in the line above.

Injuries

Injury type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fatality								1			1
Major injury		4	8	3	2	2	2	3	6	5	35
Lost time injury >=3 days	4	6	7	6	5	19	11	15	22	14	109
Lost time injury <3 days	3	1	1	2			1		5	1	14
Medical treatment injury	22	30	24	26	11	18	30	14	33	17	225
Alternative duties injury	24	11	19	24	9	32	19	23	41	35	237
Total recordable cases[1]	**53**	**52**	**59**	**61**	**27**	**71**	**63**	**56**	**107**	**72**	**621**

[1] Total recordable cases is the sum of fatalities, major injuries, LTIs, ADIs and MTIs.

Injuries CONTINUED

Hours worked offshore	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fixed facilities	6 340 003	9 397 260	11 758 391	8 643 588	6 347 435	7 152 950	7 663 813	8 407 919	8 314 474	9 334 020	83 359 853
Mobile facilities	3 584 806	3 382 898	4 916 932	2 928 892	2 134 245	3 139 376	2 673 955	2 423 162	7 864 091	5 118 347	38 166 704
Total	**9 924 809**	**12 780 158**	**16 675 323**	**11 572 480**	**8 481 680**	**10 292 326**	**10 337 768**	**10 839 479**	**16 232 160**	**14 588 231**	**121 724 414**

Complaints

Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
OHS – complaint	1	9	9	12	10	12	18	28	30	21	150
EM – complaint	1	1	1	1	7	2	2	1	2	3	21
WI – complaint					1						1
Total complaints	**2**	**10**	**10**	**13**	**18**	**14**	**20**	**29**	**32**	**24**	**172**

Enforcements

Enforcement type[1]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
WI enforcements											
WI improvement notice									1		1
Notice requiring variation of a well operations management plan			1			3					4
Direction – General			1							1	2
Total WI			**2**			**3**			**1**	**1**	**7**
OHS enforcements											
OHS improvement notice		25	14	9	6	7	4	7	5	8	85
Intent to Withdraw SC Acceptance		1		1					1		3
OHS prohibition notice		2	1	3	1	1	2			2	12
Request for a revised safety case		3	4	1		1			1	1	11
Prosecution Brief	1			1		1					3
Direction - General		1	3	3	3	6	4	2	2	1	25
Total OHS	**1**	**32**	**22**	**18**	**10**	**16**	**10**	**9**	**9**	**12**	**139**
EM enforcements											
EM improvement notice		3	2	4					1		10
EM prohibition notice	2						1				3
Request for a revision to an environment plan	3	3			1	6	2		2	1	18
Direction - General	2		3	2	3	6	1	2	1	3	23
Direction - Restoration of Environment					4						4
Total EM	**7**	**6**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**58**
Total enforcements	**8**	**38**	**29**	**24**	**18**	**31**	**14**	**11**	**14**	**17**	**204**

Enforcement type[1]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Non-statutory compliance actions											
WI written advice/warning							2				2
OHS written advice/warning	3	3	3		2	3	1			4	19
EM written advice/warning		10	3	6	6	4	5			1	35
Total non-statutory compliance actions	**3**	**13**	**6**	**6**	**8**	**7**	**8**			**5**	**56**
Total enforcements and non-statutory compliance actions	**11**	**51**	**35**	**30**	**26**	**38**	**22**	**11**	**14**	**22**	**260**

[1] Excludes verbal warnings/advice, investigation notices and do not disturb notices.

Glossary of acronyms

ATBA	Area to be avoided	**PL**	Petroleum liquid
EM	Environmental management	**PSZ**	Petroleum safety zone
EP	Environment plan	**SC**	Safety case
HC	Hydrocarbon	**WI**	Well integrity
LTI	Lost time injury	**WOMP**	Well operations management plan
OHS	Occupational health and safety	**IRF**	International Regulators' Forum

Disclaimer: Data may be subject to change as new information becomes available. While NOPSEMA endeavours to maintain consistency in the reporting of data, these datasets are subject to continuous improvement and modifications in response to legislative, industry or organisational changes.

Appendix 2

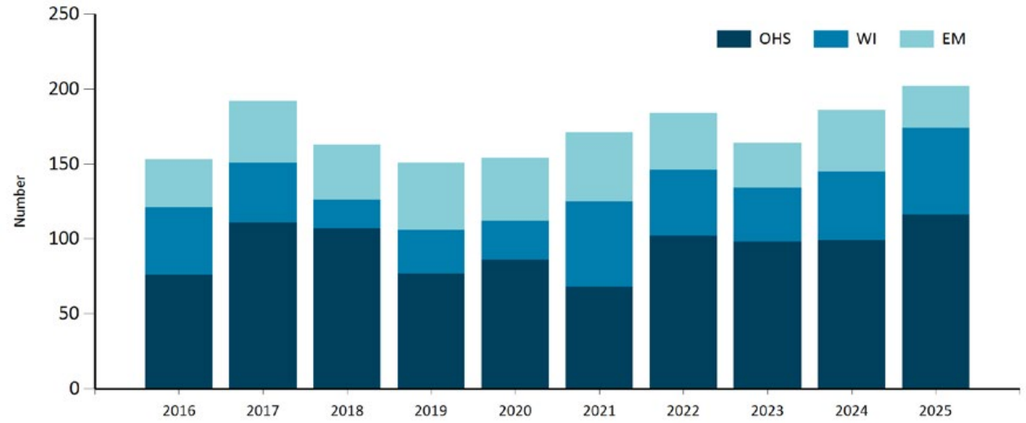
NOPSEMA annual data charts

Charts 2016 - 2025 (last 10 years)

Disclaimer: Data may be subject to change as new information becomes available. While NOPSEMA endeavours to maintain consistency in the reporting of data, these datasets are subject to continuous improvement and modifications in response to legislative, industry or organisational changes.

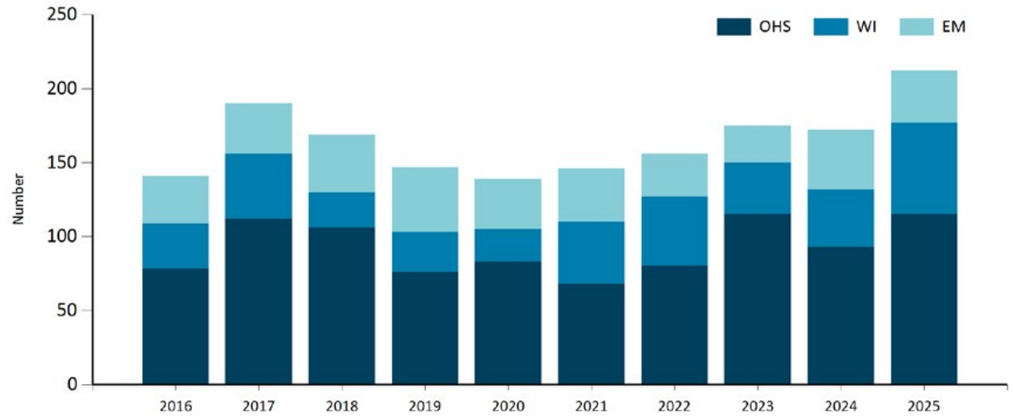
Assessments

Assessments submitted (key permissioning documents)



Note: OHS assessments include safety cases, diving project plans, diving safety management systems and pipeline safety management plans.
WI assessments only include well operations management plans.
EM assessments include environment plans (except those currently out for public comment where a formal assessment by NOPSEMA has not yet commenced) and offshore project proposals.

Assessment decisions (key permissioning documents)



Note: Assessment decisions where NOPSEMA has formally notified the duty holder in writing. Based on date of completion.
Only includes assessments that have been completed (i.e. excludes those in progress and recalled/cancelled).
OHS assessments include safety cases, diving project plans, diving safety management systems and pipeline safety management plans.
WI assessments only include well operations management plans.
EM assessments include environment plans and offshore project proposals.

Assessments notified on time (key permissioning documents)

	OHS	WI	EM
2016	99%	100%	100%
2017	98%	100%	100%
2018	97%	89%	97%
2019	96%	100%	100%
2020	96%	100%	100%
2021	100%	94%	100%
2022	99%	90%	100%
2023	98%	97%	100%
2024	97%	95%	100%
2025	100%	100%	100%

Note: Assessments where NOPSEMA has formally notified the duty holder in writing. Based on date of initial notification.
Only includes assessments that have been notified and completed (i.e. excludes those in progress and recalled/cancelled).
OHS assessments include safety cases, diving project plans, diving safety management systems and pipeline safety management plans.
WI assessments only include well operations management plans.
EM assessments include environment plans and offshore project proposals.

Submissions not accepted (key permissioning documents)

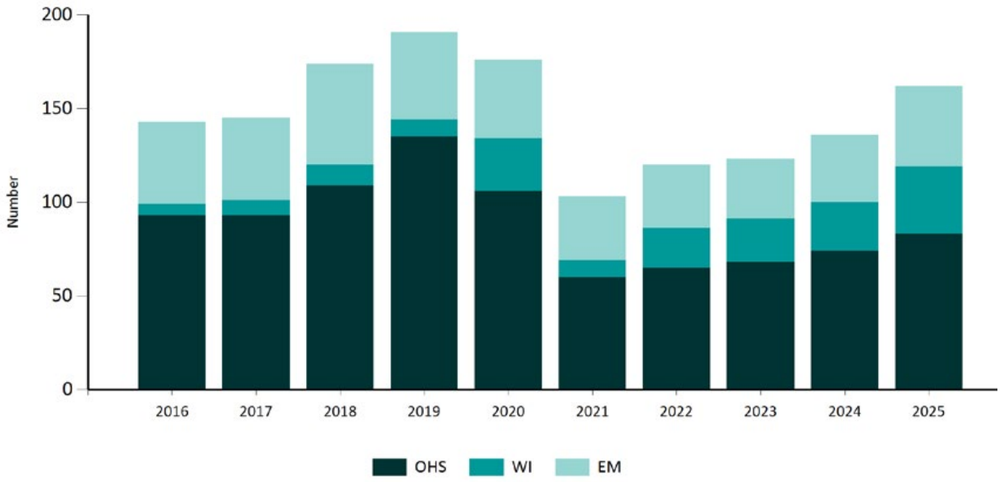
	OHS	WI	EM
2016	24%	6%	3%
2017	18%		6%
2018	21%	4%	
2019	32%		
2020	13%	5%	
2021	16%	7%	
2022	20%		
2023	17%	3%	
2024	20%	5%	
2025	13%	8%	

Note: Includes 'rejected', 'refused to accept', 'not agreed', 'not acceptable', 'not satisfied', 'declined'.
Only includes OHS assessments with legislated timeframes (i.e. excludes scopes of validation).
OHS assessments include safety cases, diving project plans, diving safety management systems and pipeline safety management plans.
WI assessments only include well operations management plans.
EM assessments include environment plans and offshore project proposals.

View the 2025 data charts online

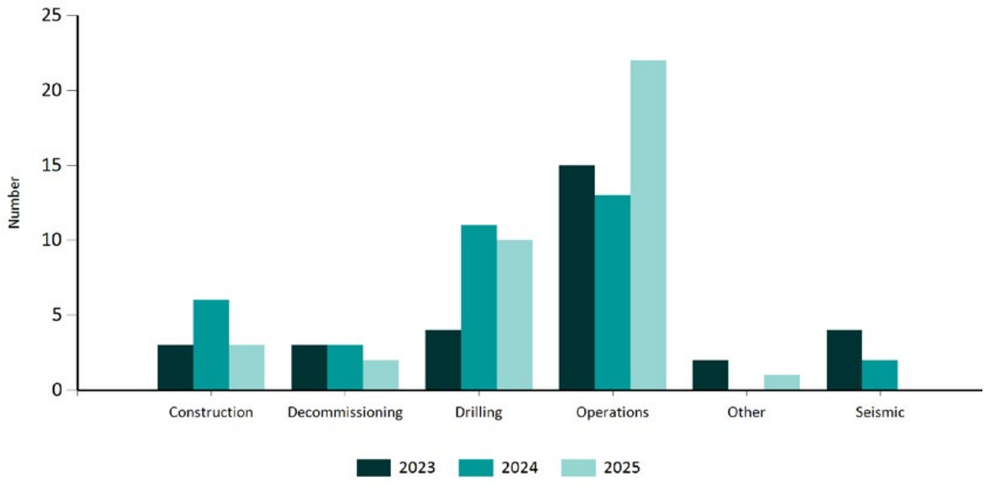
Inspections

Inspections

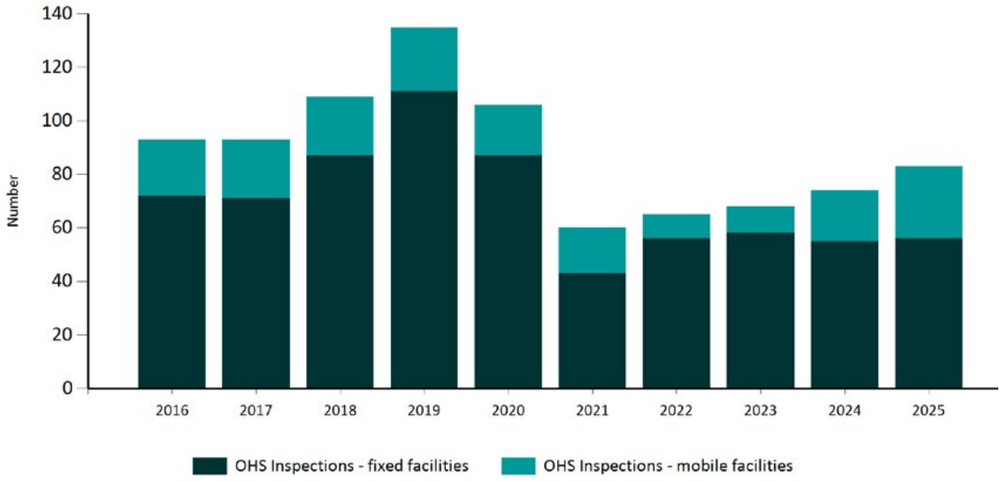


Note: The increased number of inspections in 2020 reflects the introduction of COVID-19 specific inspections.

EM – inspections by activity type

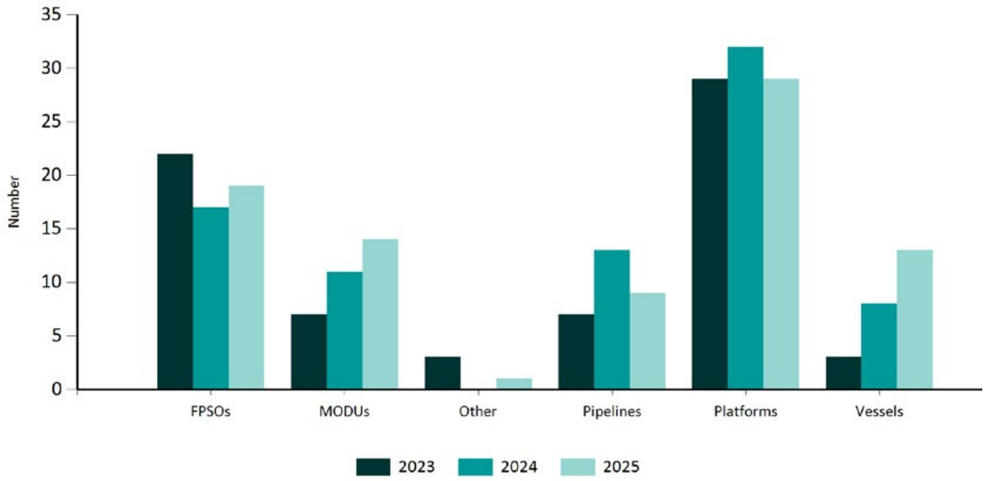


OHS – Inspections of fixed and mobile facilities



Note: An inspection may cover multiple facilities

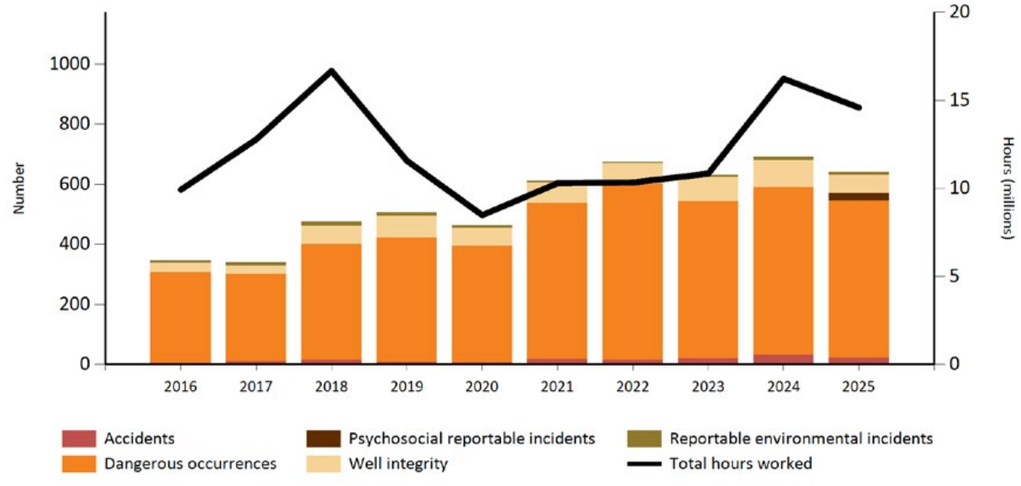
OHS – inspections by facility type



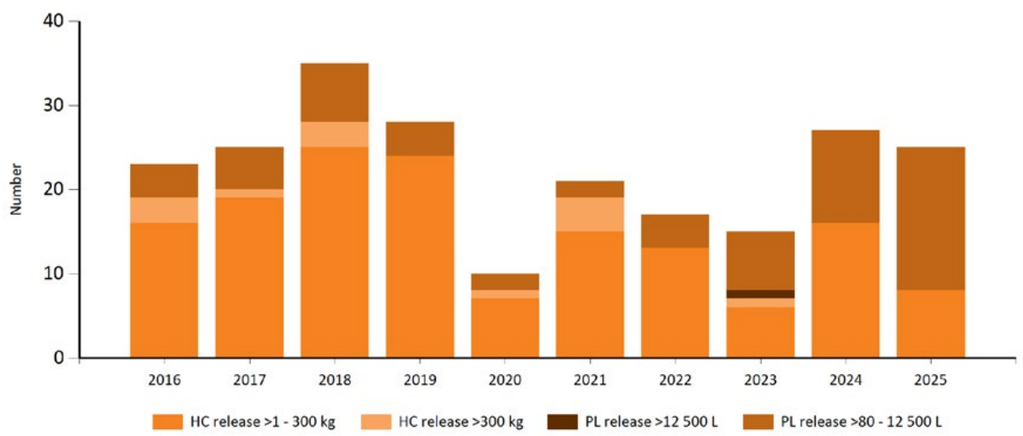
Note: An inspection may cover multiple facilities

Incidents

Notifiable incidents



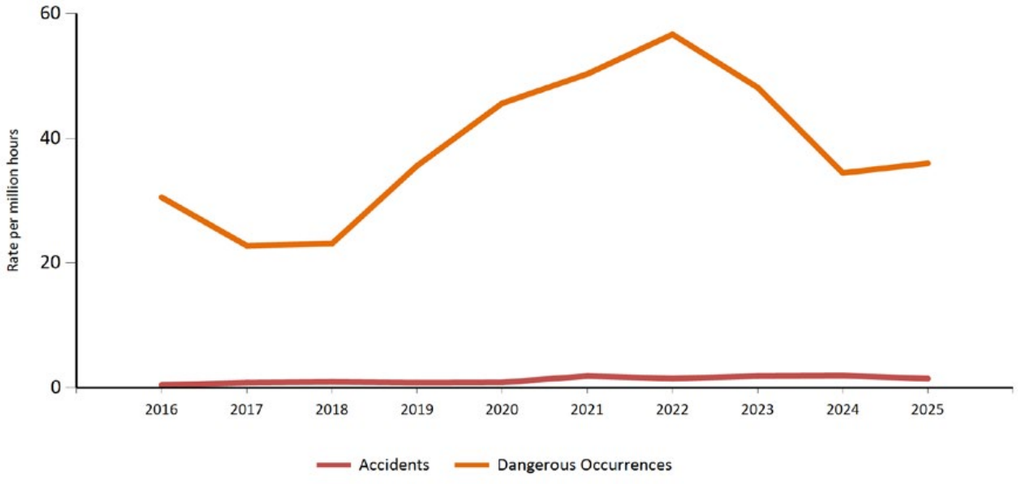
OHS hydrocarbon releases



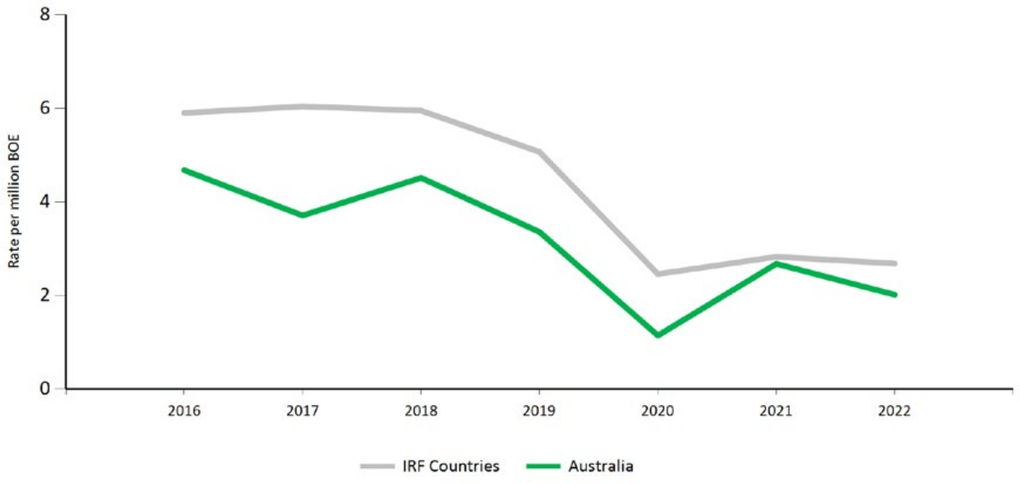
Note: Hydrocarbon releases may have been reported as an OHS and environmental incident; this chart only includes those notified under OHS reporting criteria.

Incidents CONTINUED

Reportable incidents – OHS

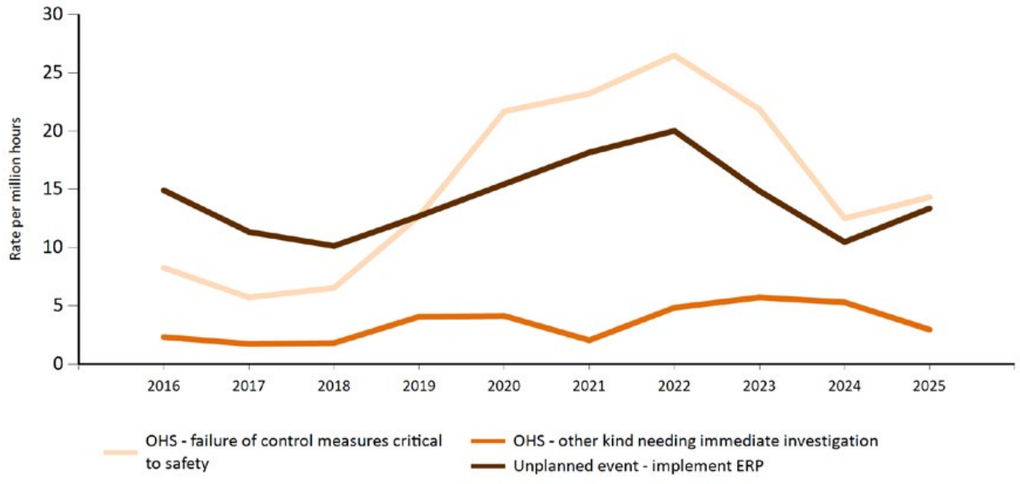


OHS Gas releases – International Regulators' Forum (IRF)



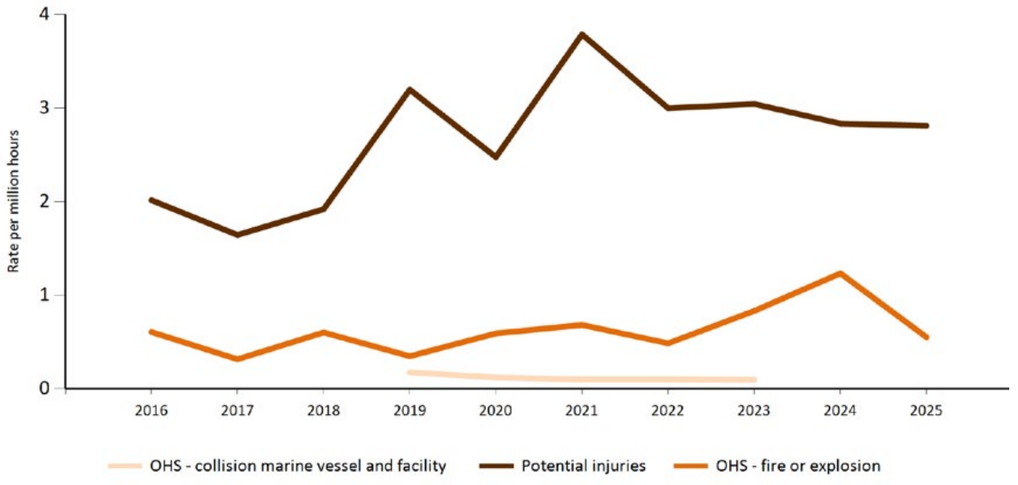
Note: This chart will only be updated on an annual basis.
Does not include liquid hydrocarbon releases or environmental hydrocarbon spills.

Dangerous occurrences – unplanned events, SC control measure failures, other



Note: Effective 12 June 2025, notifiable incidents formerly published as 'OHS – damage to safety-critical equipment' have been reclassified to 'OHS - Failure of control measures critical to safety'. This is in line with the 2024 revision of the Safety Regulations which now specify that operators need to notify NOPSEMA of damage, loss or removal of technical or other control measures that have been identified as critical to safety. Further guidance is available on the NOPSEMA website.

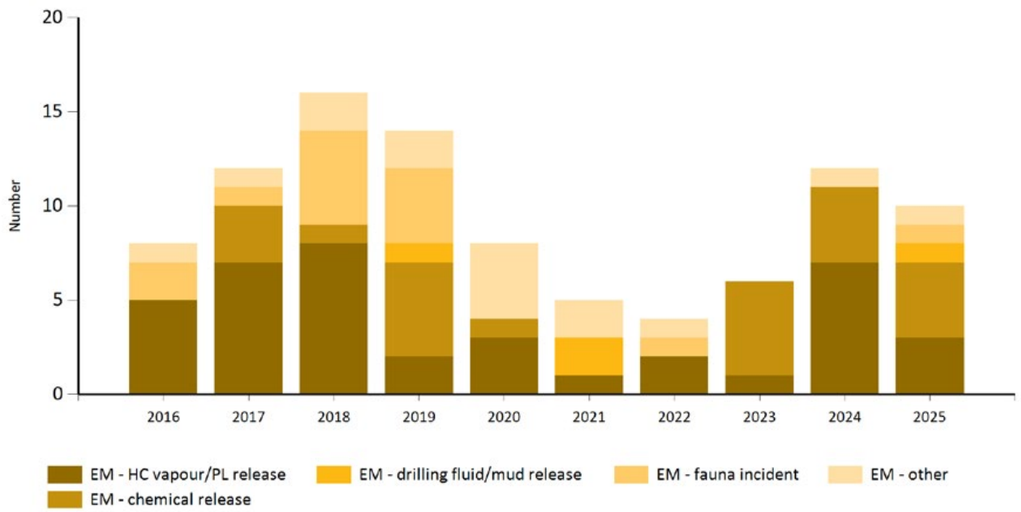
Dangerous occurrences – potential injuries, collisions, fires



Note : Potential injuries refers to incidents that were reported under the categories 'Could have caused death or serious injury' and 'Could have caused incapacitation >= 3 days LTI'

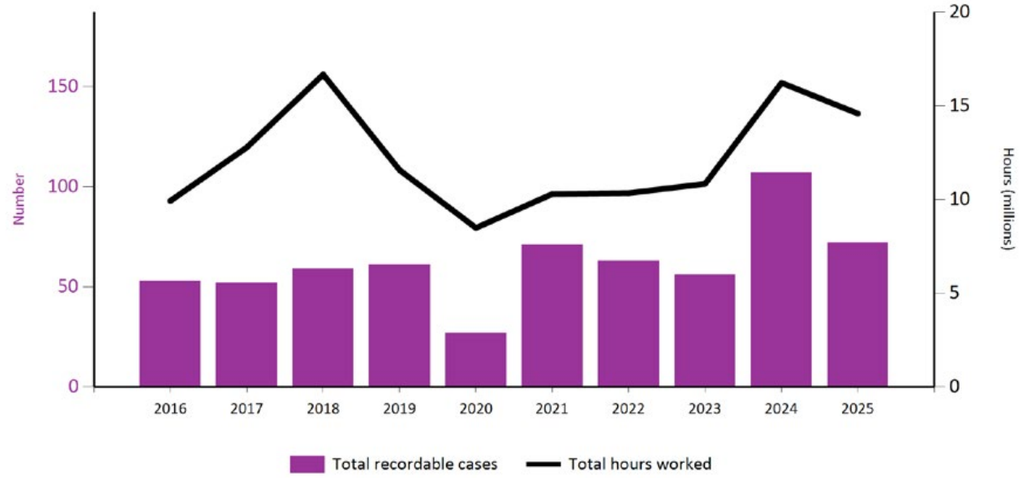
Incidents CONTINUED

Reportable EM incidents



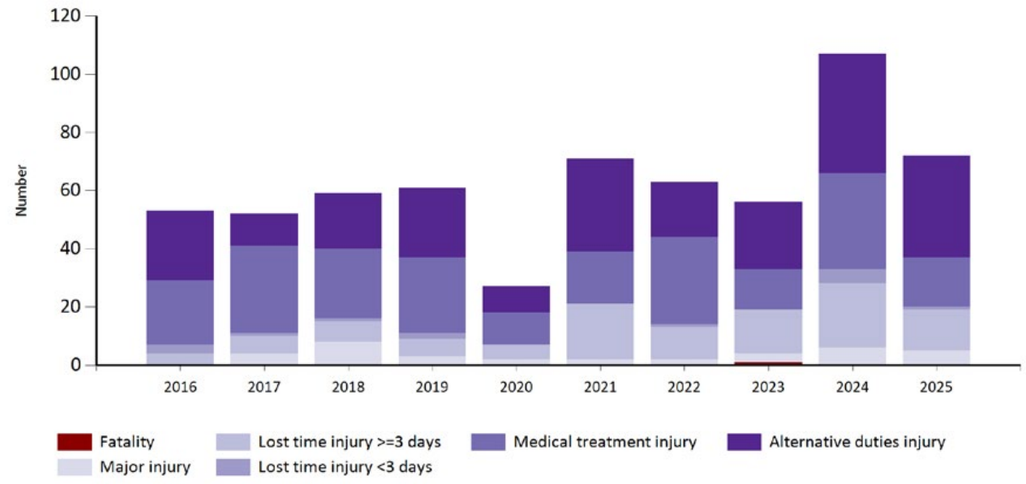
Injuries

Injuries – Total recordable cases (TRCs)



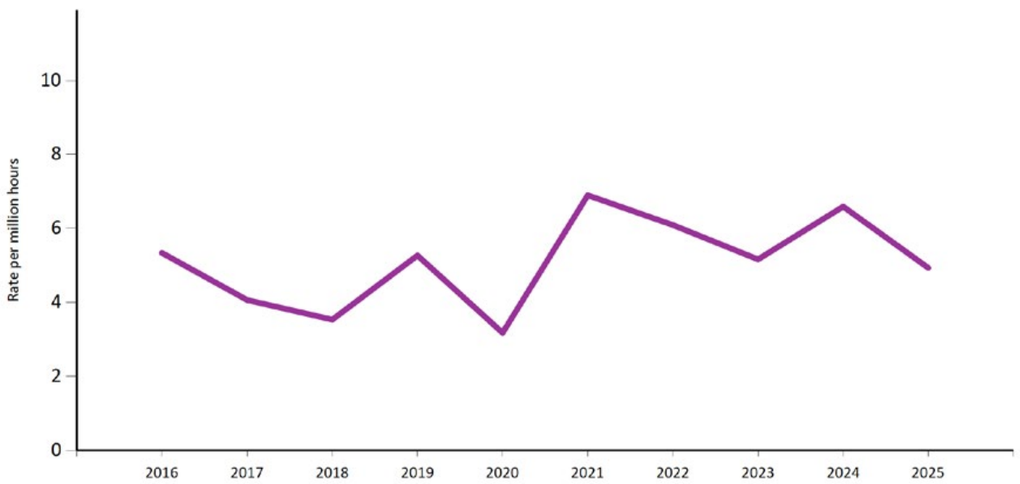
Note: Total recordable cases is the sum of fatalities, major injuries, LTIs (lost time injuries), ADIs (alternative duties injuries) and MTIs (medical treatment injuries)

Injuries – by category



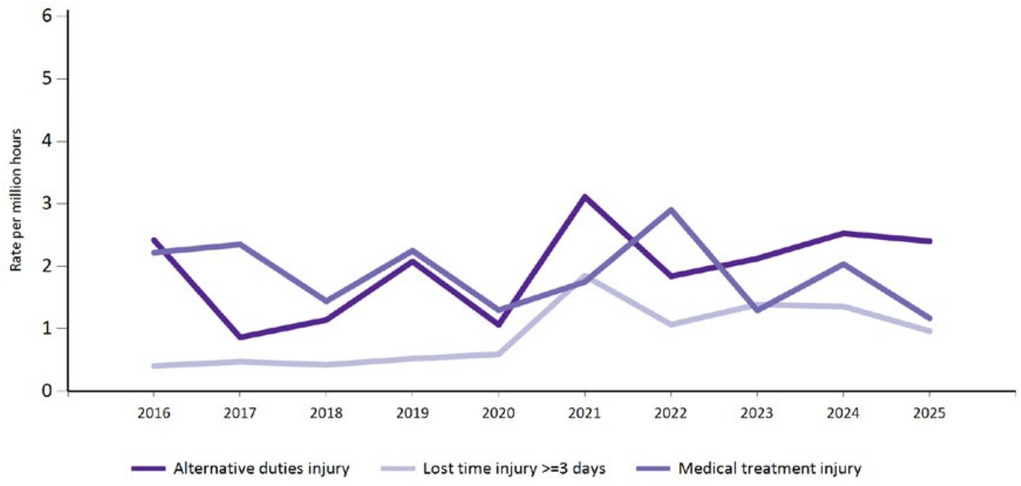
Injuries CONTINUED

Total recordable cases (TRCs) – injury rates



Note: Total recordable cases is the sum of fatalities, major injuries, LTIs (lost time injuries), ADIs (alternative duties injuries) and MTIs (medical treatment injuries)

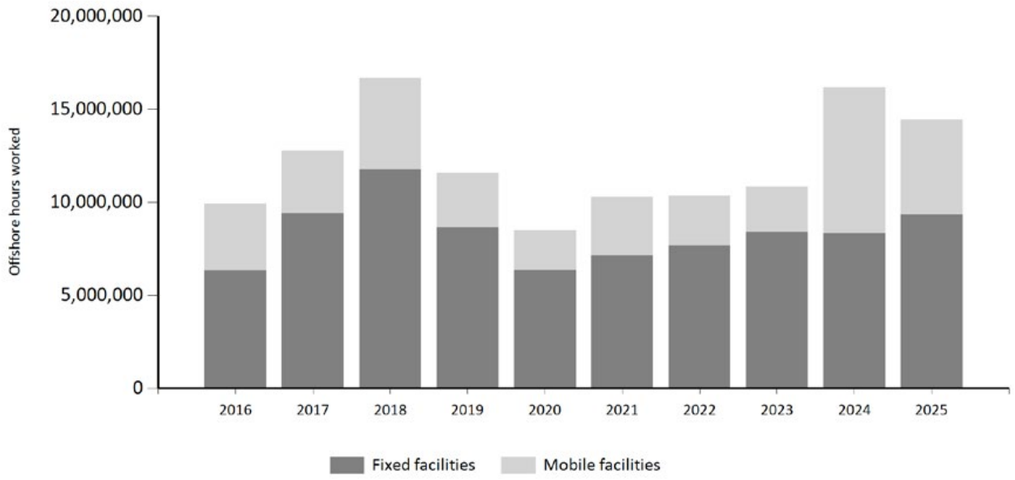
Injury rates – by category



Injuries – by category

	Fatality	Major injury	Lost time injury >=3 days	Lost time injury <3 days	Medical treatment injury	Alternative duties injury
2016			4	3	22	24
2017		4	6	1	30	11
2018		8	7	1	24	19
2019		3	6	2	26	24
2020		2	5		11	9
2021		2	19		18	32
2022		2	11	1	30	19
2023	1	3	15		14	23
2024		6	22	5	33	41
2025		5	14	1	17	35

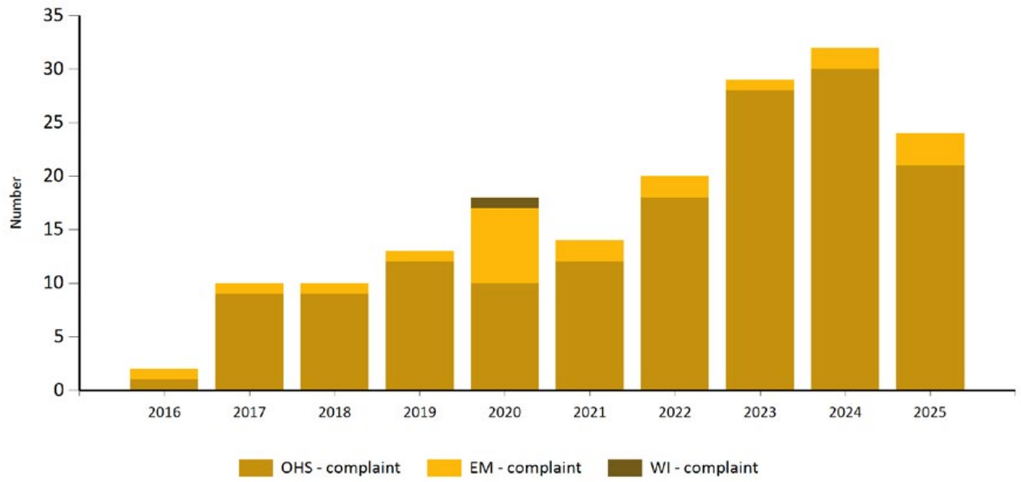
Total offshore hours



Note: Mobile facilities include mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) and vessels

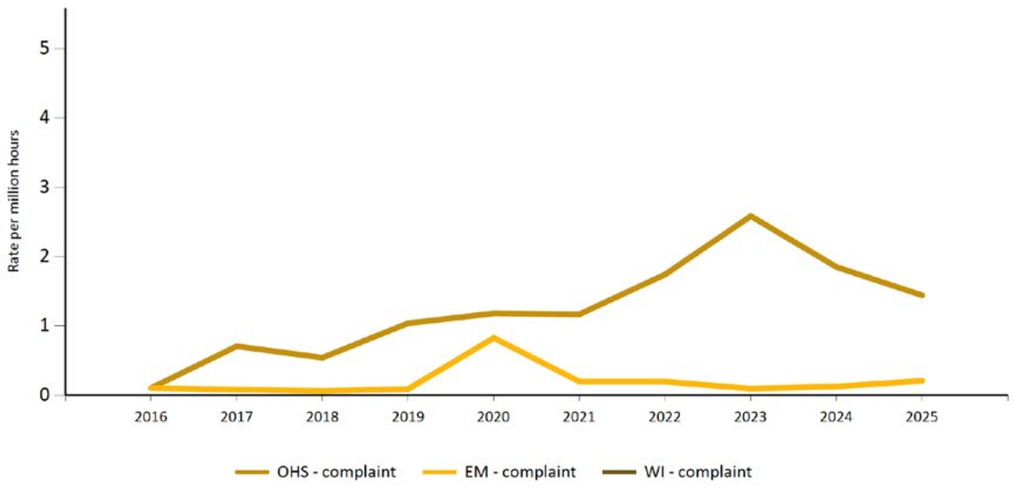
Complaints

Complaints



Note: Complaints against dutyholders - OHS, EM and WI

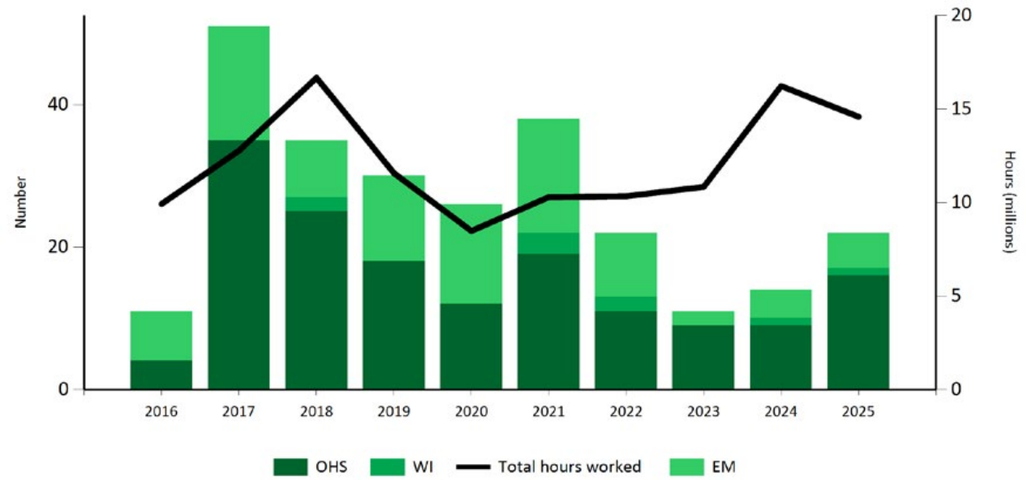
Complaint rates



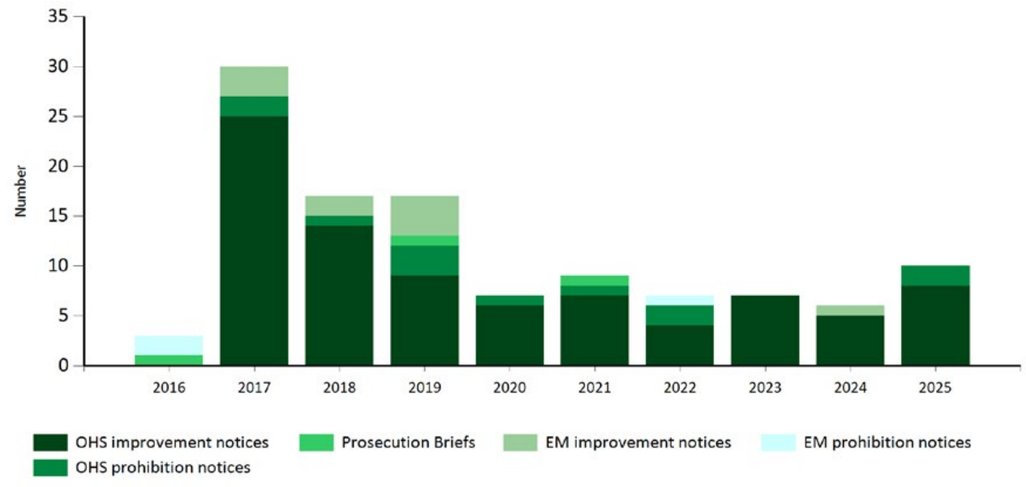
Note: Complaints against dutyholders - OHS and EM

Enforcements

Enforcement and non-statutory compliance actions

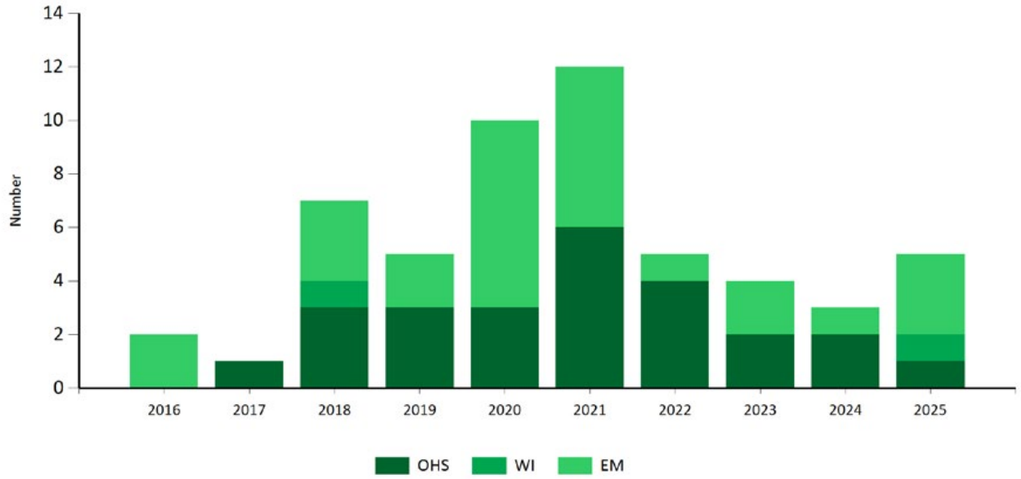


Enforcement notices and prosecution briefs



Complaints CONTINUED

Directions



Glossary of acronyms

ATBA	Area to be avoided	**PL**	Petroleum liquid
EM	Environmental management	**PSZ**	Petroleum safety zone
EP	Environment plan	**SC**	Safety case
HC	Hydrocarbon	**WI**	Well integrity
LTI	Lost time injury	**WOMP**	Well operations management plan
OHS	Occupational health and safety	**IRF**	International Regulators' Forum

Disclaimer: Data may be subject to change as new information becomes available. While NOPSEMA endeavours to maintain consistency in the reporting of data, these datasets are subject to continuous improvement and modifications in response to legislative, industry or organisational changes.

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